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R E P O R T

OF

THE COMMISSIONERS

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

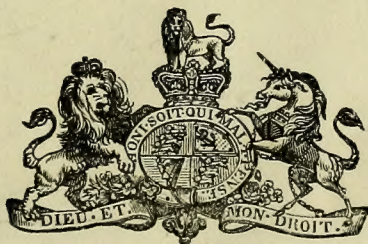
STATE OF THE STORE AND CLOTHING DEPÔTS AT
WEEDON, WOOLWICH, AND THE TOWER, &c.

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

AND APPENDICES.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

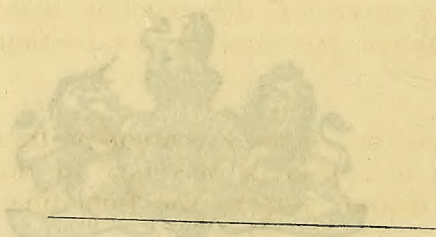


LONDON:
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1859.

REPORT COMMISSION THE COMMISSIONERS STATE OF THE STORE AND CLOTHING DEPOTS AT WEEDON, WOOLWICH, AND THE TOWER, &c. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

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COMMISSION.

VICTORIA R.

Victoria, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith,

To Our trusty and well-beloved James Aspinall Turner, Esquire ;

Our trusty and well-beloved Henry John French, Esquire, Colonel in Our Army ; and

Our trusty and well-beloved Henry Selfe Selfe, Esquire,—Greeting.

Whereas We deem it expedient that a Commission should issue for the purpose of inquiring into the State of the Store and Clothing Depôts at Weedon, Woolwich, and the Tower :

Now Know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your zeal, discretion, and ability, have nominated and appointed, and do by these presents nominate and appoint, you the said James Aspinall Turner, Henry John French, and Henry Selfe Selfe, to be Our Commissioners for the purpose aforesaid.

And We do hereby authorize and empower you, Our said Commissioners, or any two of you, to obtain information thereupon, by the examination of all persons most competent, by reason of their knowledge, habits, or experience, to afford it ; and also to call for all documents, papers, or records which may appear to you, or any two of you, calculated to assist your researches and to promote the formation of a sound judgment upon the subject.

And We do hereby command and require you, or any two of you, to report to Us, under your hands and seals, with all convenient speed, your opinion of the system upon which the Books and Stock have been respectively kept at Weedon, Woolwich, and the Tower, as well as the general mode in which the business of those Establishments has been conducted, the result of such mode of conducting the business, and the State of the Books and Stock of Stores.

And We will and command, and by these presents ordain, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any two of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and of every matter and thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment.

And for your further assistance in the execution of these presents, We do hereby authorize and empower you to appoint a Secretary to this Our Commission, whose services and assistance We require you to use from time to time, as occasion may require.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, this Fourteenth day of July, One thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight, in the Twenty-second year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

(Signed) J. PEEL.

219468



REPORT
COMMISSION
WEDON

VICTORIA

Witness by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Ireland Queen, Defender of the Faith,
To Our trusty and well-beloved James Agnew Turner, Esquire;
Our trusty and well-beloved Henry John French, Esquire, Colonel in Our
Army; and
Our trusty and well-beloved Henry Selfe Esquire - Greeting.

Whereas it is expedient that a Commission should issue for the purpose of
inquiring into the State of the Store and Clothing Depots at Wedon, Woodwich,
and the Tower;

And We do hereby command and require you, or any two of you, to
obtain from the several persons who have been nominated and appointed, and do by these presents nominate
and appoint, you the said James Agnew Turner, Henry John French, and Henry Selfe
to be Our Commissioners for the purpose aforesaid.

And We do hereby command and require you, or any two of you, to
obtain from the several persons who have been nominated and appointed, and do by these presents nominate
and appoint, you the said James Agnew Turner, Henry John French, and Henry Selfe
to be Our Commissioners for the purpose aforesaid.

And We do hereby command and require you, or any two of you, to report to Us
under your hands and seals, with all convenient speed, your opinion of the system upon
which the Books and Stock have been respectively kept at Wedon, Woodwich, and the
Tower, as well as the general mode in which the business of those Establishments has
been conducted, the result of such mode of conducting the business, and the State of
the Books and Stock of Stores.

And We will and command, and by these presents ordain, that this Our Commission
shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any two
of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, and at every meeting and
thing therein contained, although the same be not continued from time to time by
adjournment.

And for your further assistance in the execution of these presents, We do hereby
authorize and empower you to appoint a Secretary to this Our Commission, whose
services and assistance We require you to use from time to time as occasion may
require.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, this Twentieth day of July, One thousand
eight hundred and fifty-eight, in the Twenty-second year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,
(Signed) J. PELL.

210465

REPORT.

WEEDON.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

WE, Your Majesty's Commissioners for inquiring into the State of the Store and Clothing Depôts at Weedon, Woolwich, and the Tower, humbly offer to Your Majesty the following Report of our opinion of the system upon which the Books and Stock have been kept, as well as the general mode in which the business of these establishments has been conducted, the result of such mode of conducting the business, and the state of the Books and Stock of Stores.

We commenced our inquiries at the close of July 1858, and concluded the examination of witnesses in December.

The delay in the presentation of our Report has arisen from the fact that our Accountants were unable to complete the examination of the accounts at Weedon, and to furnish us with the result until the 25th instant.

We append to this Report the evidence received by us. The examination was conducted in public, and we have, from time to time, requested that we might be furnished with communications and suggestions from any persons who conceived they could assist our investigations. These invitations were in some instances responded to, and with useful results. We have also made application to every person whom we had reason to suppose capable of affording to us reliable and important information, and we have found all those whom we summoned, with one exception, ready to answer any questions put to them. We cannot but be aware that the evidence tendered to us has on many occasions referred to matters not immediately within the scope of our Commission. Some of this evidence we have refused to receive, both as irrelevant and as leading to interminable collateral inquiries. In some cases we have thought it better to receive it; especially in cases where the character and conduct of individuals have been called in question by the evidence of previous witnesses we have deemed it right to give the parties attacked the opportunity of explanation and defence. Some of the witnesses had already given evidence before the several Committees of the House of Commons on Contracts for Public Departments during the years 1856-7-8. We have carefully perused the whole of that evidence, and when the witnesses examined by us have stated that they adhered to the statements they had previously made, we have considered their previous evidence as given before us. We have to acknowledge the assistance afforded to us in the discharge of our duties by the various persons officially connected with the respective establishments, and the ready access given to any documents from which information could be extracted. We may also mention that we have throughout received valuable aid from an intelligent agent professionally concerned in collecting evidence bearing on the subject of our inquiry, and that before we closed our labours we were assured by him that he was aware of no substantial matter other than those into which we had inquired, which could be advantageously submitted to us.

We confined our attention in the first instance to the Clothing Depôt at Weedon. A short sketch of the circumstances attending the formation of that establishment may be desirable.

Up to the year 1854 the clothing of the Army was supplied to each regiment by a clothier chosen by the Colonel of the Regiment, who paid for it out of a sum allowed to him for the purpose, called "off-reckonings." The standard patterns to regulate all supplies were kept at the Consolidated Clothing Board of General Officers in London, whence sealed patterns annually sent by the clothier with the clothing to each regiment were obtained. Before any supply was sent away it was inspected by Military Officers appointed by the Commander-in-Chief. On the 6th June 1854, a Royal Warrant was signed, providing that the Colonels should for the future receive a fixed annual allowance in lieu of deriving any pecuniary emolument as theretofore from the off-reckonings, and

* The figures in the margin of the Report denote (unless otherwise stated) the Question in the Evidence to which such Report relates.

WEEDON.

6770.*

8421.

Parl. Paper,
No. 362,
1856,
Q. 160.

Parl. Paper,
No. 362,
1856, Q. 168.
Parl. Paper,
No. 269,
1857, p. 485.

WEEDON.

directing that the clothing, accoutrements, &c. should still be provided by the Colonels, the public only paying the cost price of such articles, the payment to be made under such regulations as the Secretary-at-War should afterwards determine.

Parl. Paper,
No. 307,
1855.

On the 6th June 1855, an Order in Council was passed regulating the establishments of the Civil Departments of the Army. After reciting that Your Majesty had been pleased to revoke the Letters Patent constituting the Master-General, Lieutenant-General, and Principal Storekeeper of the Ordnance, and to vest in the Secretary of State for War the powers theretofore exercised by them, Your Majesty approved of the Schedule of Establishments proposed for carrying on the duties theretofore performed by the Master-General and Board of Ordnance. The schedule alluded to, amongst other officers, appointed and defined the duties of a Director-General of Stores, a Director-General of Contracts, a Director-General of Army Clothing, and an Assistant Director of Army Clothing.

Parl. Paper,
No. 269,
1857, p. 486.

On the 21st of June 1855, two Royal Warrants were signed, one abolishing the Consolidated Board of General Officers, and directing that the duties connected with the clothing of the Army, theretofore performed by that Board, should in future be performed by the Director-General of Army Clothing, the right being reserved to Your Majesty of determining from time to time the patterns of clothing, &c. The other Warrant directed that the clothing, accoutrements, and appointments of the Army should in future be provided in such manner and under such regulations as should from time to time be determined upon by Your Majesty's authority, signified by one of the Principal Secretaries of State. The engagements already entered into by the Colonels of the respective corps were to be taken over by the public. Regulations were accordingly issued for the provision of clothing, &c. for the Army, and subject to the existing engagements entered into by the Colonels (which included the clothing for 1856-7), it was determined by Lord Panmure, then Secretary of State for War, that for the future, *i. e.* for the supplies for 1857-8, the clothing for the Army should be purchased by Government after open competition by tenders from persons willing to contract, that as a general rule the lowest tender should be accepted, and that the quality of the supplies furnished should be subject to the inspection and approval of civilians specially appointed for that duty. It was also determined that separate contracts should be entered into, not only for the several articles of which a soldier's dress and equipment are composed, but also for the cloth required, and for the making the cloth up into garments.

Parl. Paper,
No. 269,
1857, p. 550,
576.

The first Director-General of Stores, under the Order in Council of 6th June 1855, was Mr. Godley, who held that office till June 1857, when he became Assistant Under-Secretary for War. The first Director-General of Contracts was Mr. Howell, who still fills that office. The first Director-General of Army Clothing was Sir Thomas Troubridge, who was appointed to that office in June 1855, and retained it till February 2nd, 1857. A memorandum, dated 7th July 1855, was approved by the Secretary of State, which stated the duties of the Clothing Department to be,—1. To ascertain the wants of the Army; 2. To obtain through the Director of Stores the supplies, and to order their delivery either at Weedon for home issue, or in Mark Lane for issue abroad; 3. To inform the Storekeeper that the articles had been ordered, and to direct him to issue them when received. In February 1857 Sir Thomas Troubridge was removed to the Horse-Guards, being appointed Deputy Adjutant-General, the officer in immediate connexion with the War Department in relation to the patterns of clothing, and who is responsible for the quality of every article of soldiers' clothing on which he puts his seal. All patterns are furnished wholly by the Adjutant-General, subject to the sanction of the Secretary of State for War, and are kept in the charge of a Pattern Keeper at Pall Mall. The first Assistant Director-General of Army Clothing was Mr. Ramsay, who almost exclusively conducted that business. In February 1857, when Sir Thomas Troubridge became Deputy Adjutant-General, the whole establishment was revised. Captain Caffin succeeded Sir Thomas Troubridge with the title of Director of Stores and Clothing. Mr. Ramsay was styled Assistant Director of Stores and Clothing, but was more especially charged with the clothing branch of the department, over which Captain Caffin had only a general superintendence.

In November 1855 Weedon was established by Lord Panmure as a *dépôt* for Army clothing and necessaries. The reasons which determined the choice of this locality were the saving of expense as to buildings (large barracks well adapted for storehouses being unoccupied there), and the ready access to it both by canal and railway. It was, however, strongly objected to both by Sir T. Troubridge and Mr. Ramsay, on account of its distance from head-quarters, and the consequent difficulty of exercising proper supervision over it.

Parl. Paper,
No. 362,
1856, Q. 322,
617.

The delivery of stores at Weedon from the Tower and other places commenced in November 1855. These were placed temporarily in the charge of Mr. Cooper. On the 1st December 1855, Mr. James Sutton Elliott was appointed by Lord Panmure to the post of Principal Military Storekeeper at the Weedon Depôt, with a salary of 800*l.* per annum. He is acknowledged on all hands to have been a clever and able officer. He had been employed for 35 years in the public service under the Board of Ordnance and in Canada. He had strong recommendations from the authorities in Canada, as also from the Treasury, for the able manner in which he had discharged his duties on a Commission on the organization of the naval and military establishments abroad, and he had been selected by the Board of Ordnance as the most able and efficient servant they had to represent the Civil Department on that Commission. These qualifications, as well as the consideration of the saving which would be made of his half-pay, amounting to 600*l.* a year, consequent on the reduction of the post of Principal Military Storekeeper in Canada, induced Lord Panmure to appoint him as the head of the new establishment at Weedon. It appears that some years previously when in Canada, Mr. Elliott had incurred the censure of the Board of Ordnance for deserting his wife and forming a disreputable connexion; but it is stated that from the time of his return to England, and when he was recommended for his appointment, he was living with his wife on the most amicable terms. There was not the slightest suspicion of his honesty. Although the circumstances just mentioned may have furnished reason for somewhat strict supervision of his proceedings, we are not prepared to express an opinion that they constituted a permanent disqualification for Government employment in a person otherwise well fitted for office, and upon whose character no other imputation was known to rest.

The following letter announced the appointment of Mr. Elliott:—

“SIR, “War Department, Pall Mall, December 1, 1855.
 “LORD PANMURE having been pleased to approve of your appointment as Storekeeper for the Army Clothing Department, I have to request you will assume the charge of the Depôt at Weedon with the least possible delay. In carrying on the duties connected with that appointment you will communicate with and receive your orders from the Director-General of Army Clothing, through whom you will submit your requisitions both for money and stores. You will also keep a cash and a store ledger, upon the forms of which, or of the requisite vouchers to substantiate your accounts, it will be unnecessary to add to the information which your own experience will suggest. On assuming charge at Weedon you will take over from Mr. Cooper the clothing stores which have been placed temporarily in his care, giving him a receipt for the same, and bringing them on your charge, a report of which you will make to this office.

“I am, &c.

“J. W. RICHARDS,
 “for Director-General.”

No other instructions appear to have been given him, and in the opinion of Sir B. Hawes and Mr. Ramsay (in which we do not concur), “none would be necessary, because the Ordnance Regulations were well known to him,” and “he was desired by Sir Thomas Troubridge to refer to him for instructions whenever he was in a difficulty.”

Although there is no specific mention of the Ordnance Regulations in the letter above quoted, there seems no doubt that Mr. Elliott was well aware that he was expected to conform to them, so far as they were applicable. Upon going to Weedon he was supplied by the War Office with books and store vouchers in the forms prescribed, and in his evidence before the Committee on Contracts he stated, that “the system pursued at Weedon was as nearly approaching the Ordnance system as it could be, considering the great difference in the service.” It is clear that in one respect the Ordnance Regulations were necessarily inapplicable. There was, strictly speaking, no store of clothing at Weedon, whereas the Regulations (Nos. 305, 306,) direct that a store shall be kept up. It was originally intended to have had a two years’ store of clothing, but financial reasons and the emergencies of a state of war prevented that intention being carried into effect.

As frequent reference has been made to the Ordnance Regulations, not only by the witnesses examined by us, but in the evidence given before the various Committees on Public Contracts, and as we shall feel compelled to mention them very often, it may be well that we should at once state our opinion that those Regulations do not appear to us to provide for a system of accounts applicable to the business transacted at Weedon. We find no provision in them for any system of accounts with contractors; no direction

WEEDON.

Parl. Paper,
 No. 438,
 1858,
 Q. 8954.

Parl. Paper,
 No. 438,
 1858,
 Q. 8021.

Parl. Paper,
 No. 438,
 1858,
 Q. 8955.
 381.

382.

385.

17.

7150.

O. R. 373,
 and App. S

Parl. Paper,
 No. 328,
 1858,

Q. 1965.

12.

94.

358.

1446.

1447. that any daily journal, either of receipts or issues, should be kept. It has been positively stated by some witnesses, and assumed by others, that such journals are prescribed by the Regulations. Their mistake has probably arisen from the fact that, as a matter of practice, such journals, we are assured, are invariably kept at all Ordnance Stations. 1447. The Regulations contain no provision for a system of books recording the proceedings of the Inspectors of Stores, nor any direction for recording regimentally the issues to regiments or other corps. They not only do not prescribe, but they appear deliberately to disregard, the principle of double entry; and some of the witnesses have expressed an opinion that store accounts cannot be kept by double entry. The only book of account which we can discover prescribed by the Ordnance Regulations for recording transactions relating to stores is the store ledger, to the credit of which are posted the issues made, and to the debit of which are posted the receipts into store,—the only check upon these entries being the vouchers which support them. We are informed that a revision of these Regulations is at present in progress, and we trust the omissions we have thus pointed out will be taken into consideration by those entrusted with the “long and troublesome business of amalgamating with them the War Office “Regulations,” even if it should be deemed inexpedient to adopt the system of accounts herein after suggested.

It devolved upon Mr. Elliott, on his arrival at Weedon, on the 7th December 1855, 198. to organize the establishment, taking the Ordnance Regulations as his basis, and to initiate a system of book-keeping. We are desirous to keep our account of the system of book-keeping adopted, as far as possible distinct from the narrative of the general mode in which the business was conducted; but it is perhaps hardly possible entirely to dis sever the two subjects. To make either intelligible, it may be convenient to proceed, in the first instance, chronologically with the history of the establishment.

No books whatever had been kept previous to Mr. Elliott’s arrival,—the only records of the stores previously received at the *Depôt* being the bills of delivery from the Store-keeper’s Office at the Tower, Woolwich, and other Military Establishments, in respect of goods sent from those departments, and inspection notes, which accompanied the delivery of goods furnished by contractors. For the accounts which Mr. Elliott had to keep, and the correspondence he had to conduct, he was for the first five months after his arrival supplied with only five temporary clerks “necessarily very young men, with “no experience,” all perfectly ignorant of the duties of an Ordnance station, and only one of whom afterwards passed his examination. Mr. Elliott’s own statement is, and we believe it to be true, that seeing the utter impossibility of establishing so large a system of book-keeping as he would have done with more ample means, the utmost he could do was to subdivide his duties into several branches,—the Saddlery branch, the Boot branch, the Cloth branch, and the Garniture branch, and to direct the foreman in each of these branches to keep an account of the daily receipts and issues. He then “started a ledger “as well as he could, in the roughest possible way, and set a clerk to work upon it.”

The number of clerks was gradually increased. In July 1856, there were eight clerks. In November 1856 they consisted of eleven, and in March 1857, in consequence of Mr. Elliott’s urgent representation of the necessity of further clerical assistance, three additional temporary clerks were added. These, fourteen in all, constituted the Book-keeping Establishment until September 1857, a number wholly inadequate to the rapidly increasing duties which they had to perform.

Besides the rapid despatch of troops to China and India in the spring and summer of 1857, nearly 50,000 men were added to the Army between January 1857 and May 1858, and 30,000 embodied Militia were called out in the course of the same year 1857. This last measure alone doubled in one week the work at Weedon. On the 1st of September 1857, four clerks were added to the office, and shortly afterwards Mr. Tatum, an experienced Military Storekeeper, with an assistant, Mr. Munro, were added to Mr. Elliott’s staff. By this time, considerable arrears existed in the books, and upon a representation of Mr. Tatum, strongly backed by Mr. Elliott, of the necessity for further assistance, both in the Store and Book-keeping Department, six clerks and four persons intended to act as storeholders were sent down in October, but none of the latter being conversant with the issue or management of Stores, Mr. Elliott appropriated all ten to the Book-keeping Department, the duties of which were largely increasing.

According to the Ordnance Regulations, No. 365, the store ledger of every station is made up to the 31st of March in each year, and should be ready for transmission to the War Office within four months after the expiration of the financial year. It was not considered necessary that Mr. Elliott should transmit the ledger made up to the 31st March 1856, when he had been less than four months at Weedon. His first ledger there-fore comprised a period of sixteen months ending on the 31st March 1857, and would

Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858,
Q. 2046,
6482.
O. R. No.
364, 372.

7150.
Parl. Paper,
No. 438,
1858, App.
10, p. 150.
Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858,
Q. 2228.
Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858,
Q. 2151.
Parl. Paper,
No. 362,
1856, App.3,
p. 106.
Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858, p. 433.

262. 549.
7150.

333.
Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858, p. 440.

have been due at the War Office not later than the 1st of August 1857. It did not arrive, although he sent up according to regulation a balance sheet purporting to show the amount of stores received, issued, and remaining in hand at the station, and which should have been compiled from the store ledger. He was called upon for explanation as to this balance sheet, and directed to send up the store ledger itself. But he is stated to have "fenced" with this demand, in other words he urged as an excuse for its non-production "the deficient clerical assistance" at his command. In August 1857, it was resolved that Mr. Elliott should be transferred to the post of Storekeeper at Dublin, and be succeeded at Weedon by Captain Gordon. This change was not resolved on from any suspicion as to Mr. Elliott's honesty; but it was thought that on account of Captain Gordon's military experience, he would carry on the duties in a more satisfactory manner than Mr. Elliott. The change could not, however, conveniently take place until after the Dublin Storekeeper had made his annual demand. Mr. Elliott appears to have continued to make frequent representations of the arrears in his books, and the impossibility of overcoming them when the whole time of the clerks was occupied with the current work of the office; and at length, in February 1858, partly in consequence of these representations and partly from the opinion expressed by Captain Gordon of the necessity of changes in the mode of conducting the business at Weedon, Major Marvin was sent down to investigate "the past and present state of the Establishment," and among other things to inquire into the state of the ledger. Major Marvin's report will be found in the Appendix to the 5th Report of the Contracts' Committee. It contains a full and exact account of the very great arrears in the ledger. Just before Major Marvin went down, ten additional clerks were appointed and sent down to Weedon, making the total number thirty-seven. But we have been informed by Captain Gordon that instead of an increase of ten clerks, there should have been an increase of twenty-three: that was the lowest number he agreed with an experienced officer in the War Department in considering necessary; and in February 1858, they made a joint representation to this effect to Captain Caffin, the Director of Clothing.

Captain Gordon succeeded Mr. Elliott as Storekeeper on the 14th of May 1858, when the "remain" or stock-taking of the stores at Weedon was completed, and they were formally handed over to him by Mr. Elliott. The ledger of 1856-7, however, was not quite completed, when on the 22nd of May 1858, Mr. Elliott absconded, leaving England for America, abandoning his wife, and having an actress as the companion of his flight. The ledger, on its completion early in June 1858, was sent up to the War Office, and after a thorough examination (occupying nearly two months) with the vouchers—5400—very few of which were missing, it appeared to be perfectly satisfactory, and complete as regards the issues or credit side of the account, while the receipts or debit side of the account only required verification by comparing them with the accounts of payments made for stores delivered at Weedon. This comparison and verification has since been satisfactorily completed. Whether the stores, which according to these accounts had been delivered at Weedon, were actually received there, could however only be ascertained accurately when the ledger of 1857-8 up to May 14th, 1858, had been completed, and the amounts then appearing in the ledger to the debit of the Storekeeper had been compared with the actual stores handed over on that day to Captain Gordon on the completion of the remain. In order, as we understood, to prepare this second ledger from April 1857 to May 14th, 1858, Commissary-General Adams with a staff of eight experienced Commissariat Officers proceeded to Weedon on the 10th of June 1858, and they were engaged in the work from that date until the 29th September when he was examined by us at Weedon. It appeared to us that Commissary-General Adams, adhering no doubt in this respect to the practice under the Ordnance Regulations in his branch of the service, was preparing the ledgers exclusively from actual vouchers of receipt and issue, many of which he stated were missing, while many of them were duplicates, instead of endeavouring to complete it from the less formal materials which existed ready to his hands. Accordingly, neither he nor any of his staff appear ever to have made any application for information to any of the officers at Weedon who were conversant with the system of accounts adopted by Mr. Elliott,—to Mr. Moore in charge of the registry and correspondence—to Mr. Green who had charge of the contract ledger—to the Chief Inspector, Mr. Hoile, who asserts that as far as he was concerned a regular record was kept of all stores received into the Depôt—or to Mr. Dwyer, who had charge of all issues of stores during the period of Mr. Elliott's superintendence, and who kept an issue journal, in which there were no arrears. Commissary-General Adams seems mainly to have directed his attention to collecting, classifying, and abstracting the vouchers which he discovered,—important documents doubtless, and essential for the exact verification of a ledger when completed, but not, as we venture to think, so essential for the preparation of a ledger in the first instance.

WEEDON.

O. R. 365.

Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858,
Q. 6746, and
App. No. 16,
p. 440.

413.

410.

413.

See Appen-
dix No. 8.

Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858, p. 434.

1516.

2195.

1661.

2178. 2213.

2214.

4394.

4406.

4406.

Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858, p. 436.

4405.

WEEDON.

4388.

7165.

7177.

App. No. 25.

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In pursuance of the plan he adopted, Commissary-General Adams on beginning his work requested that all regiments and corps should be applied to, to furnish returns of all clothing and other stores received from or returned to the Depôt at Weedon. After an unexplained, and so far as we see, an unreasonable lapse of time a circular to the effect suggested was approved and issued by the War Office. It appeared to us that this was proceeding to construct accounts *de novo* instead of making up those already existing; that the delay which would thereby be occasioned in the preparation of the ledger might be interminable; that the returns asked for from regiments might not be procurable at all, or possibly imperfect when received; and it occurred to us that an attempt should be made to construct the ledger from the materials already existing, which might at least approximate to accuracy. We were led to this opinion partly by the apparent completeness of the ledger for 1856-7, and partly from a memorandum submitted to us by Mr. Moore, the head of the Registry Branch at Weedon, in which he states at length his reasons for thinking that the books in existence at Weedon "afford the means of arriving at a credit and debit for and against Mr. Elliott, which, if not entirely correct, would approach as near as possible to the true state of the store accounts." Moreover, Captain Gordon himself, strongly as he disapproved of the system of accounts adopted by Mr. Elliott, stated that he thought "if he had remained he would have worked out his accounts himself—he might have been able to do it—he introduced his own books and he would understand them, but I do not think anybody else could."

Under these circumstances, and seeing that the Military Storekeepers and Commissariat Officers had never been accustomed to the system of accounts introduced by Mr. Elliott, and were disposed to regard with disfavour the smallest addition to or variation from Ordnance Regulations, we could hardly consider such officers the best exponents of a system they condemned, or the best qualified to use materials with which they were not familiar. We thought it better, and indeed necessary, upon these points to call for the assistance of an accountant, and we engaged the services of Mr. Jay, now of the firm of Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Jay, most experienced accountants in the city of London. We requested him, in the first instance, to examine the books kept at Weedon during Mr. Elliott's superintendence, and also those at present in use, with a view of ascertaining the respective merits and defects of the two systems. Messrs. Quilter and Co. have examined the books in use at Weedon since December 1855 (upwards of 300 in number), and their report of the system upon which they have been kept, received by us in January last, will be found in Appendix No. 26.

It appears from that report that the book-keeping at Weedon between December 1855 and August 1856 was of a very rough and imperfect description, and that there was no regular classification of the facts indicated by the original vouchers. The books then kept referred:—1. To the registration of papers and correspondence (these are not strictly speaking books of account); 2. To dealings with contractors and tradesmen in connexion with the receipt of stores; 3. To receipts of stores from Woolwich, the Tower, and other Government stations; 4. To orders for issues to regiments, and issues made accordingly. The Accountants add, "Besides the books described above, a rough document was framed having the character of a store ledger, that is, containing accounts opened for some of the different descriptions of stores, with entries purporting to show the respective receipts and issues under distinctive heads, but it was never duly entered up, and as a book of results is perfectly useless. In addition to the foregoing, certain other books were kept by the inspectors and viewers in their respective store rooms; there was also a foreman's book of issues and one for special issues of cloth, both of which were likewise kept in the store rooms." We see no reason to doubt that the entries made in these books were intended truthfully to record, and did in the main accurately record, the amount of stores received and inspected, packed, and issued in each branch of the Depôt. But our Accountants are of opinion that "although these books existed and entries more or less continuous were made in them, not one was kept efficiently and completely, and there was, properly speaking, no systematic book-keeping; the consequence being a state of arrear and confusion which in a greater or less degree continued to characterize the accounts of the department down to the time when Captain Gordon took charge of it in May 1858, and notwithstanding the improvements which Mr. Elliott himself introduced in August 1856."

From and after the 22nd August 1856, a more regular system of accounts was adopted, which continued in operation during the remainder of Mr. Elliott's superintendence.

The business of the Depôt was divided into four branches:—

1. The Registry Branch, including all correspondence, letters both inward and outward, and the registration of papers and documents generally. The system adopted in this branch is shown in some detail by Captain Gordon (Appendix No. 15). And it appears from his evidence, as well as from the report of our Accountants, that these books have

throughout been kept in the most complete state, without arrears, and are so carefully compiled that great credit is due to the officers employed in that branch. They furnish, as Captain Gordon states, a very good and clear record of every transaction appertaining to the station, and afford great facilities for tracing the issue and receipt of stores.

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2. The Contract Branch, comprising the whole course of dealing with contractors and tradesmen in respect of supplies furnished by them, from the receipt of the goods at the Depôt to the granting of the certificates on which payment was made. All contracts were entered into by the War Office in London, who advised the Principal Military Storekeeper at Weedon of the particulars of the contract, and furnished him with sealed patterns by which to inspect the supplies. The information extracted from the contract itself or other document received from the War Office was preserved in indexed guard books, the original contracts being always returned to the War Office. These particulars constituted the guide of the Storekeeper in his reception of goods supplied by contractors. When goods were forwarded to Weedon it was the duty of the contractor to accompany them by a voucher termed an "inspection note" (the form of which was furnished him in blank), which set forth the particulars of the goods, and was provided with three columns headed respectively "supplied," "approved," "rejected." The "supplied" column only was filled in by the contractor, the other two being left vacant to abide the result of inspection.

The contents of the inspection note were entered in a register; it received a serial registration number to facilitate future reference and identification, and was then placed in the hands of the proper inspector for completion, after examination of the goods to which it related. The result of the inspection was recorded by the inspector in a book kept by him in the store-room, and also on the face of the note itself by his filling in the columns headed "approved" and "rejected." The inspection note was then forwarded to the Registry Branch, from which a communication was made to the contractor notifying the result of the inspection, and requesting him to transmit a moneyed invoice for the quantities approved and to remove those rejected. The inspection note was then returned to the Contract Branch as the voucher on which to base the entry of the result of the inspection in the register of inspection notes, and to carry to the credit of the contractor the quantity approved. The contract ledger in some instances did not, as it should have done, show what portion of the supply contracted for had been rejected, but only what had been approved. The credits thus given to the contractor constituted the *data* on which the certificate was passed by the Storekeeper for payment to be made to the contractor, such certificate being also the voucher for the charge assumed by the Storekeeper in respect of the articles included in it. The certificate accompanied by the contractor's moneyed invoice (in duplicate) was transmitted to the War Office, where the contractor received the cash payment to which it entitled him. In the case of articles supplied by tradesmen not under contract, the general rule was to certify on the invoice accompanying the goods their quantity, quality, and the fact of their receipt into store, the prices charged being determined by the War Office, accounts with the tradesmen being opened in the contractor's ledger and a copy of the certified invoice retained. In some instances when urgently required, supplies of clothing and necessaries purchased of contractors and tradesmen were delivered direct by them to the regiments for which they were intended, without being passed through the Depôt at Weedon. Such goods were taken on charge, and entered in the contractor's ledger on the authority of the receipts of the officers of the respective regiments.

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3. Receipt and Issue Branch.—The business under this head consisted of taking account of articles brought into store, other than those received from contractors and tradesmen, and of all issues out of store.

The stores sent from the Tower, Woolwich, or other Government Departments, were received at Weedon only in pursuance of "orders to receive" sent from the War Office, stating the description and quantity of stores to be received and from whom. These were entered in an "order book to receive," duly indexed. If on the arrival of stores at Weedon, no order to receive had reached the Storekeeper (which used frequently to be the case), it was his duty to retain the stores and report the irregularity. The articles from the Tower and Woolwich were accompanied by delivery bills of particulars according to a printed form, and were subjected to examination on receipt. Those from regiments were (or should have been) accompanied by a letter or some other document of no set form, giving the particulars of the packages forwarded, and were also subjected to inspection on receipt, the inspector reporting on a delivery voucher (which quoted the order to receive) whether the articles received were serviceable, repairable, obsolete, or unserviceable.

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The issues from Weedon proceeded exclusively on the authority of the Director of Army Clothing, who by letter informed the Storekeeper of the respective descriptions,

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quantities, and destinations of the issues so directed. Proceeding on this letter, a clerk in the Issue Department directed written orders to the several foremen of the respective store-rooms in which the different articles ordered to be issued were kept. It was the practice from August 1856 to October 1857, to retain counterparts of these orders, and on their execution the particulars were entered in the issue journal, which contained a daily record of issues in order of date, and also in the regimental ledgers, under the head of the regiment to which they were sent. Every issue was accompanied by two vouchers, consisting of a delivery note and a receipt note, the former being retained by the regiment or other consignee, and the latter, signed by the consignee, being returned by him to Weedon, and forming the Storekeeper's voucher for the issue.

4. Store Ledger Branch.—The business of this branch was to collect in one record, viz., "the store ledger" on the one hand, all receipts of clothing and stores from every source, and on the other all issues of clothing and stores, with the view of exhibiting in debtor and creditor form under the head of each article, as "books," "caps," "tunics," "trousers," &c., the periodical receipts and issues, and the balance or stock remaining on hand from time to time. The number of articles, inclusive of their respective subdivisions, in relation to each of which this information was or should have been afforded by the store ledger at Weedon was about 1,800. The debit or receipt side of the store ledger was formed from the pay certificates passed to contractors in respect of "approved" articles, and from the bills of delivery and other documents which accompanied stores received from the Tower, Woolwich, or regiments. The particulars of such documents in reference to, 1st, clothing for the line; 2nd, militia clothing; and 3rd, militia necessities, were first abstracted under the requisite heads into a subsidiary book appropriated to each of these objects, and designated a "debit voucher," the contents of this latter document being posted in monthly totals into the store ledger. In respect of all other receipts the store ledger was made up direct from the same sources of information as (in the cases above mentioned) were used in the preparation of the "debit vouchers." The credit or issue side of the store ledger was based upon the issue notes (previously described) in the cases of 1st, line clothing; 2nd, militia clothing; 3rd, boots; and 4th, clothing for enrolled pensioners. Such issues were first abstracted into a subsidiary book, and thence posted to the credit of the several accounts in the store ledger in monthly totals. In all other cases the accounts in the store ledger were credited direct from the issue notes themselves. The store ledger in use at Weedon was in the form prescribed by the Ordnance Regulation No. 364, Form S. 12.

In our Accountant's report will be found a classified summary of the books of account kept subsequently to the 22nd August 1856, until the 14th of May 1858, when Captain Gordon succeeded Mr. Elliott as Storekeeper, and in Appendix No. 15 will be found a most minute account by Captain Gordon of the system of book-keeping and accounts during the period of his holding office at Weedon, from May 14th to November 1st, 1858. It was substantially the same as that previously adopted by Mr. Elliott, but with some important additions and improvements. Thus Captain Gordon established a daily journal of receipts, which, though, as already observed, not provided for by the Ordnance Regulations, is a convenient daily epitome of all goods received into store daily, and facilitated the accurate and rapid posting of its contents into the store ledger, instead of leaving this to be done from the inspection notes themselves. Captain Gordon also amended the form and arrangement of the issue journals and contract ledgers. He introduced a separate ledger for each branch store, one kept by each foreman of stores to record under their respective heads the articles received and issued by him daily. These books were to each store-room what the general stores ledger was for the whole establishment, forming a useful check on the formation of that book, and exhibiting the balance of stores for which each foreman was accountable. He added also a book containing receipts for rejected supplies returned to contractors, and a book recording all stores expended or converted to use in the establishment. He also introduced a book for "unknown stores," *i.e.* those received without delivery note or letter of advice, as was frequently the case with stores returned to Weedon, especially from disbanded militia.

On a review of the system of store accounts above described, as kept at Weedon in Mr. Elliott's time, we see no sufficient ground for the assertion that, by that system "the Ordnance Regulations were positively set at defiance." This assertion, apparently, was mainly grounded upon the fact that no general receipt or issue journals were kept. We have already stated that the Ordnance Regulations make no provision either for receipt or issue journals. It is true that those Regulations require that every storekeeper shall post into his ledger, without loss of time, every article of store that may be delivered to him, and that this ledger shall be posted up and examined weekly.

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These regulations were not complied with by Mr. Elliott, his store ledger throughout his time of office being, as before stated, greatly in arrear. But this requirement can only be carried into effect by a Storekeeper who has a staff of clerks adequate to the work; and we are clearly of opinion that, throughout the period of Mr. Elliott's superintendence, the establishment of clerks at Weedon was quite insufficient for the duties they had to perform.

Neither can we concur in the sweeping statement that "there was no keeping of accounts at all" during the period referred to. We are rather disposed to agree in the opinion expressed by more than one of the officers of the establishment, that there was, if anything, too much book-keeping. Captain Gordon, whose ability and experience give great weight to every statement furnished by him, qualified the opinion he at first expressed in condemnation of Mr. Elliott's system, and told us, on his second examination, "that Mr. Elliott did not do himself justice in the report he laid before the Contracts' Committee of what books he kept. His books were better than shown by him." And the judgment of our Accountants, in which we entirely coincide, is that "the system of accounts kept under Mr. Elliott's superintendence sufficiently provided for some of the important objects contemplated by account-keeping for business of the nature of that conducted at the Depôt at Weedon. Thus it provided for the adequate record of the facts connected with the receipt of stores from the contractors, the conditions of the contracts under which supplies were to be made, the extent to which those conditions were complied with, the corresponding reception of goods and consequent credit to the contractors. Appropriate books were also provided for the records of receipts of stores from other sources than contractors. This was a simpler matter, involving no other examination of the goods and relative vouchers than was requisite to test the descriptions and the quantities of the various kinds of stores consigned to the Depôt from the Tower, Woolwich, regiments, &c. Books were also provided for the record of issues, and for showing, in connexion with them, the authority of the Director-General for such issues. These fundamental objects were thus provided for, and if the accounts, such as they were, had been efficiently kept in all respects, they would doubtless have been saved from falling into that condition of accumulated arrear and general incompleteness and incoherency by which they were characterized when Captain Gordon took charge of the Depôt, and towards which they had been in fact more or less tending from the commencement. But although the accounts under Mr. Elliott's superintendence were fairly adapted in the main for the sufficient record of current transactions, they were deficient in this important particular, that no comprehensive chronological record for the daily entry for receipts was framed so as to secure the accuracy which generally accompanies promptly made entries, and to provide a satisfactory basis for the formation of the general store ledger. There was, moreover, a prevalent absence of that connexion and check which are essential to the ready production of reliable results from any form or method of account. Allowing for the not unimportant improvements introduced by Captain Gordon, the present system of book-keeping is substantially the same as that which existed previously, with this difference that it is now efficiently worked by the instrumentality of an adequate staff of clerks."

If this opinion be, as we believe it to be, correct, it is difficult to understand how Mr. Elliott can be said, so far as his account-keeping is concerned, to have deliberately disregarded the Ordnance Regulations to which Captain Gordon has adhered. Our Accountants proceed to state, that "the system still remains, as it always has been, deficient in this essential particular, that it is not constructed on the principle of double entry, in the absence of which safeguard no certain reliance can be placed on any results exhibited by accounts, however conscientiously and diligently they may be kept, and especially when transactions of the multifarious character of those of this department have to be recorded." They conclude their report by stating, that "notwithstanding the various defects which have been pointed out, we have no reason for thinking otherwise than that the materials exist by means of which all the transactions of the department from the commencement may be elucidated and explained."

Upon learning from our Accountants that they entertained this opinion, we thought it would be more satisfactory that they should undertake the task of making up the ledger for 1857-8; and upon intimating our wish to that effect, the Secretary of State for War immediately directed that all the books and accounts at Weedon should at once be handed over to Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Jay. The result of their labours is certainly more satisfactory than we could have anticipated. We think it fully bears out the opinion expressed by Mr. Moore, and adopted by the Accountants themselves upon their first examination of the books, that accounts might be framed, approximating at

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least to accuracy, of all the transactions at the Weedon Clothing Establishment. We must refer to the Appendix No. 27 for a detailed statement of the steps taken by the Accountants,—1st, to ascertain whether all the stores received at the depôt, or for which the department was officially responsible, although not actually delivered to the depôt, have been duly accounted for; 2nd, to ascertain that a due equivalent in supplies has been received for all the monies paid to contractors and tradesmen by the War Office, in virtue of certificates passed in their favour at Weedon.

In pursuance of these objects they have made up the stores' ledgers from the materials at their command, from the 7th December 1855 to the 14th August 1858, and have compared the balances of those ledgers with the remain or quantities found to exist on stock being taken at the last-mentioned date. Very full particulars—in capable of condensation—of the results of this comparison are given in the Appendix. But the general result may be stated to be, that the discrepancies existing between the quantities which appear in the ledger balances and in the remain respectively are not large, considering the enormous amount of goods, and still more the infinite number of transactions to which the accounts relate. Our Accountants intimate their belief that many of these discrepancies are more apparent than real, and would be capable of explanation (instances of which they give in various cases), if they were of sufficient importance to justify continued expense and delay in further investigation. We may remark, that the differences in question are trivial compared with those of a like nature in the accounts at the Tower, on which we shall hereafter have to animadvert.

Upon the two points above mentioned, which the Accountants properly proposed to themselves as the main objects of their inquiries, they state that after a searching and laborious investigation into the accounts, during which the whole of the issues for the entire period from December 1855 to May 1858 have been traced to their various destinations, as indicated in the accounts:—"The general result at which we arrive under the " first head of inquiry is, that all stores delivered to Weedon, or coming within the scope " of its official responsibility, have been substantially accounted for." And "with respect " to the second head of inquiry, viz., the personal accounts with contractors, we are " enabled, after careful examination, to report that, excepting in some few and trifling " instances, not calling for special observation, we find them to be essentially correct, and " that no other monies have been paid to the contractors than such as they became " entitled to receive in consideration of stores delivered." After detailing an instance of laxity and irregularity on Mr. Elliott's part in the mode of granting certificates to a contractor, though no pecuniary loss was sustained in consequence, they add, "Although " from what has been already stated, the remark may appear superfluous, yet, consider- " ing the doubts upon the point which the mismanagement of the accounts of the depôt " has given rise to, we think it right to state expressly that nothing has come before us " in the course of our investigation to warrant the suggestion of fraudulent practices by " the late Principal Military Storekeeper in dealing with the stores confided to his " administration."

In the opinion thus expressed we entirely concur. We have great satisfaction in expressing to Your Majesty our belief, that whatever suspicions may have been naturally excited, there has been, as regards the stores at Weedon, no dishonest dealing whatever. Everything which has been paid for has been received, and no defalcation has taken place. To have arrived at this conclusion makes us regret less than we should otherwise regret the time, labour, and money spent in this inquiry. Nothing, indeed, can be a greater proof of the confusion and arrears into which the store accounts had fallen than the fact that it has taken Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Jay eight months at least to complete the ledgers, and to arrive at the judgment on them above expressed.

As regards the cash accounts of Mr. Elliott, they were entirely distinct from and unconnected with the Store accounts. All payments for supplies delivered at Weedon were made by drafts upon the Paymaster-General, no Storekeeper being allowed to have anything to do with the money transactions relating to the supply of stores. But it was Mr. Elliott's duty as Storekeeper to pay the weekly wages of the foremen and labourers employed at the Depôt. These payments were always duly made by him, and entered in check and pay lists, as laid down in the Ordnance Regulations. He was also entrusted with the duty of paying the charges of carriers for goods delivered at Weedon. For these purposes he made monthly, as is the custom with all Storekeepers, a demand for the sum necessary for the expenses of the following month. Each demand showed the amount remaining to his debit after payment of the expenses of the preceding month. These

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demands during 1857 were for about 1,000*l.* a month. His cash accounts, with the necessary vouchers to support them, were sent in quarterly, in accordance with the Regulations, fourteen days after the expiration of the quarter. His quarterly account ending 31st December 1857 was rendered accordingly, showing a small balance against him. His monthly demands for January, February, March, and April, 1858, including a demand of more than 1,600*l.* for carriage of stores, were granted. But as he neglected to send in his quarterly account up to the 31st March 1858, within the fourteen days prescribed, he was peremptorily called on to do so, and in default of his furnishing it, the Accountant-General refused the imprest for 2,000*l.* demanded by him for the month of May. Had the quarterly account ending March 1858 been sent in, it must have been at once discovered that carriers' bills for 1,639*l.*, in respect of which he had obtained imprests, had not been paid by him. Mr. Elliott had also previously received instructions to make up his cash account to the date of his leaving Weedon for the post of Storekeeper at Dublin, to hand over the balance in his hands to his successor, Captain Gordon, and to produce his receipt for the balance. On the 15th May Mr. Elliott borrowed the sum of 500*l.* from a contractor, out of which he paid 250*l.* for the weekly wages of the establishment, which he appears never to have allowed to fall into arrear. Shortly after his disappearance on the 22nd of May, it was discovered that bills for the carriage of stores, amounting to 1,639*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, were unpaid by him, and that (including this sum) the balance due to the public from him was 2,048*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* In accordance with the provisions of the Statute 52 Geo. III. c. 66, and the Ordnance Regulation No. 99, Mr. Elliott, on entering on his office at Weedon, gave security in a bond for 2,000*l.*, entered into by a Guarantee Association on his behalf for the due performance of his duties. This 2,000*l.* has since been paid by the Guarantee Association, so that the actual loss in cash occasioned by Mr. Elliott's deficiencies is reduced to 48*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* His cash accounts appear to have been kept with entire accuracy, and by the proper system of double entry. There has been no difficulty in ascertaining from them and from vouchers accompanying them the amounts paid and received by Mr. Elliott, and consequently the exact amount of his defalcation in money. And we deem it right to express emphatically our opinion that there is no ground for the suggestion or the supposition that the complication and arrears of the Store accounts have any connexion with the deficiency in the cash balance. We must notice that no officer was ever sent down to Weedon to balance the cash book and to ascertain the existence of the cash balance exhibited by the cash book. Formerly the "respective officers" examined once a month the Storekeeper's state of cash and the actual amount of money in his hands. We have had no explanation offered to us why this salutary check upon the Storekeeper was abandoned; and we regret that the payment of so large an amount for the carriage of stores should have been entrusted to the Storekeeper, when, as it appears to us, the payment might have been more conveniently made (as the stores themselves were paid for) at head-quarters upon certificates from Weedon that the sums demanded were due. The course pursued appears to have been in conformity with the usual practice; but we are informed that since Mr. Elliott's departure it has been determined to pay the carriers' bills in the mode we have suggested. It is satisfactory that, as we are assured, no other instance of deficiency in cash accounts by any Storekeeper has been known for very many years, nor if attendance to the Ordnance Regulations were rigidly enforced, do we see how such defalcation could have occurred without prompt detection.

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With regard to the general mode in which the business at Weedon has been conducted, we must observe, in the first place, that the Ordnance Regulations make no mention of and do not seem to contemplate the existence of permanent officials as inspectors. Although they direct generally that all stores are to be minutely inspected by a responsible officer before they are received into the Ordnance stores, such inspecting officer is to be the Deputy Storekeeper or clerk, with "professional assistance, together with the aid of mechanics, foremen, and labourers, if necessary." And accordingly up to March 1856, *i.e.* subsequently to the period when Mr. Elliott went to Weedon, the inspection at the Tower was carried on by means of clerks, assisted by viewers at 28*s.* per week. "There was no division of labour, no classification of the different kinds of stores." A new and improved system was adopted at the Tower in the spring of 1856, at the instance of Mr. Godley, when the Inspection Department was entirely reorganized, a Superintendent of Inspectors appointed, and four Inspectors, with a fixed annual salary of 250*l.*, selected for their professional experience and acquaintance with the four classes or divisions of stores which they were appointed to inspect. Under them were placed viewers, also persons with practical knowledge, with salaries rising to 105*l.*, and going

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down to 50%. At Weedon there was no Superintendent of Inspectors appointed, nor was the same classification and organization adopted as at the Tower. It was thought that Mr. Elliott, as a man of great experience, was perfectly competent to organize the establishment, and he was accordingly left to do so in the first instance with the assistance of only one Inspector, Mr. Hoile, a very efficient and able officer. As already stated, the business was divided by Mr. Elliott into four branches: 1st. Cloth and made-up clothing; 2nd. Saddlery; 3rd. Boots; 4th. Necessaries and garniture. Inspectors were, in March 1856, appointed to each of these branches upon the recommendation of Sir T. Troubridge, the then Director of Clothing. The Inspector of Saddlery had a salary of 200%. per annum; two Cloth Inspectors, the two Boot Inspectors, and the Inspector of Necessaries had each 100%. per annum, and Mr. Hoile remained Chief Inspector, with a salary of 300%. a year, and confining his attention mainly to cloth and clothing. No provision, however, appears to have been made in the first instance for the appointment of a sufficient number of persons duly qualified to act as viewers, and in the Cloth and Clothing Department there were up to May 1857 only two viewers, with eight labourers acting as viewers.

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In April 1857, shortly after Captain Caffin's appointment as Director-General of Stores and Clothing, he paid his first and only visit to Weedon, and inspected that establishment. His attention was mainly directed to the system of inspection; he did not examine the books or discover either that they were in arrear or otherwise defective. His report to the Assistant Under-Secretary of State on his return contains the particulars of the then existing establishment. In that report he stated that he was not satisfied with the state of things as regarded the inspection at Weedon; there was a want of skilled mechanics or tradesmen; labourers and others were employed as viewers of stores. These labourers had been selected on account of their aptitude in acquiring a certain amount of practical knowledge of the articles under inspection, but Captain Caffin expressed his opinion as follows:—"This is not sufficient to justify our retaining them in so responsible an office, " and so long as they remain performing these duties we are not in a position to maintain " that high standing respecting rejections which we ought to be able to take." He there-

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fore most strongly urged the necessity of taking immediate steps for the revision of the whole establishment, assimilating it as closely as possible to the one at the Tower, and he proposed an inspection establishment, classifying and arranging the inspectors and viewers, increasing the salaries of each, selecting the inspectors on account of their general knowledge of the articles coming under their inspection, having regard to their education, certificates of character, and antecedents, and appointing the viewers for their high character and minute practical knowledge as tradesmen. Captain Caffin stated to us that the alterations he proposed were carried out. But we think him in error in this respect. An addition was indeed made to the number of viewers employed, but no change was made in the organization of the inspection branches, nor was there any addition to the pay of the Inspectors. It was intended, we are assured, to introduce the Tower system of inspection, with its classification and organization, into Weedon, but this was not done, as it was shortly afterwards determined that Captain Gordon should succeed Mr. Elliott as Storekeeper, and Captain Caffin and Mr. Ramsay were then anxious that no change should be made in the existing organization until Captain Gordon took charge of the Depôt, when the new system might be more conveniently initiated by him.

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Captain Gordon paid his first visit to Weedon in February 1858, in order to make preparation for taking the "remain," *i.e.* ascertaining the state and quantity of stores which were to be handed over to his charge. He at once discovered that the receipt, inspection, custody, and issue of stores were conducted by the same party; that is, the inspector in each branch certified to his receipt of the stores delivered to him, and to the amount of those approved by him, but instead of handing them over when inspected and approved to a separate officer as storeholder, who might after counting them take charge of them on behalf of the Storekeeper, and whose certificate of receipt might check the entry made by the inspector, the inspector retained the custody and control of them, except as to cloth, which was handed to the packer, and the quantity certified by him. Captain Gordon at once represented to Captain Caffin that he could not take charge of the Depôt until the receipt was divided from the issue, and he declined to take the "remain" at Weedon until a certain number of storeholders or foremen were appointed, who would take charge of the stores quite distinct from the inspection. There is no doubt that the course pursued by Mr. Elliott in this respect was not in accordance with the Ordnance Regulations, which direct that all stores received shall be certified for, firstly, by the person inspecting for the Controller (now the Director) of Stores; secondly, by his professional assistant, if any; and thirdly, by an officer on behalf of the Storekeeper,

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in addition to the acknowledgment of the Storekeeper himself that he has received the stores, and is chargeable therewith. It is clear that in the absence of an officer acting on his behalf, a Storekeeper might become liable for the amount of stores which a dishonest or inaccurate inspector might certify he had received, though they had never reached the store. It is also possible that by collusion between a fraudulent contractor and a fraudulent inspector the public might be made liable for the payment of a larger quantity of stores than were ever actually delivered. It has been strongly urged that the certificate of a storeholder or foreman who has counted the stores, is a security against such fraud. It is true that it does constitute an additional check, both against carelessness and dishonesty, and we are not insensible of the value of such a check, which we think ought never to have been dispensed with. But it affords no infallible security against fraud; it only diminishes the probability of its occurrence by making it necessary that three persons instead of two should be privy to it, or four instead of three, on the supposition that the Principal Storekeeper is a party to the conspiracy. In such a conspiracy detection would be all but certain upon any counting of the stores at a survey or a remain, when the discrepancy between the amount in store and the larger quantity with which the Inspector and Storekeeper had charged themselves, would certainly be discovered. Apart, however, from the improbability that Government contractors and officials would risk their characters and their positions by entering into such a conspiracy,—of the existence of which either at Weedon or elsewhere not a tittle of evidence has been laid before us,—we think the more substantial objection to the Inspectors at Weedon acting also as storeholders, is to be found in the fact that their duties as Inspectors were alone quite enough to occupy all their time and attention, without their having imposed on them the custody of the stores and the preparation of them for issue. It is certainly singular that the authorities at the War Office, notwithstanding the visit of Captain Caffin in April 1857, and the occasional visits of Mr. Ramsay, do not seem to have been aware that the receipts and issues in most of the departments at Weedon were under the control of one and the same officer, viz., the inspector, until Captain Gordon represented the fact to Captain Caffin in February 1858; although any intelligent officer accustomed to the Ordnance Regulations would certainly have discovered the irregularity in 24 hours. We concur with Captain Gordon in the opinion that this defect was entirely attributable to the deficiency in the staff with which Mr. Elliott was furnished, and not to any deliberate disregard of a regulation as essential for his own protection as for the interests of the public. Major Marvin appears not to have been familiar with the system of storekeeping, nor was he, as it seems, informed of the representations made by Captain Gordon. At all events, he seems to have been too easily led by Mr. Elliott to believe that the goods after inspection were handed over to a storehouseman, independent of the inspector, and Major Marvin erroneously reported “that the issue was quite distinct “from the inspection.” The fact was that the goods after inspection remained in the custody of the inspector, the so-called storehouseman or foreman of stores being his subordinate officer, and that the inspector also made ready the stores for issue, though the foreman kept a book recording such issues. Yet that Mr. Elliott was himself aware that the inspection was not distinct from the issue, is evident from his representation to Major Marvin that he had in October 1857 made an application for four storeholders, “in order to disencumber the inspectional branch of any connexion with the issue of “stores,” and that he had been “precluded from employing as storeholders the persons “sent, not one of them being conversant with the issue or management of stores.”

6002-8.

1364.

1382.

Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858, p. 435.

Id. p. 440.

As regards the actual inspection of the supplies, the articles were first inspected by viewers, or labourers acting as viewers, under the direction and supervision of the inspectors who examined from time to time a portion of the goods rejected by the viewers, and either confirmed or reversed their decision. The articles approved were received into the store, the articles rejected were removed at the expense of the contractors, who had to supply others in their place. The articles received were marked so as to be capable of identification. No permanent mark was put upon the articles rejected, as such mark would damage their sale in the general market. No complete security therefore existed that the same articles might not be again sent in by the contractor. Complaints have been made by some contractors of the unnecessary severity of the inspection, and the consequent improper rejection of supplies, which it has been argued showed either caprice or incompetence on the part of the officers employed. We have examined numerous witnesses at considerable length upon these points. It must be borne in mind as regards the evidence of some of these witnesses that Government was inaugurating a new system of clothing the Army, which seriously interfered with the very profitable monopoly previously enjoyed by the few houses to which the supply had

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been confined, and that such witnesses, naturally feeling hostility to the system by which their profits were affected and by which, in conducting the business still remaining to them, much additional trouble was undoubtedly imposed upon them, would be quick to perceive and not unwilling to point out every instance in which they conceived the decision of the inspectors was capricious or unjust. Accordingly, most of the complaints against the system of inspection have come from the old contractors, while those who have now a share of the business under the system of competition are, generally speaking, favourable to it. It must also be borne in mind that the instructions to the inspectors were most rigid. They were bound to reject all articles not in strict conformity with the sealed patterns and the specifications under which the contracts were made. No discretion whatever was left to them in this matter. We think there can be no doubt that the inspection at Weedon was generally stricter than that which took place under the former system by the Board of General Officers or by the Regimental Boards. The latter having the security afforded by the obligation of the clothier to replace the clothing furnished, if it proved bad after having been worn by the soldiers, might reasonably overlook upon the first inspection defects or slight deviations from the pattern which would be sufficient to insure the rejection of the clothing by the Weedon inspectors. And we have reason to believe that during the earlier period of the establishment at Weedon, articles of an inferior description were more frequently delivered by contractors in expectation that their defects might escape detection, and that the rigorous inspection pursued had the good effect of producing an improvement in the quality and work of the articles afterwards delivered into store. It may be well that we should give separately our opinion of the inspection in the four chief departments.

6842.
7960. 8270.

4487.

Parl. Paper,
No. 93,
1857, Q. 210.

Id. Q. 214.

Parl. Paper,
No. 269,
1857, Q. 890.Woolwich,
1314, 1318,
and Ap-
pendix No. 4.

1. As to Cloth and Clothing. The cloth was sent, in the first instance, to Weedon for inspection. It was, after being approved, issued to clothiers, who contracted to make it up. The clothing intended for issue to regiments at home, for garrison, staff, and depôts was returned to Weedon for further inspection. That intended for issue to regiments abroad was sent to Mark Lane, where after inspection it was packed by Messrs. Hayter and Howell. No case has been proved before us in which substantial injustice has been done to a contractor in consequence of undue severity in the inspection of cloth. In one case (Ellis's cloth), upon a representation to the War Department that the rejection was improper, an arbitration was granted. In that case the arbitrators reversed the decision of the inspector, as they thought the cloth equal to the pattern by which it had been supplied, but we have had evidence which satisfied us that the inspector was substantially right. As regards the inspection of cloth, we saw enough ourselves at Weedon of attempts made by a contractor to conceal defects in the supplies, to convince us of the necessity of a rigid inspection, and the large majority of the witnesses we have examined expressed the opinion, at which we have ourselves arrived, that they had no ground for complaint of undue severity or improper rejection of their cloth.

4028. 4705.

2152.

4756. 4763.
4789. 4809.
4873.

2. The inspection of boots, besides the irregularities hereafter noticed, seems to have given less satisfaction to the trade generally, and we are of opinion that it has not unfrequently been arbitrary and occasionally unfairly severe. It has been proved before us that in more than one instance the contractor has brushed off the chalk marks from boots which have been rejected, and sent them in again without alteration, when they have been accepted. In another case, which occupied our attention at greater length than we could have wished, a contractor complained that boots which he had furnished were rejected, though equal to the pattern which he had received from the War Office to regulate his supply. The fact appeared to be that the sealed pattern supplied to him was extremely bad; the inspectors thought their capacity might be justly called in question if they approved such boots for the soldiers' use, and they remonstrated against being held responsible for passing articles of so inferior a description. We think in the interest of the public they were quite right in their remonstrance and in examining with extreme severity boots which were only required to be equal to a pattern so bad as to elicit expressions of surprise and condemnation from all the professional witnesses who have examined it. The fault in this case lay neither with the inspectors nor the contractor, but with the Director of Clothing (Sir Thomas Troubridge), who had sealed a very bad pattern.

477.

It may be convenient that we should here advert to a point upon which much evidence was given before the Committee on Contracts, and upon which we had ourselves considerable difficulty in arriving at a correct conclusion. Soon after the establishment at Weedon was first formed a considerable stock of miscellaneous articles was sent there from the Tower. Among other things 170,000 pairs of boots were so transferred. These boots had been supplied during the Russian War under the imperfect and unsatisfactory system of inspection which then existed at the Tower. They had been

viewed and approved there, under the pressure of business, in a rapid, cursory, wholesale manner, each man employed being expected to view about 700 pairs per diem, about double the number he could properly inspect. Soon after they reached Weedon the boot inspectors there represented to the Storekeeper that they were unfit for issue to the Army. Upon this representation being communicated to the Director of Clothing, Mr. Ramsay, the Assistant Director, accompanied by Mr. Charles Elliott, the Superintendent of Inspectors at the Tower, went down to Weedon in May 1856, as a committee of inquiry on the subject. After examining the Weedon boot inspectors, the Tower viewers who had passed the boots, and an independent professional referee of great experience, they came to the conclusion, which we think the evidence fully warranted, that "a large proportion of the boots were unfit to be issued to the soldiers, principally owing to bad workmanship." They therefore recommended that "the whole of the boots which had been sent from the Tower to Weedon should be re-examined, and that those which were unfit for service should be disposed of by public auction." The greater portion of the boots, about 120,000, were re-inspected accordingly, and divided into three classes, "good," "doubtful," "bad." Before the rest were re-inspected, an order arrived from the War Office "to send to the Tower without delay 10,000 pairs of the boots received from the Tower now in store at Weedon," not specifying that the worst or condemned boots were to be sent. We think it is proved, although the evidence on this point is contradictory, that the 10,000 pairs of boots which were sent up in pursuance of this order, and sold accordingly at the Tower at 5s. 5d. a pair, were taken indiscriminately from heaps of good, doubtful, and bad boots, and in some cases consisted of casks of boots that had never been re-inspected or even opened at Weedon. A second 10,000, which were sent up in the same manner in November 1856, were sold at the Tower in December 1856 at 5s. 6d. a pair. The remainder of the boots which had been classified were afterwards mixed together again. The re-inspection and so-called classification was therefore a useless ceremony. The fact appears to us to be that the boot inspectors had not seen the report which recommended the re-inspection of the boots; they considered them all to be of inferior quality, and from the terms of the orders directing the two quantities to be sent up to the Tower, they conceived all would eventually be sold. They were therefore less particular in selecting the worst boots for sale than they might otherwise have been. We think there can be little doubt that some of the boots so disposed of ought not to have been sold, and might have been fit for issue, at least for home, barrack, hospital, and militia services, for which purposes the remaining 150,000 have since been appropriated. But there is no evidence that any of the 20,000 boots sent up from Weedon and sold at the Tower in 1856 were ever again purchased by or for the Government. The assertion to this effect, though frequently repeated, was clearly shown to be founded in error. There is however ground for believing that boots which had been rejected at Weedon as not being equal to pattern have been subsequently supplied to Militia Regiments, the Colonels of which were authorized to supply their men directly from the contractors.

3. As regards the inspection of saddlery at Weedon all the contractors examined spoke highly of it as very fair and reasonable, and bore testimony to the capacity and honesty of Captain Smith, the Inspector. In this opinion we entirely concur, and we were perfectly satisfied with his explanations upon some points in which his efficiency and character had been impugned by a dissatisfied subordinate.

4. The Inspector of necessities, garniture, and miscellaneous stores, from May 1856 to January 1858, was not selected by Sir Thomas Troubridge from his possession of any knowledge peculiarly fitting him for the office, and the inspection in this department appears to have been during that period somewhat loose and unsatisfactory; so much so that it led to the dismissal of the inspector in consequence of complaints from regiments of the inferior quality of the articles supplied to them. The late Inspector stated to us that it took up half his time to conduct the correspondence and keep the books belonging to his store, he being receiver, storeholder, and issuer, and that the staff at his disposal, viz., one viewer and one labourer acting as viewer, was insufficient for the work they had to do. The result was that neither the accounts nor the inspection were properly attended to.

Whether a right of appeal should be given to a contractor who complains that his supplies have been improperly rejected is a subject upon which we have received much evidence. At present, by the terms of the contract, the decision of the Secretary of State is final, and though in rare instances referees have been appointed to review the decision of the inspector, yet, as a general rule, the judgment of the latter has been regarded as conclusive. The contractors whom we have examined on this point are

WEEDON.

5880.

478. 6323.
Parl. Paper,
No. 438,
1858, p. 175.

5260.

6258.

6318.

6315.

5407.

5262. 5344.

6318.

6323.

Appendix
No. 24.

6344.

2124.

6344.

Parl. Paper,
No. 438,
1858,
Q. 2702,
4355.

3065. 3070.
3113. 3168.

3169.

1748.

Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858,

Q. 6601.
1223.
1235.
1240.

Appendix
No. 4.

WEEDON. all but unanimous in the expression of their opinion that there should be a tribunal of appeal from the inspectors' decisions, though they were not agreed as to how that tribunal should be constituted. Some desired a referee wholly independent of Government, others stated that they would be contented with a reviewal of the inspector's decision by a Government Officer of high position and practical ability. As we understood that "at a late conference of tradesmen at the War Office upon the subject, the Government agreed that when a contractor complains of a rejection of his supplies by an inspector, a practical tradesman connected with the Department should look into it to see that no rejection is made unless upon serious and real grounds, and on that statement the tradesmen attending the conference were perfectly satisfied," we pray that we may be excused from expressing any opinion on the point.

A fruitful and well-founded ground of complaint among the contractors who have furnished supplies to Weedon has been the discrepancy which often existed between the patterns and the specification, to both of which the contractors were obliged to conform. This discrepancy existed more frequently with respect to cloth than to any other article. The specification for instance most rigidly insisted that the cloth furnished should be made exclusively of pure wool, while the pattern furnished to the contractor, according to evidence which it is impossible for us to doubt, has not unfrequently contained a percentage of shoddy or other inferior material. Again, the specification has required that the cloth shall be of a certain weight, the pattern furnished has been of a lighter weight. These and similar discrepancies arise from the fact that in the first instance the patterns and specifications were prepared not by the inspectors who were subsequently to examine the goods, but the higher authorities at the Horse Guards and the War Office. Some of these when shown to the inspectors were disapproved of by them, but still adhered to. At a subsequent period, April 1857, the Inspectors of cloth were instructed to select samples of cloth for sealed patterns, which were submitted to the approval of the authorities in London. The specification was still drawn up at Pall Mall, and it was not until July 1858 that the Chief Inspector at Weedon was instructed to prepare the specification for the guidance of persons tendering to supply cloth. It was manifestly desirable not only for the sake of contractors, but for the inspectors also, that the selection of patterns and the preparation of the specification should be intrusted to one and the same person, and that that person should be practically acquainted with the nature of the articles required.

Though perhaps not strictly within the scope of our inquiry, it may be well for us to mention that circulars inviting tenders have frequently been issued from the War Department, although up to the date of the tenders going in no patterns have been ready for the guidance of persons tendering. The urgency of sudden demands, or the want of sufficient foresight, has also frequently obliged the War Office to require the completion of the contracts they put out within an inconveniently short space of time. More serious faults have been that after a contract for cloth has been entered into, a pattern has not been furnished to Weedon in reasonable time to enable the contractor to have a sample piece compared with it before proceeding with the bulk of the order; and in another case, where a contract was concluded by the War Department for making 2000 great coats in three weeks, the materials of which were to be furnished from Weedon, no information of the contract having been entered into was sent to Weedon, and no materials were supplied thence, until after the period when the great coats were to have been delivered. These delays and the consequent losses incurred are unjust to contractors, and are well calculated to produce dissatisfaction and irritation. The blame in these cases attaches to the authorities in Pall Mall, and not to the officers at Weedon; but we deem it right to advert to them as illustrating incidentally the mode in which the business was conducted in connexion with the Dépôt, and the inconvenience which resulted from the fact that the latter was at an inconvenient distance from headquarters. We have no reason to doubt that all the inspectors did their work with assiduity and diligence and to the best of their ability. In the case of one contractor only have we had any complaint of delays in the inspection, and these seem to have arisen entirely in the case of made-up clothing for regiments abroad, which was delivered at Mark Lane for inspection, while the inspection note was sent to Weedon and thence transmitted to Mark Lane. Great difficulty was experienced in getting the reports of inspection returned from Mark Lane to Weedon, and considerable confusion also resulted from the fact that notifications of rejection were sent direct to the contractor from Mark Lane, without specifying to what contract the rejections referred. Both these evils were mainly attributable to the existence of a branch inspection dépôt separate from the main stores.

While, as above mentioned, there have been occasional complaints from contractors that goods have been improperly rejected, there have not been wanting, on the other hand, complaints from regiments that articles supplied to them from Weedon have been of inferior quality. Such complaints were not unfrequent under the old system, as will appear from a summary of complaints from regiments between October 1855 and July 1856, with reference to clothing supplied by clothiers appointed by colonels, none of which was subjected to inspection at Weedon. As regards the clothing (as distinguished from free kits or necessaries) issued for the year 1857-8, due to regiments on the 1st of April 1857, a summary of the remarks of the Regimental Boards of Inspection, appended to the last Report of the Committee on Contracts, will show that numerous complaints were made, in some cases of the quality of the cloth, in others of the clothing being badly made and not wearing well; but in more numerous instances the main ground of complaint was the non-receipt of the clothing in time for issue on the 1st of April.

We cannot doubt that in many cases these complaints of the inferiority of the clothing were well founded, and they tend to show that the inspection at Weedon during 1856 was imperfect, and so far from being too rigid was not sufficiently strict. A similar return, furnished by the Adjutant-General from Regimental Boards of Inspection, respecting the clothing for 1858-9, shows a very marked contrast to that for the previous year. With the exception of the Rifle Brigade and the 60th regiment, hardly any complaints have been received. On the contrary, the general tenor of these reports is, that the articles furnished are of good quality, and equal to the sealed patterns.

The free kit given to each recruit upon his first joining the depôt of his regiment consists of 32 separate articles, such as shirts, shell jackets, summer trousers, &c. When these are worn out, the soldier is bound to purchase others at his own expense, the articles being then technically termed "necessaries." There were many complaints by the Regimental Boards of Inspection of the inferior quality of some of the articles comprised in the kits furnished from Weedon during the military year 1857-8. We think it probable that these complaints also were frequently well founded, and that the inspection of necessaries at Weedon was not at first so complete and rigid as it should have been. Captain Gordon, however, states, as his predecessor, Mr. Elliott, had stated, that when complaints have been made by regiments since he took charge at Weedon, and the articles objected to have been returned, he has, in almost every instance, considered them quite equal to the sealed patterns, far superior to the necessaries which the Army had previously received, and that the regiments had no reason to return them. In some cases the rejection has been caused in consequence of the regiments being supplied by the Horse Guards with a different pattern by which to compare the supplies, from the pattern upon which they had been passed at Weedon. But, as in the case of clothing, the main ground of complaint by the Regimental Boards, and by the various officers in command of depôts, who have been examined by us respecting the supplies of kits for 1858-9, has been that the supplies have not reached them in proper time, and that long delays, involving voluminous correspondence, and seriously affecting the comfort of recruits, have taken place before the articles objected to have been replaced. All the witnesses we have examined concur in the opinion that these delays, and the consequent inconveniences, would not have occurred if commanding officers had been allowed to procure the kits direct from contractors, who would promptly have replaced any articles objected to. This plan has, we understand, since been adopted, and regiments are now supplied with kits direct, without Government inspection, trusting merely to regimental inspection. Although we think that this hardly affords the same security for the excellence of the articles furnished, and we have had it in evidence that kits rejected at Weedon have been subsequently accepted by regiments, yet on the whole we cannot but express our satisfaction at the change. It will relieve the Government officials from a vast amount of labour in the inspection of numerous small miscellaneous articles, and from the necessary book-keeping relating to them. The causes of the delays complained of are to be mainly found in the fact already adverted to, that there was no reserve of stores at Weedon from which the sudden demands of newly-raised battalions could be supplied; that consequently Government had to enter into contracts in haste, and to call upon the Storekeeper at Weedon to issue supplies as fast as they were received. Any rejection by the inspectors of any of the articles comprising the kit caused a corresponding delay in the issue of the kits to the troops who required them, no kit being issued until every article comprised in it was complete. It was also too frequently the case that Messrs. Isaac, the contractors under a running contract to supply the articles required for complete kits, sent in in excess some of the articles, and were behind hand with others, occasioning thereby confusion and irregularity in the inspection, and in the accounts relating to them. We have also had proof that Messrs. Isaac had a separate contract for boots at the same time that

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Appendix
No. 17.
7112.
Parl. Paper,
No. 438,
Appendix
No. 5, p. 107.

Appendix
No. 18.
7113.
7116.
Appendix
No. 18.

Parl. Paper,
No. 438,
1858,
Q. 9551, and
App. No. 18.
Parl. Paper,
No. 438,
1858, App.
No. 1, p. 100.
Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858, Appen-
dix No. 14.

1563.
1567.

5741.
7315. 7393.
7453. 7609.
7701. 7741.

7419. 7499.
7531. 7623.
7653.
1635.

5959.

WEEDON. they had a running contract for kits, which included boots at a different price. In order to save themselves from being fined they requested, and Mr. Elliott improperly consented, that boots delivered in excess under one contract should be transferred to the other in which they were deficient. This kind of irregularity, as we learn from our Accountants, has given them a large amount of labour and trouble in the investigation of Messrs. Isaacs' accounts. Contractors also sometimes sent in inspection notes before the goods arrived, and occasionally the goods arrived without inspection notes. In the former case the (boot) inspector kept the inspection notes in his possession, and applied them to subsequent deliveries. In the latter case an inspection note was framed at the office, and the note from the contractor came afterwards. It may easily be imagined that errors and discrepancies in dates and amounts have resulted from this irregular mode of doing business, for which, we think, all parties were to blame,—the contractors for their neglect in not sending their goods and the corresponding inspection notes in together; the inspector for not seeing that each note tallied with the actual delivery; the Storekeeper for overlooking such irregularities; and the Secretary for the War Department for not providing the Storekeeper with a sufficient and competent staff for the discharge of their duties.

Upon this last point, which we consider of the greatest importance, both as regards the accounts and the general business of the Dépôt, we have been assured by Sir Thomas Troubridge, that “it was understood when Mr. Elliott first started that he should communicate whenever he required assistance according to the work to be done, and that he would get that assistance as fast as he wanted it.” Sir T. Troubridge adds that Mr. Elliott was continually pressing for additional assistance, “reporting to me and Mr. Ramsay in the strongest way possible, both personally and in writing, that it was impossible to expect that a new establishment could go on without help proportionate to the work thrown upon him,” “that he must be in arrear,” “he frequently told us he was in arrear.” Sir T. Troubridge further stated, “I felt the establishment must be in arrear unless Mr. Elliott got the assistance he asked for; it was almost impossible to avoid having arrears. I have no doubt that if he had had the assistance that he asked for at the time, he would have had no arrears whatever.” And accordingly Sir T. Troubridge and Mr. Ramsay, being extremely anxious on the subject, urged strongly upon the Secretary-at-War that the assistance asked for should be granted. Sir T. Troubridge adds, “yet assistance was very sparingly given; the staff was not increased in proportion to the increase of the work.” It appears to us extraordinary under these circumstances, that Sir Benjamin Hawes, who was aware of these repeated applications for assistance prior to February 1857, should have “had no reason to think that the delay of granting it would at all prejudice the public service,” and equally extraordinary that Mr. Ramsay, whose more immediate duty it was to superintend the establishment at Weedon, should not have been aware that there were arrears in the store ledger until October 1857, although he had been at Weedon three or four times previously to that date, and there had been repeated applications both before and after Sir Thomas Troubridge had ceased to be Director-General of Clothing, representing “the inevitable arrears which were accumulating.” The very confidence reposed in Mr. Elliott by the authorities at the War Office, and the high character for ability which he held in their estimation, seem to us to furnish the strongest reasons why immediate attention should have been paid to his well-founded remonstrances.

Upon a review of the whole evidence it is impossible for us to express any other opinion than that the general mode in which the business of the Weedon establishment was conducted was far from satisfactory.

We have specified, perhaps in tedious detail, the main defects and irregularities which existed there. The principal blame which we can attach to Mr. Elliott, apart from the admitted deficiency in his cash balance, is in respect of his frequent absences from Weedon. No doubt it was often necessary for him to attend at the War Office and Mark Lane. But there is too much reason to believe that much of the time during which he was absent was devoted to his private pleasures in neglect of his public duty. When at his post he seems to have worked diligently. We acquit him of any deliberate intention to do wrong either in his so-called deviations from the Ordnance system of accounts, or in not keeping distinct the inspection and custody of the stores. We think that he was not sufficiently peremptory in insisting upon having the further help which he required.

In our opinion the main defects in the Weedon establishment are chargeable to the War Department.

1. It was a mistake to fix the Clothing Dépôt so far from London, beyond the opportunity of immediate and frequent personal surveillance by the Director and Assistant

Director of Clothing, and separated from the important branch establishment in Mark Lane. This mistake has now been remedied by the abandonment of Weedon as a Depôt for clothing, and the removal of the establishment to Pimlico.

2. It was a mistake to appoint the first head of the establishment without specific instructions as to its organization.

3. It was a great mistake to supply him at the outset of the undertaking with a small and inexperienced staff. The inspection staff in particular ought to have been organized from the commencement upon the plan adopted at the Tower, and better salaries should have been given to the various inspectors.

4. It was a continuing mistake not to increase the staff in proportion to the increase of the work in accordance with Mr. Elliott's frequently repeated requests.

5. It was a mistake, notwithstanding the distance of Weedon from London, that more frequent visits were not paid there by the Directors of Clothing, and a more rigid supervision exercised over the books and the stores.

6. It was a mistake not to have had a more considerable store in hand before commencing the issues, so as to have been prepared for the emergencies which arose.

7. It was, we think, a most serious mistake to have separate contracts for the cloth required, and for the making that cloth into garments; a course involving double contracts, double correspondence, double inspection, double carriage, double keeping of accounts. This defect has been cured, the contracts being now in the first instance entered into for the clothing completely made up.

These defects and others connected with them, to which we have previously adverted, such as the absence of proper patterns, the discrepancies between patterns and specifications, the haste with which tenders were called for, the delay in informing the Storekeeper of the contracts entered into, the delivery of kits at Weedon,—all these have satisfied us that the new system of clothing the Army, however advantageous in many respects, was inaugurated without due consideration, and certainly without adequate provision for so extensive a change. Neither the arrangements made nor the agents employed in making them were sufficient for the vast amount of labour which the new system required. The laudable object of the War Department doubtless was to add the recommendation of economy to those to which their new system might be otherwise entitled. With this view the establishment was stinted, and the Inspectors were miserably underpaid. Officers of intelligence, ability, and practical experience received salaries of only 100*l.* a year, a sum quite insufficient for the decent support of themselves and of their families. Yet to them was entrusted the power to decide upon the acceptance or rejection of goods of very large value, which contractors naturally wished not to have returned upon their hands. The result was inevitable. These officers were thereby subjected not only to the suspicion that their services were considered of little value by their superiors, but to the graver imputation that persons so inadequately remunerated might be ready to show favour from corrupt motives to any contractor who could purchase their good will. We think there is no ground for such imputations. We acquit not only Mr. Elliott, but all the officers of the War Department, as well as the Inspectors and subordinate officers at Weedon, of having shown partiality or favour towards any contractor; and we have much pleasure in adding that a suggestion made before the Committee of the House of Commons on Contracts implying that favouritism had been shown to a particular contractor in respect of cloth delivered at Weedon was frankly withdrawn before us by the witness who had made it. We think there was ground for some suspicion in the first instance, but the explanation given of the facts cleared up the points, removed the impression on the mind of the witness himself, and entirely satisfied us that no undue preference had been shown.

If no contractor was unduly favoured at Weedon the probability of bribery having existed there seems to us to be much diminished. And after the most careful and searching inquiry we have obtained no trustworthy evidence that any bribery has been practised. We regret that, not having had entrusted to us the power of administering an oath to the witnesses examined, the evidence on this point may not be considered altogether so conclusive and satisfactory as it might have been, if given in more solemn form. But notwithstanding this disadvantage, we think it impossible that bribery could have existed as a system, or to any extent, without our discovering some proof of it. If the officers at Weedon in all cases resisted the temptation to increase their meagre salaries, by an improper use of the power intrusted to them, the more merit attached to them. But not the less does blame attach to those who placed them in the circumstances which naturally gave rise to suspicions that bribery might be resorted to. Upon sifting the evidence adduced in support of the only specific charges which have been made, we have satisfied ourselves that those charges are without substantial foundation, and upon

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Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858,
Q. 5663, &c.

6765.

6766.

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Parl. Paper,
No. 328,
1858,
Q. 2423,
Appendix
No. 13.

3436.

4195.

4582.

2376. 2468.

2493. 2562.

2767. 3074.

3234. 4687.

4731.

2863. 2983.

6767.

6770.

6777.

7906, and
Appendix
No. 20.

every principle of justice we attach no weight to mere rumours or vague insinuations, especially when circulated by contractors whose monopoly has been interfered with, or who have felt dissatisfied by the rejection of their supplies. An attempt was made by a contractor in January 1858, to bribe an inspector, by the offer of "a handsome consideration for assistance to be rendered in getting through a contract." The inspector at once handed the letter which contained the offer to Mr. Elliott, by whom it was reported to the War Department. Another charge rested solely upon the evidence of a witness upon whose statements in other respects no reliance could be placed, who stated that a viewer had acknowledged to him that he had received bribes on more than one occasion. We satisfied ourselves that the charge was false, and that the only foundation for it was that on one occasion the sum of half-a-crown was given to the keeper of the canteen at Weedon for the supply of beer and bread and cheese to the viewers and labourers. In another case a contractor in London sent a three-dozen hamper of sherry to Captain Smith, the Inspector of Saddlery, who was an old personal friend of his. Captain Smith immediately wrote to the contractor to desire that the bill for the wine might be sent to him, and on its receipt discharged it. Many very respectable witnesses testified that not only did they not believe in the existence of bribery, but that they considered the rumours of it to be utterly without foundation. Others expressed their opinion, in which we ourselves concur, that these rumours arose from the low rate of remuneration given to the inspectors. One witness only, a contractor, strongly prejudiced against the Weedon establishment, expressed his opinion that improper practices prevailed at Weedon, but he refused to furnish us with the particulars of any facts which could justify such a belief on his part, or to communicate to us the name of any person who could give evidence on the point. Indeed, he intimated his opinion that the parties from whom he had heard the statements imputing corruption to Government officers would, if examined by us, very probably deny that they ever said anything of the kind. This furnishes ground for supposing that the witness did not himself trust to the veracity of his informant. But however this may be, we think this witness and his alleged informant, in this refusal to give evidence, were wanting in respect to the Crown, whose Commissioners we are, and in common justice to the officers of the establishment, whose characters were thus vaguely impugned by them. The only other case which bore the appearance of bribery was that of a loan of 500*l.* advanced by Mr. Samuel Isaac, a contractor, to Mr. J. S. Elliott, on the 15th day of May 1858, the day after the latter ceased to have the management of the Weedon Dépôt. On this subject we examined Mr. Isaac, and also inspected his letter-book and cheque-book, and upon full consideration of the evidence we are entirely satisfied that the 500*l.* advanced by him was simply a loan to Mr. Elliott, which Mr. Isaac fully expected and believed, and had reasonable ground for believing, would be repaid to him in three or four days. That consequently this advance was not, and was never intended to be a gratuity or reward for any services rendered or to be rendered by Mr. Elliott to Messrs. Isaac.

The results of the mode of conducting the business at Weedon have been, as already mentioned, the accumulation of great arrears and considerable confusion in the accounts; and not the least serious evil has been the greatly increased expense attendant upon the labour of making up the books after the lapse of a year or eighteen months, instead of having had them properly posted at the time. Another result of the confusion of the accounts has been a great deal of vexatious trouble and delay inflicted upon contractors in obtaining payment for their supplies. The delays also in furnishing newly raised battalions with clothing and kits have occasioned discomfort to recruits, for which no sufficient excuse has been offered. We fear, too, that regiments stationed abroad may have been exposed to inconvenience in consequence of their clothing not having been shipped in due time. It does not appear to us that any of these results are necessarily attributable to the new system adopted for clothing the Army; rather they may be traced to the imperfect administration of that system. It must not, however, be forgotten that the operations of the Government Clothing Establishment have been carried on under considerable disadvantages. It was formed when the war with Russia was at its height, and encumbered, when peace was made, with a considerable quantity of returned stores, which, though not unserviceable, were rendered obsolete by alterations and improvements in the patterns. It was called upon to provide the clothing for 1858-9 for the troops despatched to India (40,000) six months earlier than it would have been due if they had remained in Great Britain. Yet we are assured that no single instance occurred in which the embarkation of these troops was delayed for want of clothing. It had also to clothe 62,000 additional men added to the Army, besides the 30,000 embodied militia. With all this strain upon the resources and energies of a new establishment, there can

Parl. Paper,
No. 269,
1857, p. 555.
549. 7150.

be no doubt in our opinion that the clothing as furnished to the Army has very greatly improved in quality, and that this improvement is owing not only to the sealed patterns being better, but to the greater care taken in inspecting the clothing. Now that the inspection is conducted under the supervision of two Military Inspectors, fully competent to judge of the supply, in addition to the Civilian Inspectors, we think there can be no question as to the efficiency of the inspection, and we are inclined to adopt the opinion expressed by a very intelligent witness, that the regimental inspection should be confined to ascertaining that the clothing supplied consists of the quantity represented, and has not been damaged by packing or in any way spoiled in transit.

WEEDON.

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We have felt some doubt whether the terms of our Commission entitled us to enter upon the question of the comparative cost of the present mode of supplying the Army with clothing and the former system, when it was furnished upon the order of the Colonels of the regiments; but the question has been much pressed upon us. Very elaborate calculations upon this point were submitted to the Committees on Contracts. And we have also had before us statements and counter-statements on the subject in some detail. After a careful examination of these statements, and taking into account the greater value of the materials and the superior workmanship of the present clothing, we have had to set off against the reduced price at which it is now furnished, the expense of the Government establishments necessary for carrying on the present system. The result is, that while we disbelieve the extravagant mis-statement that the change of system has involved the Government in a heavy loss, we are not satisfied that up to the present time any substantial saving of the public money has resulted from Government undertaking to supply the clothing. In other words, we incline to the opinion that the expenses of establishments may have been equal to the saving effected in the cost price of the articles furnished. If, therefore, economy were the only, or even the chief object to be considered in this matter, we might regret that Government had adopted arrangements involving a great amount of labour and considerable outlay in establishments without corresponding advantage to the public.

The objects to be kept in view seem to us to be,—

1st. That the soldier shall be supplied with good clothing. This has been done under the present system. It is better than it ever was before.

2nd. That he shall be supplied with punctuality. This has not yet been done. But the causes of the failure in this respect have been exceptional, and we see no reason why it should not be accomplished by a Government establishment, as well as by a contractor nominated by a Colonel.

3rd. That he shall be supplied at a reasonable cost to the public. Assuming that in this respect no substantial advantage has hitherto been gained.

4th. That clothing which is to be paid for by public money, and used for the public service, shall be furnished after fair competition by any respectable firms willing to contract for the supply. This is the existing system, and we conceive it to be its chief recommendation as contrasted with the plan by which it is suggested that Colonels of regiments should nominate their clothiers, who should provide the clothing at a fixed annual scale. Such a plan undoubtedly has its advantages, which have been lucidly and ably stated in a memorandum by Messrs. Hebbert & Co., and if Government were desirous of consulting their own ease only, they might probably revert to it. But besides other objections to it, it seems to us that it would lay honourable men open to the imputation, however undeserved, of making arrangements for their personal benefit. We believe a strong impression exists that private interest would not unfrequently determine the choice of the clothier, and we think the very opportunity for such suspicion should be avoided. We are satisfied that the true principle in obtaining public supplies is to submit them to public competition. At the same time we are aware that many manufacturing houses of the highest respectability, who furnish articles of the very best description, decline to take the trouble of making tenders and seeking Government contracts. It may be wise in some cases to resort to the usual custom of the trade, viz., to employ a buying agent, who may purchase direct from first-class manufacturers the supplies required. The established reputation of certain firms, which it would be their pride and honour to maintain, and the judgment of an experienced buyer would afford as sure a guarantee for the excellence of the supplies as any inspection could secure. There might still be a *quasi* competition among the manufacturers, because a Government buyer or broker who did his duty, would make it his business to ascertain where the articles required could be procured at the most reasonable rate. It cannot be denied that the system of open competition, followed up by the acceptance of the lowest tender, is not without its inconveniences, the greatest of which is the introduction of middle-men, anxious only to obtain

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No. 438,
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the largest profit. While therefore recommending adherence to that system in the main, there are undoubtedly exceptional cases,—what these are we think it may be safely left to the discretion of the War Department to determine, in which it may be desirable that private contracts shall be resorted to. We also think it would be desirable, if the system of contracting for the clothing of each regiment separately is adhered to, that such contracts should include the supply for three or four years, and that every such contract should be entered into twelve months before the expiration of the preceding contract. The uncertainty in which contractors are placed who have annually to compete for the contracts, is a disadvantage to them, while no corresponding benefit is gained by the public.

It would, however, we think be a still greater improvement upon the present system, if, instead of entering into separate contracts for supplying to each regiment the articles, such as trousers, which with some exceptions are of the same pattern throughout the Army, the suggestion of Captain Gordon were adopted, and contracts entered into to deliver in bulk the quantities required, as great coats and boots are now contracted for. A comparatively small stock, say six months' supply in store, would enable the issues to be made to the regiments with greater promptness and regularity than can be relied upon under the present system. We are also of opinion that it would be highly advantageous to adopt the recommendation of Sir Alexander Tulloch, that one sort of cloth should be for the whole service, excepting cavalry trousers.

With respect to the state of the books at Weedon, we can add nothing to what has been mentioned in the earlier portion of this Report, except to say that under Captain Gordon's superintendence no arrears were permitted in any of the books already described.

The stock of stores at Weedon, when we visited the Depôt in October last, appeared to be in good order and condition, and arranged with much neatness in the various store-houses.

We regret that this portion of our Report should have extended to such length, but the questions submitted to us respecting the Clothing Establishment at Weedon have involved so many and such multifarious details, that we are still apprehensive we may have omitted reference to many points of interest, for which we must refer to the evidence of the various witnesses examined.

We cannot, however, finally leave this branch of our inquiries without remarking, that having ascertained the opinion of our Accountants, as stated in their first report to be, that the system of account keeping at Weedon remains, as it has always been, defective, inasmuch as it is not constructed on the principle of double entry,—we requested them to accompany their second report, embodying the results of their examination of the accounts, with suggestions of any improvements they deemed desirable, and in particular to submit a scheme of store accounts based upon the principle of double entry. In compliance with this request, they recommend that the books of account to be kept at the clothing depôt shall be limited to,—

1. Journal of stores received from contractors.
2. Journal of stores received from regiments and other departments.
3. Journal of issues, showing the nature and quantities of the goods issued, and the several regiments and services to which they are destined.

All these journals are to be added up daily, and the totals exhibited monthly.

4. Stores ledgers, formed by posting into them the contents of the journals. The credit side of the ledgers will agree with the journal of issues, and the debit side of the ledgers with the journal of receipts, so that the two records would constitute a reciprocal check upon the accuracy of the work of each. This comparison between the journal and ledger results to be made monthly.

We are not aware that the journals and ledgers above mentioned differ from those at present in use at store depôts, though the monthly summaries and comparisons recommended may be useful additions to the present practice.

But our Accountants proceed to propose that the journals in question be kept in duplicate, the duplicate copies to be written on detached sheets, and forwarded to the War Office daily, accompanied by their relative vouchers; while, in like manner, a summary of the ledgers is to be made up and transmitted monthly to the War Office; which done, the duty of the storekeeper in respect of accounts will be at an end. They then propose that the remaining books of account shall be kept at the War Office, viz. :—

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1. The three daily journals of receipt and issue returned by the storekeeper having been examined and verified by the vouchers accompanying them, will form the foundation for the contractors' and regimental ledgers.

2. A register of payments to contractors. The separate items to be posted to the debit of each contract account in the contractors' ledger. The totals to be made up monthly, and carried to the credit of an account opened in the name of the Paymaster-General in the contractors' ledger.

3. The contractors' ledger, containing the personal accounts with contractors; the credit side formed by postings to a separate account for each contract from the contractors' journal of receipts of the quantities and cost of supplies received from the several contractors. The debit side consisting of postings to the same accounts,—1, of monies paid to contractors from the register of payments; 2, (where stores have been issued to contractors for conversion or alteration,) of the equivalent of the stores so issued. These last would be posted from the issue journals.

4. Summary stores ledger, formed from the monthly summaries of receipts and issues to be furnished by the depôt, and exhibiting in a condensed form the monthly receipts and issues during, and the balance of stock in hand at the close, of every month.

5. Ledgers for regiments and other services. The number and classification of these ledgers may vary, as official experience shall determine. They would depend on the journal of issues and on the journal of receipts from regiments, &c., the former furnishing the items to the debit of the several regiments and services, the latter furnishing the items to the credit of the like accounts of stores returned or transferred.

6. Journal of stores consumed or transferred by regiments and stations.

7. General abstract of clothing, &c. consumed, exhibiting in a collected form the quantities of each description of stores consumed by each regiment, &c., and by the entire army, during the year. This book is not strictly necessary to the system of account. We may observe that it would seem to be in conformity with the suggestions contained in the memorandum addressed by Mr. Godley, in July 1857, to Sir B. Hawes, on the expediency of taking periodical store accounts. We are not aware, although Mr. Godley's memorandum was at the time "entirely approved" by Lord Panmure, then Secretary of State for War, and by Sir Benjamin Hawes, the permanent Under Secretary for War, that any steps have been taken to carry his suggestions into execution. App. No. 3.

With regard to the system of store accounts recommended by Messrs. Quilter, Ball, and Jay (for further particulars of which we would refer to Appendix 27), we do not presume to add the expression of our personal opinions as to its expediency and practicability. We content ourselves with remarking that it embodies the result of long and deliberate consideration by persons of great experience and ability, and appears to us well worthy of the attention of those who have the power to carry out the alterations suggested. But it seems to us only justice to Mr. Elliott to notice that the contractors' and regimental ledgers, which he attempted to keep, appear, in theory at least, to have been approximations to that system of double entry which our Accountants declare to be essential to accurate store accounts. They inform us that without the adoption of that system it would have been impossible for them to have elucidated the past transactions at Weedon; and, as will be seen, they urge the necessity of continuing those very books, the contractors' and regimental ledgers, no hint of which is to be found in the present Ordnance Regulations, and which some of the witnesses in the military store department seem to consider valueless. We will add only that we entirely agree in the principle upon which Messrs. Quilter and Co. founded their recommendations—the simplification of the records kept at each station or depôt; while the War Office being "the fountain of all authority, whether to order, receive, issue, or pay for stores, so ought it to be the centre of all information relating to these matters, and to possess the means of prompt and efficient control over the business and accounts of the depôts and stations, and thus be rendered independent of any other than its own immediate records for a competent knowledge of necessary facts."

WOOLWICH.

WOOLWICH.
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UPON visiting Woolwich our attention was directed to the system pursued in providing clothing for the Royal Artillery and Engineers. Woolwich is the head-quarters of both these bodies, the Royal Artillery consisting of between 27,000 and 28,000 men, the Royal Engineers of about 4,000 men. Until 1856, and for many years previously, the

383.

1459.

- WOOLWICH. clothing for both these corps was entirely furnished by contractors. They supplied a portion of such clothing made up, and a portion in what is called a "basted" state, *i.e.* cut out, but not made up. Companies stationed abroad always received the clothing made up, with the exception of a few suits in material, while at the home stations the clothing was supplied in the basted state, and was made up by military tailors, when procurable, at the various places at which the troops who required the clothing were stationed. In May 1856 a new system was adopted, which is at present in operation. The contracts for the supply of clothing having expired, an establishment was formed within the Arsenal, which appears to be accurately described, by the intelligent officer (Quartermaster Commissary Grant) who has the immediate supervision of it, as "a regimental tailors' shop on a large scale." It is not connected with the general stores at Woolwich, and is not subject to the control of the Military Storekeeper. Buildings were erected at a cost of 12,000*l.* for the purposes of the establishment, by means of which it is intended to provide clothing for the whole of the Artillery and Engineers, and we are assured this will be done during the present year. Hitherto a small portion only of the troops have been provided with clothing made here, as a large surplus of contract clothing was on hand in store at the formation of the new establishment. The head of it is the Deputy Adjutant-General of Artillery, and there are nineteen subordinate officers, whose salaries, independent of their military pay, amount to 1,027*l.* per annum; the average number of military tailors employed is about 120, and of civilians about 200. All the workmen employed are paid by the piece, the military tailors receiving, in addition to their military pay, about three-fifths of the price paid to civilians. The prices paid to civilians are somewhat higher,—furnishing a fairer remuneration for the labour employed,—than the prices paid by army clothiers. We have been assured that at least as many military tailors were employed here under the former contract system as under the present, in making up the materials which the contractors furnished in a basted state, and it has also been stated that the number of men in the Royal Artillery is not at all increased by reason of the fact that many are employed as tailors. It seems, however, self-evident that men so occupied are not as available for military duty as their comrades.
- The present course pursued in providing the clothing is as follows:—The Storekeeper is bound by the Ordnance Regulations to make requisitions for keeping up a sufficient supply. The Deputy Adjutant-General, accordingly, makes out annually and forwards to the War Department a demand for the quantity of clothing materials which it will be necessary to provide for the next year. The cloth, which has hitherto been delivered and inspected at Weedon, is forwarded thence; all the other materials required, including necessities, are delivered at Woolwich direct by the contractors.
- The store of clothing and of necessities which we saw here appeared to be of the best kind. The cloth especially is very much better than that furnished to the soldier previous to 1856, and (taking into consideration this superiority) the clothing has been furnished at prices considerably less than those paid under the contract which existed up to 1856.
- Elaborate calculations have been submitted to us, based, as alleged, on the actual expenditure of the establishment since its formation, with a view of showing not only the exact cost of the clothing now supplied to the Artillery and the Engineers, but also the exact amount of saving effected by the adoption of the present system. We are of opinion that calculations of this kind, however honestly made, are not entirely to be relied on. Certain items which we consider fairly chargeable to the expenditure of the Woolwich tailoring establishment, as, for instance, insurance, a share of the expenses of inspection at Weedon, the cost of carriage thence, and a portion of the pay of the military tailors employed have been omitted from the calculation of the cost of the establishment. Moreover, the prices paid under the last contract, with which the present prices are compared, were, from exceptional causes, unusually high. As a guide for the future therefore, at all events, the comparisons made might mislead. Two of the most respectable and influential firms among the London army clothiers have intimated their readiness to furnish the same clothing as that provided by the Woolwich establishment, to any extent which the Government might demand, for the same money which the officers of the establishment state the clothing now costs. It is to be remembered, however, that there would still remain to be paid by Government the necessary expense of inspecting and packing the clothing for the troops abroad, and that a contractors' facilities for fitting recruits accurately can hardly be so great as when the recruit is on the spot where the clothes are made. But, apart from these minor considerations, we are not prepared to recommend a return to the system of contracting for clothing as regards the Artillery and the Engineers. The existing clothing establishment at Woolwich appears to us well adapted for the purposes for which it was formed, the clothing of the

soldier well, expeditiously, and economically. No complaint that it has failed in any way has been made to us. On the contrary, the evidence given before us proves that the clothing now supplied is better, not only in make, but in every other respect, than that formerly supplied under the system of contract.

WOOLWICH.
591. 1260.
1266. 1304.

The store of clothing and materials in hand appears to be in good condition, and the quantities of each article in store ascertainable at a glance. The accounts both of stores and cash payments are kept with great particularity and clearness, and when we examined them in November last were posted up to the day. With few exceptions, all recruits for the Artillery and the Engineers join the depôt at Woolwich. With the resources at present at the command of the establishment 50 recruits per diem can be and have been fitted with clothes and furnished with kits. The clothing for this year, commencing April 1, 1859, has been delivered in good time, both for the battalions on foreign service and for those at home, and no instance of delay, such as we have had occasion to remark upon in our Report respecting Weedon, appears to have occurred here.

449.

516. 517.

While, as already observed, the attempt to show that a very great saving is effected by Government undertaking the clothing of the troops at Woolwich appears to us but partially successful, we think much advantage may result from the existence of an establishment which may serve as a check upon and furnish the means of comparison with the prices charged by clothiers for the rest of the army.

Passing from the Artillery Clothing Establishment, our attention was next directed to the Military Store Department at Woolwich. The system pursued in it has been stated with great clearness by the late Deputy Storekeeper, Mr. Morris, in a memorandum which will be found in the evidence (Q. 2327, p. 105), and which we verified by reference to the various forms and books, of which specimens are set out at length in Appendix No. 6.

In the Military Store Department at Woolwich Arsenal is vested the entire provision and supply of all armaments and equipments for Your Majesty's land and sea forces, and defences at home and abroad, including the East Indies. The East India Company was supplied hence, as long as it existed. The Storekeeper annually sends in to the War Office a demand for the amount of stores required by him, and suggests the sources from which they should be supplied, as, "By contract," "From the Laboratory," &c. His requirements are based on his knowledge of the wants of the service, and on the average issue of preceding years. He frames at the same time a monied estimate of the value of those stores demanded which are to be furnished by contract. His demand and estimates, after revision by the Director of Stores, are submitted to the Secretary of State for War, for his approval.

2327.

There are three large Government manufactories of military stores established at Woolwich. The Laboratory, presided over by Captain Boxer, R.A., for the manufacture of shot, shell, &c.; the Carriage Department, of which Colonel Tulloh is the head; and the Gun Factories, under the superintendence of Colonel F. Eardley-Wilmot. The Carriage Department has existed for many years. The Laboratory has been so largely increased within the last few years as to be substantially a new department. The Gun Factories are almost entirely new, having been erected since 1856. The casting of iron guns commenced only in April 1858.

16.

1833. 1853.

The Military Storekeeper does not include in his money valuation of the stores he annually demands, as before mentioned, any estimate of the cost of the stores which are to be furnished by the three manufacturing establishments, but statements of the stores which those departments are respectively required to manufacture, are extracted from the Storekeeper's demand, and sent to the superintendents of those several departments, who having thus a basis for the preparation of their estimates, calculate the amount of labour and of material necessary to provide the articles they have to furnish, and respectively transmit to the Secretary of State for War (once a quarter or more frequently, if necessary) demands for the materials required, with an estimate of their cost. The estimates so furnished by the manufacturing departments, added to the estimated value as furnished by the Storekeeper of the stores to be contracted for, show the total amount annually required for the provision of stores at Woolwich. The demands of the Storekeeper show also what proportion of cost is chargeable to land and sea service respectively. The manufacturing departments, although the estimates may have been approved, cannot make anything unless the Storekeeper, upon an order to supply from the War Office,

2327.

pp. 493. 500.
511.

2327.

2172 ; and
App. No. 8.

WOOLWICH. calls upon the departments to manufacture ; and all articles manufactured in the departments are, when completed, handed over to the custody of the Military Storekeeper.

1902.
2173.

Much evidence was given before us upon the question whether the raw material required in the manufacturing departments should be furnished to them direct, which is the system at present adopted, or should, was as formerly the practice, be forwarded in the first instance to the Military Storekeeper, and be by him re-issued to the several superintendents.

2384.

1904. 1944.
2191. 2343.

It was alleged in support of the latter course, that it would furnish an additional check upon the receipt and expenditure of stores by one and the same person, and that it would prevent the possibility of demands being made to the War Office for materials which the Storekeeper might already have in his possession. On the other hand, a strong opinion was expressed by all the superintendents, in which the Deputy Storekeeper himself coincided, that to make the Storekeeper the intermediate depository of the materials required in the manufacturing departments would afford no additional security for the due appropriation of those materials ; that it would lessen the responsibility for their goodness and safe custody which now attaches exclusively to the superintendents of departments ; that there would be additional expense and trouble in conveying heavy materials first to the Storekeeper and thence to the departmental stores ; and that vexatious delays would occur from the multiplication of forms which would be requisite, if demands were always to be made upon the Storekeeper, to be by him in turn transmitted to the War Office. In the case of timber especially (principally required in the Carriage Department), it was urged, that as the process of seasoning it occupies some years, this process can be best conducted under the supervision of the officers of the particular department who have special experience in the matter.

1949.

We are of opinion, in accordance with that expressed by many officers of experience, upon whose recommendation the present system was adopted, that the balance of advantage is in its favour, and that as a general rule, the materials expended in each department should be furnished direct to it. It appears to us that the departmental forms in use are sufficient to fix the superintendents with the receipt of all materials supplied to them, and also to show with accuracy how those materials have been expended.

2184. 2339.

1620.

1243.

1884.

1884.

1619.

2375.

Before any requisition from a department goes forward to the War Office, it is sent to the Storekeeper, who fills up a column, in which he states whether he has anything in his store which will meet the demand. Where one department is in want of a supply, application is made by it to another department. Thus the Carriage Department has borrowed timber from the Dockyard, and the other departments at Woolwich have borrowed from the Carriage Department. At present no transfer from one department to another can take place without the authority of the War Office. We are assured that the War Office readily sanctions such transfer, if required. Thus, if the superintendent of the Gun Factory requires particular woods, which he supposes to be in the possession of the Carriage Department, instead of requesting the Government to purchase them, he requests that he may receive them from the Carriage Department ; and the War Office refers to the Carriage Department to state whether they can be supplied thence. This practice of supplying the wants of one department by the surplus stores of another might perhaps be more promptly and efficiently carried out if the Principal Military Storekeeper were regularly informed of the amount of materials in the custody of the several superintendents, and had the power of directing the transfer of them when required. The striking evidence given by Captain Gordon of the serious difficulties and profuse waste which resulted in the Crimea from the want of communication between the different departments there, and from the absence of a Director-General of Stores, makes us anxious that no such inconveniences, even in a mitigated form, should ever occur in Government establishments at home.

p. 500.

The stores and materials purchased in pursuance of the demands made by the Storekeeper and the superintendents of the manufactories are obtained (1) either by warrants upon running contracts ; (2) by tender and open competition among certain firms, to whom circulars are issued by the War Office ; or (3) in certain cases, such as foreign timber and metals, by direct purchase, mainly through brokers.

612.
198. 199.
212. 638.

The plan of purchasing foreign timber through brokers has only been adopted since September 1855. Up to that time it was procured, as English timber still is, by tender and open competition among contractors on an office list. A great deal of evidence has been given before us as to the relative merits of these two modes of purchase. Foreign timber is principally required at Woolwich, for the purposes of the Carriage Department, and the officers of that establishment are unanimous in giving the preference to the system of tender. They say that by allowing competition a free

importation is encouraged, a wider field of selection is opened, and the chances of securing the timber necessary for the special purposes of the department thereby increased. In proof of this they show that, London brokers only having been employed by Government, those brokers have confined their purchases to cargoes arriving in the port of London, whereas formerly timber was received at Woolwich from Liverpool, Hull, Bristol, &c. It was also alleged that under the system of competition prices were lower, and further, that purchases by brokers are open to the suspicion of exclusiveness and favouritism, especially where the broker employed by Government has been also broker for the selling merchant, and has thereby received a double commission on the same transaction. On the other hand the Director of Contracts and the timber brokers employed by Government have furnished us with very voluminous and precise statements, to show that a considerable saving in cost has been effected by the employment of brokers; that, avoiding speculative dealers not in possession of the stock required, they have been the means of purchasing largely from importing merchants who were not on the list of firms to whom tenders were formerly issued; that the former system was an encouragement to jobbers, dealers, and middlemen to speculate by undertaking Government contracts, which they failed to perform; and that by the custom of the timber trade a commission is always paid by the seller, while the additional commission of one per cent. from Government was a small remuneration for the trouble of examining and selecting cargoes for purchase.

It is difficult to decide the question of comparative cost when the comparison is between timber purchased at different times. The cargoes may not have been of precisely the same quality, and numerous causes, independent of the mode of purchase, may have produced fluctuations in the market price of such an article. We incline to the opinion that on the whole purchases by brokers are somewhat more economical than purchases by tender; and if economy were the only thing to be considered, we might recommend entire adherence to the present system. But the general rule laid down by the War Department, that supplies to be paid for by public monies should be furnished by tender and open competition, seems to us so sound in principle that it should be departed from as rarely as possible, and not without strong reasons. Adherence to it diminishes the possibility of favouritism. While we acquit the timber brokers employed by Government of any imputation of negligence or of favouritism in the purchases they have made, it seems to us that the system of receiving double brokerage (however sanctioned by the usage of the timber trade) is open to observation and suspicions, which it is desirable to avoid. Moreover, we cannot but attach great importance in this case to the opinion of the officers of the department, who are responsible for the quality of the articles wanted. It is manifest that any defect in the quality of the wood required for a gun-carriage would be dearly purchased by an apparent saving in the cost of the material. We suggest therefore that foreign timber, as well as English, should, as a general rule, be supplied as formerly by tender and open competition. Cases will probably occur in which it may still be desirable to employ a broker; but we think that whenever this is done, there should be no possibility of his having any other interest in the matter than that of the public; and therefore that the broker employed by the Government to buy should not be also the broker of the seller.

Before timber is purchased it is invariably inspected in the docks by a Government inspector, and, as a general rule, only that portion of a cargo is purchased which the inspecting officers consider adapted for the purposes of the department. This option of selection necessitates the payment of a higher price for the portion selected than would be paid if, in the language and according to the usual custom of the trade, the cargo were purchased "all round." In some cases it would, we think, be more economical to purchase the whole cargo, and if any portion of it cannot be made available in any Government department, to dispose of it by re-sale. At the same time it is not desirable to multiply the occasions for the sale of Government stores. And generally we believe it will be found the truer economy to purchase, even at an enhanced price, only that which is known to be actually wanted, than to run the risk of being encumbered with a surplus of inferior and unavailable material, on the re-sale of which a loss might be incurred.

Before leaving this subject we may remark that, in our judgment, nothing can be more erroneous than to contend that a purchase has been extravagant because a high price has been paid by Government for an article required for a special purpose, when a somewhat similar article (not *the* article required) could have been bought at a lower price. For instance, no cheapness could compensate for imperfection in the wheel of a gun carriage. For its strength and stability the officers of the Carriage Department are responsible. We presume Your Majesty's Government is not prepared to absolve them

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WOOLWICH. from that responsibility. It is easy for those upon whom no such responsibility rests to assert that wheels as good as those purchased by the Carriage Department might have been procured at a cheaper rate than has been paid for them. We think the officers of the department are the better judges of the materials they require for their special purposes, and it has not been shown to us that those materials could have been purchased more cheaply.

57. The Military Storekeeper has no responsibility with respect to the inspection of articles
1642. manufactured in the several departments. He simply receives them under an order from
59. the War Department, and becomes their custodiar. As to articles furnished to the
68. Storekeeper at Woolwich by contractors (consisting mainly of military tools and
69. implements, saddlery, oil, paint, rope, &c.), they are on delivery inspected by viewers
2503. sent for the purpose from the Tower, who act under the direction of the Tower inspector
for articles of the description named. This is a recent arrangement, introduced in 1856,
the inspection at Woolwich up to that period having been conducted by officers belonging
to the Woolwich establishment.

We are happy to be able to report that there do not appear to have existed at
85. Woolwich the discrepancies between the terms of the specifications and the patterns,
such as we had occasion to animadvert upon with reference to contracts for supplies
170. 2245. furnished at Weedon. At Woolwich the specifications and patterns are prepared in the
2327. respective departments requiring the supply, and when contracts are entered into by
App. No. 6. which patterns are required to govern the supply, a duplicate pattern is handed over to
B. 16. the contractor, which he returns with the first delivery of the article contracted for.

Nor has any evidence been tendered to us with the view of showing that the present
82. 747. system of inspection at Woolwich is other than fair and efficient. Contractors appear to
have acquiesced in the reasons assigned for the rejection of their goods, and no complaints
have been made to us of severity or caprice on the part of inspectors or viewers.

But it is our duty to report that we have had distinct evidence that in June 1855 two
persons, named David Davies and James Crawford, then acting in the capacity of viewers
of tools at Woolwich, and still employed in the Military Store Department there, received
2440. monies from Mr. Edward Johnson, a contractor, with a view to facilitate the passing of
tools which he had supplied. The bribes were given in the stores while the tools were
under examination by the persons we have named. Davies and Crawford strenuously
2535. 2582. deny the receipt of any money on any occasion, but we consider the charge against them
proved. According to the present regulations (dated November 1855) no person is ad-
mitted into the stores without a written order from the Storekeeper, or some officer of the
2634. department. And we cannot too strongly urge that this regulation should be rigidly
adhered to, and that no opportunity should be afforded for communication between
contractors or their agents and the persons employed in the inspection of their goods. It
2617. is stated that a regulation similar to that above mentioned existed prior to November
1855. There seems to have been *then* no difficulty in evading it; and we are compelled
to add that although these are the only specific instances of bribery which have been
2441. expressed intention of the contractor to offer them, under "the impression that these
2481. "things were expected," as he had "often heard before that it was necessary to pay the
"viewers," make us fear that previously to 1855 such occurrences may not have been
unusual.

When the inspection of stores delivered by contractors to the Military Store De-
partment is concluded, the stores approved and accepted are entered to the credit of
2327. App. the contractor in the contract ledger. They are then delivered by the inspector into the
No. 6. B. 2. custody of the storeholder, he being in every case a different person from the inspector.
74. The storeholder acknowledges the receipt of the stores in a daily journal of receipts
kept for that purpose. The want of such a book at Weedon, we have already had
occasion to observe, was one of the defects in the system of accounts in operation there.
From these accounts the receipt of the stores is finally posted into the general store
ledger. A similar system of accounts *mutatis mutandis* is kept as regards other stores
not received from contractors, but delivered at Woolwich from home and foreign stations.
All such stores undergo an inspection conducted by the superintendent of the manu-
facturing department to which they appertain, who decides on their condition, whe-
p. 520. ther serviceable, repairable, or unserviceable. All iron and brass ordnance and shot
and shell received from any quarter, except from the manufacturing departments, are
invariably received as "doubtful," and undergo the inspection just mentioned before they
p. 520. are received into store. And generally any articles in store, the condition of which is

doubtful, are inspected by the superintendents, who decide as to their state and recommend how they should be disposed of, whether by sale, conversion, or otherwise. WOOLWICH.

The result from the evidence adduced before us appears to us to be that, so far as previous careful examination can secure such a result, all the articles now in store at Woolwich, with the exceptions specified in Appendix No. 9, are serviceable and fit for issue. In making this general statement, however, it must be borne in mind that in such a vast repertory of stores, consisting of both new and second-hand articles, some will be found which never will be available for the purposes for which they were originally intended. For instance, an enormous space in the Carriage Department is filled with some 3,000 forage carts and waggons, principally belonging to the Land Transport Corps, which were brought back from the Crimea at the close of the late war. Many of these have never been used at all; and all of them, though constructed as requested by Lord Raglan and purchased at a high price from contractors, were found to be too light for the bad roads and rough usage they met with. The officers of the Carriage Department think they had better be sold; but the Military Storekeeper, while he states that they are unfit for an army on active service, considers them available for home duties, and accordingly they are to be issued to the Military Train, the Artillery, and other services until the whole are used up. Again, the entrenching tools in store at Woolwich—spades, bill-hooks, axes, &c.—are not all of equal excellence, nor are they all fit to be issued to an army in the field. A portion of them are adapted only for home, camp, and barrack purposes, and we are assured that they will be so appropriated. We had the satisfaction of learning in the course of our inquiries on this point that the tools supplied to the army in the Crimea towards the close of the Russian war were superior to those in use at the commencement of operations, and that bad as these last-named were, even they were better than the French tools, and very much better than the Russian. We may in passing remark that the entrenching tools now in store for issue to the army, though obtained by tender, were not furnished by the parties making the lowest tender. The Director of Contracts having ascertained by careful inquiry who were considered the makers of the best tools, exercised, as we conceive, a wise discretion in recommending to the Secretary of State for War that the tenders of those parties should be accepted who had the highest reputation, irrespective of the price. We think it desirable that in the inspection of military tools the authorities should avail themselves of the assistance of soldiers. The head-quarters of the Engineers being at Woolwich, there can be no difficulty in obtaining the opinion of officers and men who have had practical experience in the use of these things, who may have to use them again, and who might aid without controlling the judgment of the civilian viewers.

When stores have been condemned as unserviceable by the several departments, the Principal Storekeeper, assisted by the master artificers, has them arranged in lots, with an estimate of their value. The list is then sent round to the different departments to know if any part of them can be made available for the public service. There is then a re-survey of them with this view by the heads of departments, and the lots which cannot be made available for the public service are sold by auction. A reserved price is put upon every lot, and it is bought in if that price is not obtained, though this rarely happens, as the things sold generally fetch their fair value.

It seems to have been considered a point of honour to leave behind in the Crimea no stores, however worn out and unserviceable. Their freight homewards must in many cases have exceeded their value. The consequent accumulation of old stores at Woolwich at the termination of the war was very great. These are now cleared off, but as old stores are still returned to Woolwich from all parts of the world, the sales in question continue to take place from time to time. In the opinion of the Deputy Storekeeper in November last, two sales would then have cleared off all the obsolete and unserviceable stores in his charge.

The store accounts, both in the Military Store Department and in the various manufacturing establishments, appear to us to be kept with great care and minuteness. It would be impossible within the limits of this Report to describe the books and forms in use, but full details in these respects will be found in the evidence, and in Appendix No. 6. Every book in use was posted up to the date of our examination of it. No arrears whatever existed. The store ledger of the Storekeeper, as well as the usual tally-boards in the stores themselves, showed at a glance the amount of all stores received, and issued, and the balance in store at the time of our visits.

We think it would be desirable that the actual counting of portions of the stores, as directed by the Instructions for Storeholders (No. 6), should take place more frequently

WOOLWICH. than appears to be the custom at present, in order to verify the accuracy both of the tally-boards and of the ledgers.

45. 46. The store accounts are settled yearly; the year ending March 31. They should be sent in to the War Office for examination within three months from that date. In 1858, in consequence of the pressure of business they were not sent in till early in October, and from their very voluminous character their examination and verification was not completed until the spring of the present year. The result of the examination was entirely satisfactory.

pp. 495, 500, 513, No. 18. 1865. Tower Evidence, 1564. In the several manufacturing establishments are kept production ledgers or cost books, which show with minuteness the amount and cost of material and labour expended upon every article manufactured. So far as we have seen we do not concur in the opinion expressed by Sir Thomas Hastings, that the heads of these departments have a wide discretionary power in the expenditure of public money, and can do what they like without check or control. As already stated, they can manufacture nothing till called on to do so by the Storekeeper; and a limited sum being annually voted for each department, upon an estimate of the cost of a certain amount of materials and a certain amount of wages necessary for the production of a certain quantity of stores, it seems to us that if the required amount of stores be not forthcoming, the inaccuracy of the estimate or the waste of the material would be at once detected.

1938. 1939. We cannot undertake to express an opinion whether the articles produced in the manufacturing departments at Woolwich cost the country more or less than the same articles would cost if supplied by contractors. Captain Boxer, R.A., the Superintendent of the Royal Laboratory, assures us that there is no question whatever that the cost of the articles manufactured in his department is less, and that he is confirmed in this opinion, expressed in 1856 to the Contracts' Committee, by his subsequent experience for two years and a half. Col. F. Eardley-Wilmot expresses an opinion that eventually he shall be able to furnish iron guns much cheaper than was done by contract. Some allowance must be made for the preliminary operations of an iron gun foundry, which are necessarily experimental, and a comparison as to cost can hardly be fairly instituted between a factory which has not been twelve months in action and long established works. Whenever it is thought desirable and fair to institute such a comparison, the production ledger or cost books before mentioned will furnish the means of ascertaining the cost of the articles manufactured, with due additions for the outlay upon buildings and machinery and the expense of establishments. But we do not consider the question of cost the only or even the main consideration with such articles as guns, gun-carriages, and ammunition. 1863. The first requisite with respect to these is excellence of quality—perfection, if possible. We think this is more likely to be attained by competition between Government and private establishments, than if either of them had the monopoly of supply. For, as regards iron guns, for instance, it must be remembered that while 1335 guns have been ordered this year from contractors, the factory at Woolwich is to furnish but 150, and when in full activity is not likely to turn out more than 500 or 600 per annum. As we understand, it is not intended, nor in our opinion would it be desirable, that all guns required should be cast at Woolwich; many will probably still be furnished by contractors, and we may reasonably hope that a generous rivalry will stimulate both private enterprise and official zeal in the discovery of new improvements. The probable effect of such competition must also, we think, be a diminution in cost. But whether this be so or not, the sufficient reason for the establishment of these Government manufactories appears to us to be, that they supply special articles which Government alone requires; that they will always be ready in case of emergency to supply these articles in large quantities, and of the best quality, while a long continued peace may have so materially reduced the demand for them, that private establishments would not be in a position to furnish them.

App. No. 7. p. 561. 22. 30. 35. The cash accounts in all the departments at Woolwich appear to be simple and well kept. The number of workmen employed in Woolwich Arsenal is about 6,500. Their annual wages are upwards of 313,000*l*. The whole of this money passes through the hands of the Deputy Military Storekeeper. The advance of the amount required monthly, having been sanctioned by the War Department, upon a statement of his account for the preceding month and a requisition for an imprest, is drawn by him from the Paymaster-General twice a month in equal portions; the money is paid into the London and County Bank at Woolwich, and the amount necessary for the weekly payment of wages is drawn thence by the Deputy Storekeeper, and after being counted remains in his chest one night (Tuesday). On the Wednesday, the sums payable in each department are handed

over to the superintendents, in whose custody the money remains till the Saturday, when the wages are paid. The Storekeeper has also power to draw cheques to meet incidental weekly disbursements, for which purpose he has generally 300*l.* or 400*l.* in hand.

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The Storekeeper's cash accounts are made up quarterly, and rendered fourteen days after each quarter. Formerly it was customary, in accordance with the Ordnance Regulation No. 218, for the Storekeeper to produce his cash accounts and cash balance in hand once a month to the then "respective officers." For some reason unexplained to us this salutary custom had been discontinued, and it was only in September last, after a long interval, that the Deputy Military Storekeeper was called upon to produce his cash balance to an officer from the War Department sent down for the purpose.

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Ord. Reg.
Nos. 238. 240.

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The Deputy Storekeeper gives security for the due discharge of his duties in the sum of 1,000*l.*, Col. Tulloh in 2,000*l.*, Captain Boxer and Col. Wilmot give no security. We are at a loss to know why such a distinction should exist. We are not aware that the two last-mentioned officers are exempt from the operation of the statute 52 Geo. 3. c. 66. and the Ordnance Regulation No. 95. But whatever the rule adopted may be, we think it should be applied equally to all officers in the same establishment with similar duties and responsibilities. It is satisfactory to be able to add that during the forty-two years of Mr. Morris's service at Woolwich, no case was ever known of a storekeeper, clerk, or other official in the establishment being deficient in his cash balance.

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Our opinion upon the points connected with the Woolwich establishments, to which our attention has been specially directed by the terms of our Commission, will be found at the close of our Report, incorporated with our answers upon the like points respecting the depôt of stores at the Tower.

TOWER.

TOWER.

WE must refer to the evidence for a detailed statement furnished by Mr. Eaton, the Principal Military Storekeeper, of the duties appertaining to the Store Department at the Tower, and the mode of conducting business there. It may be stated generally that the system of keeping the books, accounts, and stores, also the receipt, inspection, and issue of stores, is the same at the Tower as in the Military Store Department at Woolwich. We do not therefore think it necessary to repeat at length what we have already mentioned in our Report respecting Woolwich. We verified the accuracy of Mr. Eaton's statement as regards the system adopted for keeping the store accounts, by an examination of his books, and of the various forms in use in the department. As regards the stores, their vast extent and variety (the Tower contains from 13,000 to 15,000 different kinds of articles) precluded the possibility of our making a personal examination of more than a very small portion of them. Such an examination, to be of value, either with a view of ascertaining their condition and quality, or of verifying the quantities which the books represent to be in store, would require the services of a numerous staff of practical men for some months. For the state of the stores we have been necessarily dependent upon the evidence of others.

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The Military Store Department at the Tower is charged with the provision and supply of accoutrements, &c. for sea service as well as for the whole army, camp equipage, barrack and hospital bedding, furniture, and utensils; clothing, &c. for military prisons, tools of all descriptions, besides a variety of stores for colonial, convict, and other services, for which repayment is subsequently claimed by the War Office. Though not charged with the provision of small arms, with the exception of the materials required by the London gunmakers, the whole of the receipts and issues of small arms also devolves on this department.

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As at Woolwich, the Storekeeper at the Tower makes an annual requisition upon the War Office for the amount of stores necessary to keep up his stock. Of barrack stores and general stores he is expected to keep up from twelve to eighteen months supply. The amount of his annual requisition is founded upon this basis, and calculated with reference to the authorized annual demands from home and foreign stations, and in regard to regimental and other supplies upon the issue of previous years.

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As a general rule all new materials and stores supplied to the Tower are furnished by contractors, who compete by tenders sent in to the Director of Contracts at Pall Mall.

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TOWER. In some cases of urgent, special, or small supplies, the value being under 5%, the Storekeeper has a discretionary power to purchase the articles wanted, which he does from the party naming the lowest price for them. A monthly report of all such purchases, which amounts on the average to 200% monthly, is made to the Director of Stores. All patterns and specifications for governing the supplies of stores purchased by contract, to be delivered at the Tower, are prepared in the "provision" branch. They are then subjected to the approval of the inspector of the department to which the stores appertain, and after receiving such approval, as well as that of the Superintendent of Inspectors and the Principal Storekeeper, are finally submitted to the Director of Stores for his sanction. The witness who of all others examined by us during this inquiry complained most loudly of the imperfections and discrepancies between patterns and specifications for supplies at Weedon, stated that the patterns and specifications furnished from the Tower are very good and very clear. Any contractor who receives a duplicate pattern for his guidance is required to deposit its value, and to sign an acknowledgment that the duplicate pattern lent to him corresponds in every particular with the standard pattern upon which his contract is based.

When contractors upon the list at the War Office, to whom circulars have been sent, have sent in tenders for the supply wanted, as a general rule, *i. e.*, in 99 cases out of 100, the lowest tender is accepted. Occasionally the Director of Contracts submits to the Secretary of State reasons why he conceives the lowest tender should not be accepted, and receives his orders on the subject. When the offer of the contractor naming the lowest price is accompanied, as is sometimes the case, with conditions which are inadmissible, when he may be known to have failed in the quality of previous supplies, or when prompt delivery is essential, and it is questionable whether he has the means of furnishing the required supply in time, in these and some other cases the Secretary of State exercises the right he reserves to himself of not accepting the lowest tender. We have no reason to suppose this right has ever been exercised without sufficient grounds, or without benefit to the public service. Indeed, we think, contrary to the opinion very confidently expressed by one of the witnesses we have examined, that it may be desirable this discretionary power should more frequently be put in force, especially where the party making the lowest tender is an agent or middleman, and not himself the manufacturer of the articles required. As a general rule, it is no doubt the object of Government in inviting supplies to deal directly with principals and manufacturers. This was the rule under the Board of Ordnance, and it is the rule still. But where this rule has clashed with that which directs that the lowest tender shall be accepted, the latter rule has unfortunately (as we think) sometimes prevailed.

We may illustrate this by facts which came incidentally before us in evidence. The supply of hats for the Metropolitan Police (the inspection of which, up to 1856, had always taken place at the Tower) had for twelve consecutive years, from 1845 to 1856, been furnished by Messrs. Christy, who are hat manufacturers. The contracts were for three years each, having been put up to competition and on each occasion awarded to Messrs. Christy. The hats furnished by them were excellent, and no complaint of them was ever made. For the supply of 1857-8-9, fresh tenders were called for; Messrs. Hebbert and Co., a most respectable army clothing firm, but not hat manufacturers, tendered for the contract at 1*d.* per hat less than the price named by Messrs. Christy. In opposition to the recommendation of the Commissioners of Police, the Secretary of State for the Home Department resolved that the rule, that the lowest tender should be accepted, should be adhered to, and Messrs. Hebbert had the contract. Messrs. Hebbert procured the hats at a lower price from a sub-contractor. The hats supplied for 1857 were not inspected by the inspectors at the Tower, in consequence of the pressure of business there, and they turned out very badly. Although the pecuniary loss fell upon the contractors, who had to supply other hats in place of those which were faulty, it certainly was not worth while for the sake of a penny per hat to desert well-known manufacturers whose supplies had always given satisfaction, and for the first time to make a contract for hats with persons who were not hatters.

A great deal of evidence was given before us with regard to supplies purchased in 1854-5, for the use of the army in the Crimea. Full particulars of the articles purchased and the prices paid for them will be found in Parliamentary Paper No. 399, 1855. It appeared that many of these supplies were obtained by special contracts with various firms, for which other firms had no opportunity of competing; that a great many of the orders for goods, amounting in value to 165,000*l.*, and comprising more than one third of the whole, were given to one firm, Messrs. Almond and Co., who are not manufacturers of many of the articles supplied by them; and that the prices paid to

them were frequently higher than those paid to other firms for (apparently) the same goods. Tower.

The explanation and defence of these deviations from ordinary rules will be found very clearly stated in the evidence of Rear-Admiral Sir Thomas Hastings, then Principal Storekeeper, and a member of the Board of Ordnance. The circumstances were exceptional. Your Majesty's troops in the Crimea were suffering, and in danger of perishing from the want of warm clothing. The "Prince" and her cargo, comprising a large quantity of clothing, had been destroyed. The Board of Ordnance was called upon by the Secretary of State for War to procure, with the least possible delay, supplies of clothing, and also of leggings, capes, coats, sheets, &c. They were directed to take the entire responsibility upon themselves, to consider that they were not bound by expense, but to remember that the grand object was to supply the wants of the army with all possible despatch. To have issued tenders in the ordinary course would not only have raised the price of the articles required, but would have occasioned the delay so much to be deprecated. Large supplies of warm clothing were at once purchased from manufacturers in the country, through a broker, and were embarked for the Crimea within fifty hours of the time when the orders from the Secretary of War reached the Board of Ordnance. As to other contracts, generally a circular letter was sent out, stating that the pressing nature of the demand would not admit of resorting to the usual method of contract, and therefore, the parties applied to were requested immediately to make their tenders. In other cases, under Sir Thomas Hastings' directions, verbal personal inquiries were made by the officials at the Tower and at Pall Mall, as to the parties who would furnish the articles most promptly and cheaply. If one person would bind himself to deliver articles earlier than another, a higher price was paid to that person. Messrs. Almond were ready to bind themselves to deliver with promptitude the articles required, and as a consequence contracts to the amount stated were entered into with them by the Board of Ordnance. It is true, that in many instances they failed to deliver the articles contracted for, within the time specified; but they exerted themselves so much in the emergencies which arose, that most of the penalties imposed on them for the nonfulfilment of their contracts were ultimately remitted. We think it cannot be doubted, that under the pressing necessities of the case it was wise to deviate from the general rules as to the mode of procuring supplies. Probably it might have been better—more economical—to have purchased the whole of the warm clothing required through a broker, from the manufacturers, than to have employed Messrs. Almond as middlemen for such articles, but for the great bulk of the supplies they furnished, we have no reason to suppose the Board exercised any other than a wise and honest discretion, having regard to the exigencies of the moment. We say this the more readily because, while adherence to the ordinary practice would have exposed those entrusted with the responsibility of providing stores and clothing for the army, to the charge of being the slaves of routine, these departures from that practice have furnished ground for accusations of extravagance and favoritism. 1511.

We might, indeed, have doubted whether the transactions of the Board of Ordnance in 1854-5 were within the scope of our inquiry, if it had not been suggested to us that the selection of the persons with whom these special contracts were thus entered into was entrusted to subordinate officers at the Tower, especially to Mr. Charles Sandys Elliott, then a clerk in the Tower, and subsequently Superintendent of Inspectors there, and that he had been influenced by improper and corrupt motives in giving orders to Messrs. Almond. We have sifted this charge thoroughly, involving as it did the character of a public servant, who since this inquiry was commenced has been promoted to the office of Storekeeper at the clothing establishment at Pimlico, and who is deservedly held in estimation for his abilities and activity in the public service. And we are perfectly satisfied, that although the circumstances may not unnaturally have given rise to some suspicions, there is no ground whatever for any imputation upon Mr. C. S. Elliott. We would refer on this point to the very clear and positive statements of Sir Thomas Hastings; and we may state generally, that no charge of favoritism in the disposal of Government contracts has ever been substantiated to our satisfaction, throughout the whole of our inquiries. 1520.

We have already mentioned, that the Tower is the depôt where all small arms are received. About 500 a week are received from the Government manufactory at Enfield. The rest are furnished by contractors; 1,500 a week from Birmingham, and about 1,000 a week from the London trade. The rifles made at Enfield are so constructed by machinery that any portion of one rifle will fit another. This is not the case with the Birmingham supply, which are made by hand, finished, inspected, and proved at Birmingham. 1517.

- TOWER. ham, and thence received into store at the Tower. The London made rifles are furnished in a different way. The Tower authorities procure the rough materials from Birmingham; these are issued to the London gun-makers,—fourteen in number—in certain proportions determined by arrangement among themselves and with the Director of Contracts. The same price is charged by the whole trade. These rifles, after being “set up” or constructed by the trade, are finished, inspected, and proved in the small arms department at the Tower, of which Colonel Dixon is the superintendent.
- 238-240. Besides stores furnished by contractors, the Tower is also the depôt for stores received from out stations and from regiments. As at Woolwich, vast quantities of stores were returned to the Tower from the Crimea, at the close of the war, (many of them unserviceable and fit only for firewood), which as a matter of trouble and expense it would have been better to have destroyed or abandoned. All returned stores undergo an inspection, and are either taken into store, sent for repair, or ordered for sale, as they may be respectively pronounced serviceable, repairable, or unserviceable.
227. The staff engaged in the inspection of goods at the Tower was, as we have previously mentioned, reorganized in 1856, at the instance of Mr. Godley. It consists now of a superintendent of inspectors, four inspectors with a salary of 250*l.* each, to each of whom a separate department is assigned, and fifty viewers and sub-viewers, besides nine temporary viewers.
224. App. No. 1. Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the necessity of a Government inspection of regimental clothing and necessities, we apprehend there can be no doubt that it is essential that military stores, furnished by contractors after tender and competition, should be subjected, on delivery, to a strict inspection to ascertain that they agree with the patterns and specifications. The evidence we have taken has shown us that, without such inspection, through fraud or negligence on the part of contractors and their servants, articles of inferior quality would be supplied, resulting in loss as well as discredit to the public service.
223. The inspection at the Tower has been very much stricter and more efficient since the reorganization of the department in 1856; and there is no doubt that this increased strictness has had a beneficial effect. It is, however, hardly possible that the inspectors should have a personal practical knowledge of all the numerous articles which are subjected to their examination, and there have been, as we are informed, frequent complaints of the severity of the inspections; but, though we have invited evidence on this point, three cases only have been adduced in which, as alleged, goods have been improperly rejected at the Tower during the last three years. As to one of these,—a charge against the inspector of woollen goods for rejecting certain rugs,—we place no reliance upon the only witness making the charge, his numerous mis-statements in matters of fact discrediting him to any credit. In the other two cases, in which the judgment of the inspector for leather and accoutrements was impugned, the evidence was so contradictory that we have difficulty in coming to a positive conclusion. We incline to the opinion that, in one at least of these cases, viz., the inspection of the police hats for 1858, the inspection was too rigid, and that some injustice was done to the contractors, inasmuch as the hats were better than those which had been supplied by them for 1857, none of which had been rejected by those who then inspected them. We may remark that, however desirable it may be to make the services of the officers in one department available for the assistance of other branches of the public service, we think the inspectors and viewers at the Tower have quite enough to do in their own proper business, without being called upon to act on behalf of the Home Department.
268. We have had no evidence offered to us of any bribery or dishonesty on the part of any inspector, viewer, or other person employed in the Tower during the last 12 years. The only case of the kind which has been referred to before us occurred in February 1846; when a labourer having applied to a subcontractor for money, received 1*l.* from him. The matter was soon after discovered, and the labourer immediately discharged from the service. There seems no doubt that in 1855 a viewer and a labourer at the Tower were bribed by a Mr. Pays, but we have not considered it necessary to have the evidence on this point repeated before us. It was given at some length before the Committee on Contracts, and it did not appear to us upon a perusal of that evidence that any additional facts could be elicited. Nor have we thought fit to take further evidence as to the dismissal of a viewer, under the new system of inspection, for having asked for and accepted a small gratuity from a contractor.
191. The forms used in the inspection branch, and the mode of receiving the goods into store by the storeholder, are similar to those adopted at Woolwich, and appear to us well calculated to secure regularity and accuracy. Here too, as at Woolwich, the store ledgers and the usual tally-boards in the stores state clearly the quantities of all stores received
194. 12.
1536. 1416. 1417. 1457. 1535.
991. 1004. 260. 1108. 482. 506. 478. 552. 741.
337. App. No. 4, and Parl. Paper, No. 328, 1858. Q. 1384. Parl. Paper, No. 328, 1858, Q. 2807, 2811. Parl. Paper, No. 438, 1858. Q. 9087.

and issued, and the amounts remaining in hand. At the time of our examination in December last, there were no arrears in any of the books, which were all regularly posted. But this has only been accomplished by great diligence and extra attendance on the part of the officers in the ledger branch, the staff being in Mr. Eaton's judgment hardly sufficiently numerous for the work they have to do.

In consequence of the pressure of business, and the mass of stores in the Tower at the time Mr. Eaton became storekeeper, in July 1855, no "remain," or actual counting of the stores was then taken, as is usually done on the appointment of a new storekeeper. Mr. Eaton states that it would have been physically impossible at that time to get at the stores, which appear to have been heaped together in great confusion. It was consequently impossible for Mr. Eaton to know what amount of stores he actually took charge of, nor could he, of course, be considered responsible if, upon subsequent investigation, the articles in store should be discovered not to tally with the amounts represented in the store ledgers. It was not until the 7th of June 1857 that the officers of the War Department commenced to take the "remain," which they completed on the 6th October 1857. The store ledger was also made up to the same date, 6th October 1857, and comprised the accounts for the previous eighteen months. In consequence of the press of business and a deficiency of hands accustomed to the work, the eighteen months' ledger was only sent in to the War Office at the beginning of October 1858, and it was not until February in the present year that a comparison of the ledger with the remain revealed the fact of enormous and most startling discrepancies between the two. A tabulated statement (Appendix No. 6), furnished by the War Department at our request, shows in detail the stores, surplus and deficient, in the balance of the Tower ledger on the 6th October 1857, as compared with the quantities found to exist on taking stock by actual survey. It will be seen that in no single instance, out of the 700 different items to which that statement refers, did the quantities in stock correspond with the balances shown by the ledger, and in many instances the amount of discrepancies was extremely large. Thus the stocktaking showed in store 29,000 percussion muskets more than appeared from the ledger; and of implements and materials for small arms the surplus is actually more than 1,000,000 articles beyond the number stated in the ledger to be in hand. For other instances of the like kind we must refer to the Appendix. We can obtain no explanation of these enormous errors, except a statement forwarded to us from the War Department on the 4th of April, that "by far the greater portion of them are the result of the pressure of the war with Russia, during the early part of which the strength of the establishment was unfortunately not increased in proportion to the vast demands upon it, so that the records fell into great arrear; and after that evil had been met by large additions to the establishment, the difficulty and delay experienced in overcoming the arrears was greatly increased by the inevitable inexperience of the body of new clerks, of whom these additions consisted, and who were compelled at once to carry on an unprecedented amount of current business, and to bring up ground that had been lost."

We are willing to make all reasonable allowance for the emergencies arising from a state of war, and to give credit to the then existing authorities (these errors probably occurred before 1856) for a laudable desire to keep down the expense of Government establishments. It is also satisfactory to observe that the discrepancies in question more frequently show an actual surplus of stores than a deficiency in them—a circumstance which seems to us to negative the idea of any dishonest defalcation, and to suggest that these errors arose mainly from negligence or inability to make the proper entries to the debit of the storekeeper of stores received at the Tower. But with all these allowances, we must emphatically express our condemnation of such a mode of conducting business as could result in the tardy discovery of errors in the accounts so amazing as those to which we have adverted. In fact, accounts so kept appear to us all but valueless. They could furnish no guide to the Storekeeper as ground upon which to make his requisitions for stores. If he relied on them, his demands might be unreasonable and excessive, or altogether insufficient. Although we have no reason to suspect dishonesty, they left the door open for all kinds of fraud, *e. g.*, goods which had never been taken on charge in the accounts might, without fear of immediate detection, disappear as easily. We desire to record our total dissent from the doctrine, propounded with regard to Weedon as well as the Tower, that the additional clerks required to keep the accounts properly must inevitably be inexperienced and inefficient. We are satisfied Government need never want any amount of mercantile skill and experience they desire, if they will adequately remunerate the possessors of those qualities. It is true economy, in this as in other cases, to pay a good price for what is really wanted. And we feel

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App. No. 7.

TOWER.

equally sure that the public would much rather have the work well done at a high price than find it badly done, or not done at all, for a smaller sum. We must point out too that a system of accounts or storekeeping, which may be sufficient in ordinary times of peace, but which breaks down or is thrown aside in time of pressure or emergency, fails just at the time when its efficiency is of the greatest value, and when its nonefficiency may entail the greatest corresponding loss. We do not conceive that it would be worth while to prosecute any further examination, with a view of correcting the errors and reconciling the discrepancies in the past accounts referred to. The expense would be enormous, the result more than doubtful, probably valueless. We would rather hope that the expressed intention of the late Secretary of State for War, General Peel, to have more frequent surveys taken of the stores, and to compare the result of each survey more frequently with the store accounts, will have the effect of preventing such irregularities for the future, or at least of rendering them easy of detection and remedy.

App. No. 7.

We are of opinion that an actual counting of old stores—*i. e.*, a remain—should take place at every store station not less than once in every three years, and that a survey or a general examination of the stores, actually counting here and there only such articles as, in the judgment of the surveying officers, might serve as a criterion for the rest, should take place at least once a year. Such an examination should be conducted by an officer specially appointed for the purpose, who might visit all the stations in the kingdom at irregular intervals, and without previous intimation of his intention.

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We think it incumbent on us to call special attention to the fact that the space within the Tower available for stores is still insufficient, though their amount has been largely reduced since 1855 by sales as well as by transmission to Weedon and elsewhere. The store houses seem to be inconveniently crowded, and there are temporary wooden buildings in the ditch covered with tarpauling, in which are stored unserviceable arms, 50,000 or 60,000 old flint muskets of the smooth bore pattern, and therefore obsolete, but perfectly good in other respects. Until within a few weeks of our visits, these buildings also contained repairable articles. It seems to us that such buildings are not the proper places of deposit for Government stores.

119.

In the Appendix No. 2 will be found a list of obsolete stores now in the Tower, the original cost of which was upwards of 274,000*l.* The greater portion of them consists of arms and materials for arms, the patterns of which have been superseded by others constructed on new and improved principles. We concur in the opinion expressed by the Storekeeper, that it is not expedient to dispose of any considerable quantity of arms, and that it would at all events be premature to do so until the store shall have been amply replenished with others of the new patterns. Improvements in fire-arms render the old patterns obsolete, but no blame can attach to anyone for the pecuniary loss thereby sustained, as it is of course necessary to keep a sufficient store of every such article till a better is discovered and provided.

211.

Sales of obsolete and unserviceable stores take place periodically. Before sale they are surveyed by the storekeepers and inspectors, who by a late regulation (October 1858) are required to certify that they are unfit for use in the department, and as far as they are aware, inapplicable to the public service generally. But this rule does not apply to articles transferred from another store station for sale. By an Ordnance Regulation (No. 448), it is provided that unserviceable, repairable, and obsolete stores are not to be twice reported, and the responsibility of condemning them rests with the officer by whom they were first surveyed, and not on the one to whom they may be subsequently transferred. No blame therefore attaches to the Tower authorities in respect of the 20,000 pair of boots sent up from Weedon and sold at the Tower in 1856, though it is probable that a re-survey by the Tower inspectors would have prevented the sale of at least a portion of them.

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162, 163.

Besides obsolete and unserviceable articles, the War Office have by special orders directed the sale of various serviceable stores. This occurred to a considerable extent at the time of the great accumulation of stores returned from the Crimea. The Storekeeper was then directed to sell all beyond eighteen months' supply, whether the surplus was serviceable or unserviceable. It was thought better to sell them than to hire store room for their accommodation, and in the case of many of them to run the risk of their deterioration. We concur in the opinion that as to many of these stores, it was the best plan to dispose of them even at prices much below their original cost; but we think it is to be regretted that such articles as new cotton sheets, several thousands of which were sold, and which would not have been deteriorated by being kept in store, should have been thus disposed of. We have also to regret that in July 1856, nearly 5,000 serviceable rugs, chiefly new, were sold by auction at 2*s.* 11*d.* each, when within a few months after-

182. 183.
App. No. 3.
168.

wards a regulation that every soldier under canvas should be supplied with a rug, obliged the Government to purchase them at 5s. a piece.

We had the opportunity of personally witnessing one sale of unserviceable stores on the 2nd of December last, and certainly agree with the Storekeeper in thinking that fair prices were obtained for the articles sold.

The system in operation for the issue of stores either to regiments or to home or foreign stations (the Tower being the great feeder for all out-stations) will be found stated in Mr. Eaton's memorandum before referred to. The mode of conducting the business in this respect, as well as the books and forms in use for recording all such transactions, appeared to us unexceptionable, unless it should be thought desirable and practicable to adopt the system of accounts by double entry, recommended by the accountants employed by us at Weedon.

The stores intended for issue appeared to us, so far as we could form a judgment, to bear out the statement of the Storekeeper, that they are in good order and fit for service. The rifles in store, about 100,000, do not remain long enough in the Tower to become deteriorated by the stocks becoming dry or otherwise. An order to issue 60,000 of these to out-stations was in process of execution when we visited the Tower. A chest of them is from time to time taken down to ascertain their condition, and we were assured by the persons so engaged in inspecting them that not above one in 500 required anything done to it.

The cash accounts of the Storekeeper appear to be simple and well kept. They are confined to the payments for small purchases before mentioned (200% a month), the wages of the labourers employed in the stores (650% weekly), as well as in the Small Arms Department and in the establishment at Thames Bank for the repair of small arms (100% weekly). The Storekeeper also pays some small charges for carriage and freight, but the regular carriers' bills come in quarterly, and are only checked, not paid by the Storekeeper; they are paid by the Accountant-General. The total amount required by the Storekeeper for these payments is about 3,500% a month, which amount he receives in two equal payments, on the 1st and 15th of each month. Until May 1858 it was customary for him to receive the whole amount at once. His balance in hand varies from 400% to 1,000%, and he gives security for 2,000%. The cash accounts are rendered quarterly, supported by vouchers, and here, as at Woolwich, the Storekeeper in September last was for the first time called upon to submit his cash accounts for inspection by an officer sent from the Accountant-General's Department, and to produce his balance in hand. We think it very desirable that an officer accustomed both to store and cash accounts should from time to time visit the various depôts and Government establishments, to see that the accounts are not in arrear and are otherwise properly kept. This would be a salutary and timely check upon any irregularity, which might not otherwise be discovered until the annual examination of the voluminous ledgers according to the existing practice.

As the system pursued at Woolwich and at the Tower is substantially the same, we may sum up together our remarks upon the points on which Your Majesty has been pleased to require our opinion respecting those two establishments.

1. Upon a review of the system upon which the books have been kept, we find it to be in accordance with that prescribed by the Ordnance Regulations. If that system be rigidly adhered to in practice, as it appears to have been at Woolwich, we think it a good and efficient system for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of stores received, expended, issued, and remaining in hand. If it be departed from, and arrears permitted, such as in the case of the Tower we have animadverted on, the system seems to us to furnish no materials by which the irregularities and confusion resulting from such neglect can be remedied.

2. As regards the system upon which the stores at Woolwich and the Tower have been kept, it appears to us that at the last-named depôt, previous to 1856, when Mr. Godley's regulations came into force, no regular system of classifying the stores was adopted, partly in consequence of the defective organization of the establishment, and partly in consequence of the insufficient space available for stores, which latter defect was aggravated by the enormous amount of stores received at this depôt during the war. At Woolwich, from the larger space at command, this inconvenience has been avoided.

Tower.

3. The general mode in which the business of these establishments has been conducted has been in the main satisfactory as regards the system upon which supplies have been obtained. We have no reason to suppose that favouritism has been exercised, or that the contracts entered into have been arbitrary or (as was the case at Weedon) contradictory in their conditions. Neither do we think that those conditions have been unfairly enforced on the one hand, or evaded with impunity on the other. But, as already stated, we are of opinion that until the staff was reorganized in 1856, the inspection at the Tower was loose and unsatisfactory, having been up to that period not unfrequently conducted by examiners not duly qualified for their task. We consider the arrears in the Tower accounts to which we have drawn attention quite inexcusable, and indeed disgraceful to those who were then entrusted with the control and supervision of the department. Since Mr. Eaton became Storekeeper in July 1855, and the staff of inspectors has been organized, the mode of conducting business has greatly improved, both as regards the inspection and classification of stores, and the keeping of the accounts relating to them.

As the business is at present conducted, we believe it excludes—as far as any system that could be devised can exclude—the opportunity of improperly influencing the officials employed. No system can extirpate corrupt motives, nor can we imagine any so perfectly administered as absolutely to prevent the possibility of a bribe being occasionally offered and received. Neither can any system, however uprightly administered, shield honest men from imputations of venality—imputations too often made in the first instance maliciously, hinted at obscurely, magnified and multiplied by careless repetition, and too readily believed by many who would shrink from an act of more deliberate but not of greater injustice. We feel bound to declare our conviction that the vague general charges of corruption and venality which have, as we are aware, been freely circulated against the present inspectors and viewers at Woolwich and the Tower are without substantial foundation.

4. We have already intimated our opinion that the result of the mode of conducting the business at Woolwich is satisfactory. We think the public interests have been well served by the vigour, intelligence, and accuracy of the officers at that station. And we are inclined to believe that the result of the arrears and discrepancies in the Tower accounts prior to 1856, however discreditable, has been less detrimental to the public service than might have been feared. Although complete certainty on the point is unattainable, we think there has been no dishonesty, no defalcation in the stores, no substantial loss to the public, and that the errors in question are errors of account only, which we have every reason to believe will not again occur, if the more frequent and rigid supervision we have recommended be adopted, and the Storekeeper be at all times provided with a sufficient staff of competent clerks.

5. Finally, we have the satisfaction of certifying to Your Majesty our opinion that the present state of the books and stock of stores at both these depôts appears to us unexceptionable, and that the mode in which they have been kept since 1856 is creditable to those who have been charged with the responsibility of organizing and superintending these important establishments.

All which we humbly submit to Your Majesty's gracious consideration.

Witness our hands and seals this Twenty-ninth day of July One thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine.

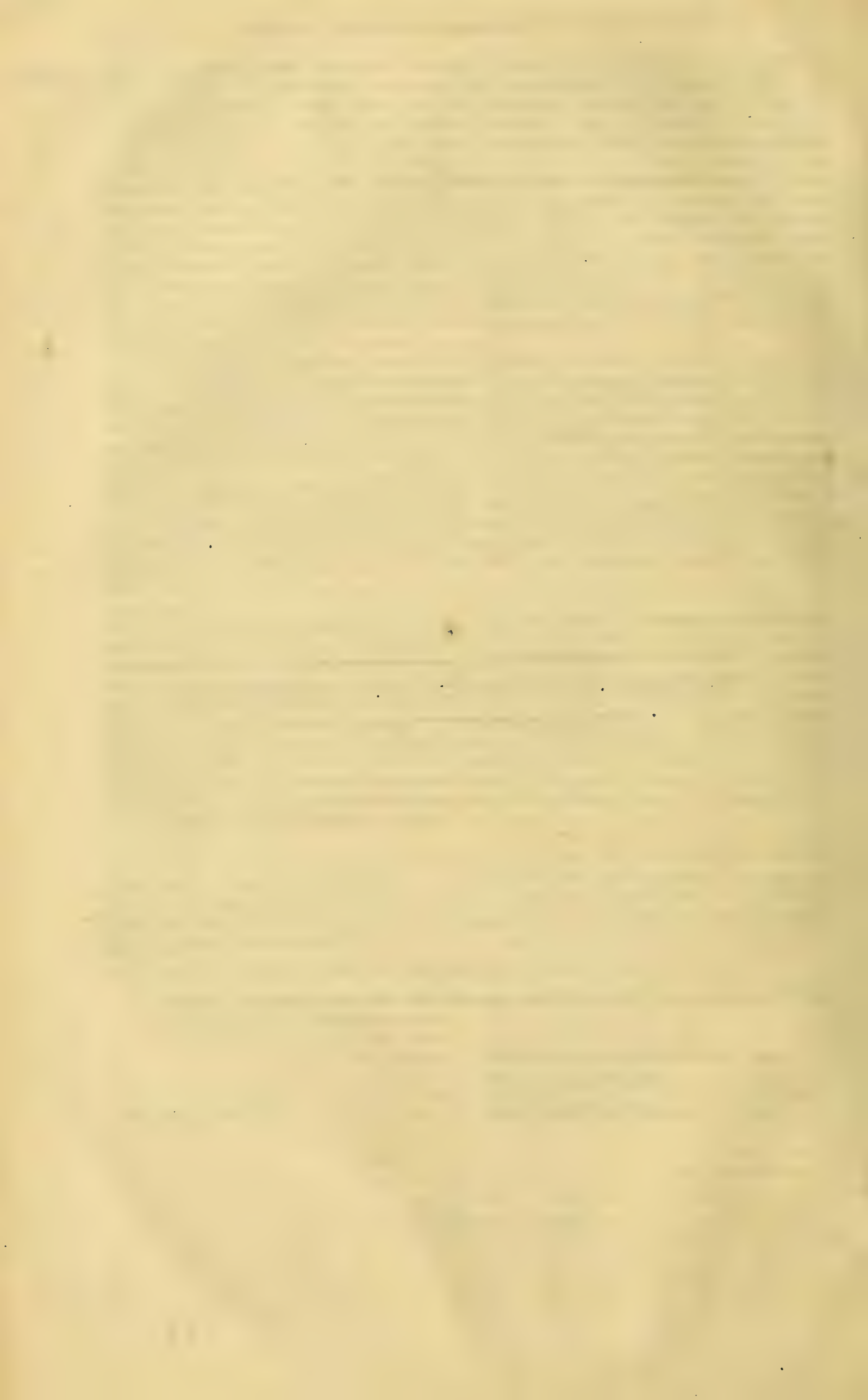
JAMES ASPINALL TURNER. (L.S.)

HENRY JOHN FRENCH. (L.S.)

E. L. DEW, Secretary.

HENRY SELFE SELFE. (L.S.)

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THE HISTORY OF THE

REIGN OF

CHARLES THE FIRST

BY

JOHN

WILKINS

OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE

ESQ.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

LONDON,

Printed by J. St. John, at the

Printers Office, in St. Dunstons Church-yard,

near the North Church, in the Strand,

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO

THE

STATE OF THE STORE AND CLOTHING DEPÔTS AT WEEDON, WOOLWICH, AND THE TOWER, &c.

Secretary—EDWARD L'ESTRANGE DEW, Esq.

LONDON.

Friday, 23rd July 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Sir BENJAMIN HAWES, K.C.B., examined.

LONDON.

Sir B. Hawes,
K.C.B.

23 July 1858.

1. (*Chairman.*) You are Under Secretary-for-War, I believe?—I am, to which office I was appointed in February 1857.

2. Having previously held what office?—Having previously been Deputy Secretary-at-War.

3. The depôt at Weedon was established in 1855, was it not,—during the time you were Deputy Secretary-at-War?—On 8th December 1855.

4. Was it established by an order from the Crown or from the War Department?—I am not acquainted with the formal steps taken at that time; that I think you will get more accurately from Mr. Monsell than anybody.

5. What office did Mr. Monsell then hold?—Mr. Monsell was then clerk of the Ordnance.

6. Was the establishment at Weedon then considered a branch of the Board of Ordnance?—It was then considered a branch of the Board of Ordnance.

7. When was it first made a depôt for stores?—It was formed by Lord Panmure, who was then Secretary of State for War; and it of course became a branch of the War Department.

8. Are you aware of any minute or order defining what the nature of the establishment should be?—No; nor do I think that any such order was necessary beyond making it a general depôt for military stores.

9. (*Colonel French.*) Is Weedon exclusively used as a depôt for military stores, or is it used as barracks at all?—Weedon is now a great military store. There are also barracks at Weedon.

10. (*Chairman.*) We understand that the first head of that store was Mr. James Elliott?—The principal military storekeeper was Mr. James Elliott. He was the first officer of that rank who was appointed at Weedon.

11. And he took charge of it from its establishment, did he not?—From its establishment.

12. So far as you are aware, were there any special instructions given to him as to his duties and the mode of conducting the establishment?—Beyond the Ordnance regulations which relate to military stores, I apprehend he had no instructions. There was only one deviation, subsequently, I think, made, which was to this extent, that the clothing of the army was not to be considered as subject to the Ordnance store regula-

tions, and for this reason, that we did not anticipate having, and we have had not any store of clothing. The Ordnance regulations relate of course to the receipt and issue of stores, and inasmuch as we saw no probability, on financial grounds, of getting up a large store of clothing, the clothing management at Weedon was not strictly under the store regulations as they are printed, and that was formally sanctioned by the Secretary of State for the time being.

13. Can you furnish the Commissioners with a copy of the regulations?—Yes.

14. I presume they are well known regulations?—They are well known regulations.

15. And have been in force for some thirty years, have they not?—With regard to time I cannot speak confidently; but they have been in force many years, and a copy of course can easily be obtained.

16. Had not Mr. Elliott, previously to his appointment at Weedon, been employed in somewhat similar duties in Canada and elsewhere?—Mr. Elliott had been employed in highly confidential duties in Canada, and he had also been employed in the Treasury, with regard to some regulations which they were then framing relating to certain colonial allowances of fuel, light, &c., to officers and others abroad. He discharged his duties in Canada, as I understand, but of which I know nothing of my own knowledge, greatly to the satisfaction of the officers under whom he served; he also gave great satisfaction, as I understand, to the principal officers of the Treasury and others who were associated with him in the inquiry to which I have referred, and it was upon the ground of the manner in which he had discharged his previous duties that Lord Panmure appointed him principal military storekeeper at Weedon.

17. Mr. Elliott being well acquainted with the Ordnance regulations, there were no specific instructions given to him, so far as you know, as to the mode in which the establishment at Weedon should be conducted?—I apprehend that no specific instructions were given; none would be necessary, because the Ordnance regulations were well known to him; he, having long been an officer in the Ordnance Department, was perfectly aware of the nature of the duties he undertook when he was appointed principal mili-

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23 July 1858.

tary storekeeper at Weedon. But you will understand that I am speaking of transactions of which I have no personal cognizance.

18. Supposing that any such special instructions were given to him, from whom would they have proceeded?—They would have proceeded, I apprehend, from Mr. Monsell, who was then clerk of the Ordnance.

19. The Commissioners do not wish you to repeat at length the evidence which you have already given before the Contracts' Committee. I presume that you have had an opportunity of seeing that evidence in print which was given in the years 1856 and 1857?—I should not like to say that I am perfectly acquainted with that evidence; it is of a very conflicting nature, and I have not had time to read it carefully and consecutively.

20. So far as you have had that opportunity, do you see any reason to modify any of the opinions then expressed?—None at all, as far as I am concerned.

21. Or any of the statements of facts which are there made?—I am not aware at this moment that I have anything to alter or to add to that evidence.

22. When did you first become acquainted with the difficulties which had arisen in the establishment at Weedon?—About the time when Major Marvin was sent down to make the inquiry. There is a printed copy of his report in the evidence.

23. That was in February last?—18th of February last.

24. Mr. Elliott was appointed, was he not, in 1855?—Yes, I think so. Of course till 1857, I had no direct authority connected with the Ordnance Department. I acted as Deputy Secretary at War. During Mr. Monsell's absence I acted for him, but I had no direct authority until I was finally appointed Under-Secretary of State.

25. You had heard of Mr. Elliott's demands for additional staff to make up the accounts and ledgers before that time, had you not?—I had; but we are accustomed to demands of that sort from many parts of the world, both at home and abroad, and it will not do for the head of an office to grant those demands off hand. Of course I had no reason to think that the delay of assistance would at all prejudice the public service. I think you will find that the demands made by Mr. Elliott were granted after the lapse of the time which was necessary to make some inquiry, in order to ascertain whether that assistance was *bond fide* required.

26. You were, perhaps, not so intimately acquainted with the amount of the staff at Weedon compared with the amount of work to be done, as to have anticipated that necessity for additional help?—No, certainly not. I must also say that I think if Mr. Elliott had attended to his duty properly the same amount of assistance would not have been required. I think it was his neglect of duty that brought about a great deal of confusion, and led to demands on his part for assistance. I think if he had been an active and zealous officer, devoted to his duty, I will not say that some additional assistance might not have been necessary, but certainly not to the extent that he demanded it.

27. With regard to the question of his being bound by the Ordnance regulations, I presume we may take the statement made before the Contracts' Committee, that he departed from those regulations. Is not one of the main points in which he is said to have departed from them his having had the same person to be inspector, storekeeper, and issuer?—I think he did depart from the regulations in that respect, and it was one cause, no doubt, of the confusion that he got into.

28. Do you attribute the irregularity of combining three offices in the hands of one person, simply to a neglect of the regulations, or to the insufficiency of the staff?—I attribute it to Mr. Elliott's desire to keep the whole matter in his own hands—to prevent his own short comings being discovered—being a very zealous and very able man in any duty which

he undertook, he was desirous as far as possible of having no person to interfere with or to check him.

29. When you say "short comings" do you mean deviations from rule or dishonesty?—I do not actually mean dishonesty, because I am not in a condition to show that there was any dishonesty at that time. By "short comings" I mean his gradual and increasing neglect of duty evidenced by his coming up to town to follow other pursuits, instead of discharging his duty at Weedon.

30. Is there, up to the present time, any evidence of any defalcation in the stores at Weedon?—Up to the present time, so far as I have any knowledge, having communicated only in the course of last week with Commissary-General Adams, who is now charged with that inquiry, I am aware of none, except as regards the cash account, which you will distinguish of course from the stores.

31. As regards stores received, stores issued, and stores in stock, you are not aware at present of any defalcation?—I am not aware of any, nor is it reported to me; I think it would be reported if it were discovered.

32. I think you stated that the first official information that you had of the irregularities or the difficulties rather, at Weedon, was from Major Marvin's report?—No, I think it arose out of Mr. Elliott's applications for assistance. The correspondence which ensued upon those applications led us to find that there was a great arrear of business and considerable confusion, and that led to Major Marvin being sent down to inquire into the state of the business at Weedon. I knew, therefore, that the business was conducted in an unsatisfactory state, because I strongly urged a recommendation which was adopted by Lord Panmure, that an officer should be sent down to inquire into the state of things at Weedon, and report to us.

33. Did Major Marvin go to Weedon alone?—He went alone.

34. In what service is he?—Major Marvin is the statistical clerk in this department.

35. Will he be able to furnish us with full particulars regarding his report and the materials on which he proceeded?—Certainly.

36. Were you satisfied with that report at the time?—We were satisfied with that report at the time. We have every reason to be satisfied with the perfect integrity of Major Marvin; and our opinion is that he was deceived by a very able, clever man, and that the whole amount of fault which can be attributed to him is, that he did not find out that Mr. Elliott was deliberately deceiving him.

37. (Mr. Turner.) Had Mr. Elliott command of the financial operations at Weedon?—Very small indeed; he had the command of little more than was necessary to actually pay the establishment there.

38. He had money to pay wages, but not to pay for any of the articles that were delivered to that establishment?—Certainly not; that is all done, as you are aware, by drafts upon the Paymaster-General. It is part of the system which distinguishes this department, as well as other great public departments, not to allow any of the parties connected with the receipt or issue of stores to have anything to do with the money transactions relating to the supply of stores.

39. Were remittances of money made upon account to Mr. Elliott, or did he send weekly or monthly, or periodical statements of the amounts required for payment of wages and salaries; and was exactly that amount remitted?—He made a demand, I think, monthly, for an imprest of the money necessary to pay the establishment, and that was examined here by the Accountant-General, who, if he found it consistent with the establishment, issued the necessary funds as a matter of course.

40. Then after such a remittance I imagine it would be supposed that Mr. Elliott's cash account was pretty nearly balanced, and that any remittance that was made was for charges which he had actually to defray for wages and salaries, so that he would not have a

balance on hand to any great extent, would he?—He could not have to any great extent a balance in hand; his accounts were made up to the end of the year 1857, when there was a small balance, if I remember rightly, standing against him. It was not thought a matter of sufficient importance to report his deficiency, in fact it was not a deficiency, because, as you are aware, these are matters of account. But the Accountant-General thought it necessary, when he sent up his quarterly account ending March 31st, to insist upon the settlement of the quarterly account ending December 1857. It was impossible to refuse him the imprest for the month of April, because we should have stopped the whole establishment, but we positively refused him the imprest for the month of May.

41. Was an officer at any time sent down to Weedon to examine the state of his cash account and the state of his cash book?—No; nor was it necessary, because we had them returned quarterly and examined them.

42. (*Chairman.*) About how much was the monthly amount?—For the four months of 1858 it averaged about 2,000*l.* a month.

43. I believe the total amount to which he was a defaulter to the Government was about 2,300*l.*?—About 2,300*l.*

44. That sum you were in advance to him for payments at Weedon which he had not made, was that the mode in which the deficiency arose?—There was a deficiency upon his December account, the amount of which was, as it has since been reported to me, about 1,400*l.*; then the imprest made to him in April, together with the previous deficiency, must be about the total amount together of his defalcation.

45. (*Mr. Turner.*) The object of my inquiries was to ascertain, with regard to the amount which was remitted to Mr. Elliott, to defray the wages and salaries and so forth, whether he made a false statement with regard to the amount of wages and salaries, (though I fancy that was not the case, inasmuch as you could ascertain it here), or whether he withheld some part of the amount remitted to him to defray those charges?—I have no doubt that he withheld a portion of the sums remitted to him, and for this reason,—at the last moment, when evidently he was contemplating his flight, he was in great danger of being discovered, inasmuch as he had not paid the wages of the current week, and how he raised the money to pay those wages we do not know, but he put them off for a day or two; instead of being paid on the Friday (Saturday, I think, being a holiday), they were paid on the Monday. That shows that he was in want of money; he managed to get the money to pay those wages, and therefore it shows very clearly that he had appropriated a portion of the money which had been remitted to him for the general expenses of the establishment.

46. Were those remittances made in advance?—They are made in advance to this extent, that there is a monthly statement and a monthly remittance.

47. Then had he in his possession the means of paying a month in advance?—I think he had; certainly he had the means of paying fourteen days in advance.

48. (*Chairman.*) I presume the salaries are not paid in advance?—No.

49. But he had the money in advance to pay them?—He had certainly fourteen days in advance, but these are points upon which you will get better evidence from the Accountant-General.

50. Supposing Mr. Elliott's defalcations in cash to be 2,000*l.* or something more, from whom shall we get the particulars as to how that defalcation arose?—I think you will get that from the Accountant-General, and especially from the gentlemen who were sent down by us, immediately we heard that Mr. Elliott had absconded, to examine into his cash accounts. Those gentlemen are clerks in this office, and are of course at your command.

51. Have they made a report?—Yes.

52. Do you refer to Mr. Garrett and Mr. Baker?—Yes.

53. Is their report printed?—Yes, in the appendix to the evidence of the Contracts' Committee.

54. Mr. Elliott gave security to the Government to the amount of 2,000*l.*, did he not?—Yes.

55. So that the actual loss to the Government will be only some 300*l.*?—I do not believe that it will be 300*l.* If I recollect rightly, in the amount returned to us, he had not received his salary, which was about 300*l.*, and of course that is saved. I think his total defalcations will be found to be as nearly as possible 2,000*l.*, for which we have security. I am speaking now, of course, of his cash defalcations.

56. Besides Major Marvin's report, and the report made by Messrs. Garrett and Baker, is there not at present a sort of Government commission sitting at Weedon upon this subject?—There is no commission, but we have appointed a very able and experienced Deputy Commissary-General, Mr. Adams, with a staff of clerks, to go most carefully into an examination of the store ledger, and that inquiry is not yet concluded. It is from that Commissary-General's statement to me that I venture to say to the Commission that up to this hour I am not aware of any defalcation in the stores.

57. Do you know when it is probable that the report of Deputy-Commissary-General Adams will be presented?—I should think in a few weeks, or a month certainly at the farthest, he will present his first report.

58. When that report is made, will you be good enough to let us have a copy of it?—Most assuredly.

59. With regard to the possible defalcation of stores, have you directed your attention to this matter sufficiently to be able to say whether I am right in supposing that defalcations could only arise in one of two ways, either by collusion between the contractor and the storekeeper and his subordinates in giving credit to the contractor for more goods than he sent in, or by stealing them after they were in store and disposing of them?—I know of only those two sources of fraud.

60. Are you aware whether any other modes of fraud have been suggested?—No other has been suggested to me. I had a conversation with Deputy-Commissary-General Adams, in which he mentioned that the first source of defalcation, namely, the falsification of a delivery-note, is the only probable one that he could suggest; but at present he had not found any evidence of that.

61. (*Mr. Turner.*) I presume, independently of his cash accounts, Mr. Elliott had to keep a very accurate account of the stock in hand?—Certainly, he was required so to do.

62. And accounts of the receipt and deliveries of stores of all kinds?—Certainly.

63. Are there vouchers to show both the receipts and deliveries of such stores?—Certainly there ought to be.

64. Is it understood by your department that most accurate accounts are kept of the stock of every article?—Certainly. I have no hesitation in saying, not knowing so much of the system of Ordnance storekeeping as I might have done if I had been longer in this department, that in consequence of Mr. Elliott's misconduct I have looked a little more carefully into those regulations, and I propose, in conjunction with the Director of Stores, Captain Caffin and others in this department, materially to amend the mode of keeping the store account, so that we may have quarterly or six-monthly balances; and I think it can be accomplished.

65. Would not that involve the actual counting of the stock in hand in order to see that it agreed with the books?—Certainly; but actual counting I should not think would be possible quarterly; it might be half-yearly. It will be sufficient if we have the statement of stores so kept that as a matter of account we can get the balances, and then every six months, or every twelve months, whichever period

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may be thought requisite, we might come to an actual counting of the stores. But as you are aware the stores are so numerous and so various, that if we were to count them quarterly it would occupy a great deal of time, and unless we had some strong reason for so doing, I think we might dispense with it for a longer period.

66. I can easily imagine from my experience in keeping stocks of various kinds, that the articles at Weedon might be piled or placed in such a form that it would not be necessary to count by units, but you could count by hundreds or thousands in a range, so that it would not be perhaps so laborious as by many might be supposed?—As I understand, when a “remain,” to use the technical phrase in the Ordnance regulations, is taken, every article is actually counted. I think that is unnecessary labour; if the accounts are correctly kept and rendered quarterly or half-yearly to this department, we might dispense with the actual counting, and count, as the honourable member points out, rather by bales or by packages than by taking each separate article.

67. (*Chairman.*) Is it not the fact that Captain Gordon when he succeeded Mr. Elliott, adopted as regards clothing the mode you have been describing, and was contented with counting the bales, without investigating whether each bale contained the quantity it was represented to contain?—Probably Captain Gordon will give you every information upon that head.

68. With regard to the Ordnance regulations I find that the “remains” of the stores are to be taken once in five years?—Yes, and I propose to take them much oftener.

69. And is that, so far as you are aware, the existing regulation?—That is the existing regulation.

70. Are you aware of any modification or alteration of this Ordnance regulation to the effect that “remains” should be taken once in three years at Weedon?—No such order has come within my knowledge since I have been connected with Weedon, certainly.

71. I am not speaking of a mere survey but a “remain”?—I am not aware of it.

72. Some honourable members of the Contracts’ Committee seemed to be impressed with the idea, that once in five years is not a sufficiently frequent inspection for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of the stores?—That is precisely what I have already stated; I do not think it is, but I think we must distinguish between what is technically called a “remain” which means that every article shall be counted, and such an account as a man of business would require by a proper superintendence of the state of the stores; I think that the actual counting need not take place certainly oftener than once a year, if so often. If the books are kept properly and the accounts rendered quarterly, I do not think it would be necessary.

73. (*Mr. Turner.*) As I apprehend that one object in appointing this Commission is that the Commissioners should be enabled to confer with the heads of the departments, and not only ask questions but make suggestions, allow me to ask you whether you are not of opinion that in order to check the servants of the Government at Weedon, and to keep them completely on the alert as to their duties, it would be desirable as frequently as possible to check the quantities of each article on hand?—I entirely agree with you, and in some degree an arrangement has already been made in this office to effect that object. Nothing has been actually done, but an arrangement has been made with a view to accomplishing that object. Mr. Ramsay was the Assistant Director of Stores and Clothing, and in consequence of what has happened at Weedon, I have thought it right to suggest, which has been sanctioned by General Peel, that he should confine himself to the duty of Assistant Director of Stores, with a view to having an officer whom we could send down at irregular times to inspect those stores, and he therefore ceased to have anything to do with the clothing department, which for the time

I have taken upon myself, and his duty will now be almost exclusively confined to the store department, as I have said, with a view to have an officer whom we could send here and there to inspect the actual state of the stores.

74. (*Colonel French.*) Do you propose that he should inspect the stores himself?—He will go to a station, Portsmouth or Weedon or the Tower, and actually inspect the stores himself.

75. (*Chairman.*) Apart from the question of “remains,” which the Ordnance regulation says shall take place once in five years, is there not under those regulations a half-yearly survey directed, to ascertain the quality of the stores rather than their quantity; I am referring to the 422nd regulation?—No, the article to which you refer, relates to the state of all stores, guns, carriages, and such articles as are found to be unserviceable and which the persons conducting the survey are to distinguish in their report, and to assign the causes for their being in that condition. It is rather the state of the stores than the actual “remain.”

76. Do you ascertain whether the stores are serviceable or not, half-yearly, or only when there is reason to suspect that there is something wrong, and that the stores have got out of order?—I think the general state of the stores is reported.

77. I think you have already stated to the Committee on Contracts that the establishment at Weedon is to be put an end to?—The establishment at Weedon as regards the clothing department, will be entirely removed to London, and the whole of the inspection of the clothing carried on in London under a new system, by a mixed board of officers of this department and military officers recommended by the Commander-in-Chief and appointed by General Peel; therefore the whole of what is called the clothing department at Weedon will, as soon as we can possibly do it, be removed to London, and all the stores connected with clothing will also be removed to London; but Weedon, I apprehend, will still remain a considerable dépôt for military stores of various kinds.

78. That is, Weedon will be a dépôt for ammunition, but not for accoutrements or clothing?—No, not for clothing.

79. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have mentioned your wish to adopt the plan of sending an officer down to examine the stores at irregular times. Do not you attach great importance to sending an officer down at irregular times so that the store-keepers would feel it necessary to be prepared to receive him at whatever time he might come?—I do attach very great importance to it. The object of his visit I think, would be clearly this, not to attempt to take a “remain,” or to come to any exact determination of what is the balance of stores in hand, but to take the quarterly account rendered to us, and to go here or there, and take particular compartments of military stores and perhaps actually count them. That officer would use his own discretion as to what portions of the stores he would count, and what he would not. On the whole, I think such a proceeding would be a complete check upon the military storekeeper, and it is upon that ground that I say an accurate “remain” need not be taken oftener than once a year, if so often, but that would be a matter for consideration.

80. (*Chairman.*) Do you mean that an officer should be specially appointed for such a purpose, or that the duty should be performed by the immediate superior of the storekeeper?—I contemplate, that inasmuch as in the store department we have a Director of Stores, and an Assistant Director of Stores, that one of those officers should now and then be spared to go down and make the investigation to which I have referred. It would be impossible with one officer to accomplish it, because he has so much to do here, and business would be seriously impeded, if he were absent. If there be two officers, and this is the object I always considered was in view in having an Assistant Director of Stores and Clothing,

I think one of them might actually occasionally visit the stores and inspect them as I have described.

81. Has there been anything of the kind done from the time of the establishment of the depôt at Weedon, up to the time of Mr. Elliott's departure?—Nothing of that kind. I do not mean to say that the establishment has not been visited, but it has not been visited with the objects I have described. It has been visited generally, perhaps, to see how the establishment was working, and what was the state of the stores, but not as to the actual amount or quantity of the stores.

82. Who was the immediate superior of the store-keeper at Weedon?—The Director of Stores.

83. Captain Caffin?—Yes.

84. What office does Mr. Ramsay hold?—He is Assistant Director of Stores. Perhaps in order to make it clear, I might venture to offer this explanation to the Commissioners. The first Director of Clothing was Sir Thomas Troubridge, and the labour was very onerous, and he had an assistant given him, Mr. Ramsay. Then in February 1857, it was my duty, under the direction of Lord Panmure, to review the whole establishment, and it was thought we could reduce an appointment, and therefore we consolidated two departments. Captain Caffin, who was naval Director general of Artillery, an office which gave him little to do, was placed at the head of the store department, and Mr. Ramsay continued to assist him. The department then consisted of a director and an Assistant-Director of Stores and Clothing, as it now stands, Captain Caffin and Mr. Ramsay; Sir Thomas Troubridge being removed to the Horse Guards in order to be the officer in immediate communication with this department relating to the patterns of clothing. The Commissioners will understand that, as regards patterns, they are furnished wholly by the Adjutant-General.

85. Are you aware whether Captain Caffin ever visited Weedon?—I am not aware.

86. I think Mr. Ramsay, the Assistant Director, did visit Weedon?—He visited Weedon two or three times, I think.

87. There is no division of duty, I suppose, between the Director of Stores and the Assistant Director. The one is merely a subordinate officer to the other?—The duties of the assistant are of course such as are assigned to him by his superior officer. But I think I must add to that answer this, that when Captain Caffin was appointed Director of Stores it was found impossible, combining his office of Director of Stores with that of naval Director of Artillery, to assign to him anything more than a general superintendence over the clothing department. The active superintendent of the clothing department was Mr. Ramsay, who conducted it almost exclusively, up to the time when it was thought the old arrangement had better be revived, which I have referred to in a previous part of my evidence.

88. In the evidence before the Contracts' Committee there was not infrequent reference made by you to some new regulations which you said were Mr. Godley's regulations?—Yes.

89. Are they in print?—They are in print; and upon that point I hope you will examine Mr. Godley, who was the first Director of Stores, and I need not say that those regulations were framed with care, because anything that Mr. Godley does or has done in this department is not only marked by the greatest care for the public interest, but with a thorough knowledge of his department. (App. No. 2.)

90. Were those regulations applicable to the establishment at Weedon?—Yes, but those regulations do not touch the Ordnance regulations. They were chiefly made with reference to the organization of the establishment, which organization made the stores establishment a service by itself, so that men were to rise hereafter by promotion and progress to higher appointments. It used to be the case that the Master-General could appoint anybody he pleased principal military storekeeper, but no such appointment can now take place. The appointment must be to the

junior class, and a man must work up to the top according to his merit and ability. It was chiefly in reference to the organization of the establishment in that point of view that Mr. Godley's regulations were introduced.

91. Those regulations relate rather to the organization of the establishment than to directions as to particular duties?—Certainly.

92. They are applicable, I think, to the whole of the service, to the Tower, and Woolwich, and Weedon?—Certainly; they are applicable to foreign stations as well as to home stations.

93. We find, somewhat to our surprise, that the Commission under which we are to act directs us to inquire into the mode of conducting business at Woolwich and the Tower. My colleagues are of opinion, in which I entirely concur, that we had better at present confine our investigation to Weedon?—I should hope the Commission would confine itself, in the first instance, to Weedon, because there the abuses have occurred which have attracted public attention. At the same time I do hope that they will investigate both the state of the stores at the Tower and at Woolwich, where we have reason to believe that there are no abuses, and that the business has been regularly, honestly, and correctly discharged. We think it would be extremely unjust to the department to examine only into one branch, where, owing to the misconduct of an individual, there have been great abuses, and not inquire into similar branches conducted under the Ordnance regulations, where we have reason to believe the business has been regularly conducted.

94. Generally, may we take it as your opinion, that the irregularities at Weedon have arisen from disregard of the Ordnance regulations, and that, had they been adhered to, you think the difficulties which have arisen at Weedon would not have arisen?—I cannot say that I think the confusion and irregularities at Weedon have been wholly caused by neglect of the Ordnance regulations, and for this reason, which I have referred to in the previous part of my evidence. The Ordnance regulations are entirely founded upon the existence of a store; the store-keeper receives stores, and he issues stores; and his business is, of course, to keep a correct account of his receipts and of his issues; but as a rule at Weedon there was no store of clothing, and therefore the Ordnance regulations did not apply. The circumstance was brought formally under the notice of Lord Panmure, viz.:—that as regards clothing, the Ordnance regulations could not apply. The Ordnance regulations have been departed from, but they have been departed from from the necessity of the case. The officers of this department have been very anxious to obtain a store of clothing. Unfortunately, that is a matter of finance; to get up a large store of clothing, would of course, swell the annual estimates to a considerable amount, and the present state of the finances have not been such as to enable any Chancellor of the Exchequer to give his consent to the vote, which we thought amongst ourselves necessary for the formation of a store. If we could have obtained a store of clothing, then the Ordnance regulations would have applied, and I believe a great deal of confusion and irregularity would have been avoided. I doubt very much whether Mr. Elliott would have fallen into the confusion he has, but for the circumstance of having to deal with a state of things which was not contemplated by the Ordnance regulations at all. We had to get stores from hand to mouth, to employ contractors to conduct the business, and I am bound to say I think in an unsatisfactory way from that very circumstance; but it arose out of the demands upon us from a state of war which, together with the non-existence of a store will account to a great extent for the confusion and irregularity which have existed at Weedon.

95. (*Colonel French.*) The soldiers' kits and boots are considered stores, are they not?—Certainly.

LONDON.

Sir B. Hawes,
K.C.B.

23 July 1858.

LONDON.

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96. Were they considered stores at Weedon?—They were. There was a stock of boots to a very considerable extent there; and in that case the Ordnance regulations, I apprehend, you will find have been complied with. The store of boots has been kept according to the Ordnance regulations, which apply to everything in the shape of a store.

97. (*Chairman.*) Is it your opinion that when a store did exist, it was kept according to the Ordnance regulations?—Yes, as far as I know.

98. Are you aware that Captain Gordon entertains a strong opinion to the contrary, and states that opinion in his evidence at length?—With that evidence in my mind, I still venture to adhere to the statement I have made. Captain Gordon was not aware, I think, at the time he gave his evidence, that the Ordnance regulations were deliberately given up as regards clothing; and therefore he assumed that they strictly applied, and, inasmuch as they had not been adhered to, therefore there had been a neglect of them. You will, of course, examine Captain Gordon; and I think you will find that now he is quite aware that the clothing was not subjected, as decided by competent authorities, to the Ordnance regulations, for the reason I have stated, that we never had or could get a store of clothing. As far as regards our stores, they have been brought within, and kept and issued according to Ordnance regulations. There may have been irregularities on the part of Mr. Elliott, no doubt, as regards other stores, of which I know nothing; but the Ordnance regulations would apply to anything the moment there was a store.

99. (*Colonel French.*) Was Mr. Elliott expected to inspect the soldiers' kits?—Certainly; it was his duty to see that they were inspected.

100. It should not have been left to his subordinates merely to inspect the kits?—You must leave a great deal to subordinates; from the number of articles to be inspected, it will not be in the power of one man to inspect them; therefore you must leave a great deal to subordinates. Of course it is the duty of a superintendent to take care that his subordinates do their duty. Under the regulations which Mr. Godley introduced as regards inspection, I think there are precautions taken which would compel the subordinates to do their duty; I think you will find that that is part of his scheme.

101. (*Chairman.*) A great deal has been said as to checks, to guard against dishonesty and mistakes; do you conceive that any system under the Ordnance regulations, or any other, can be devised, which will be proof against combination to defraud?—I do not think it is possible that any regulations can provide against deliberate dishonesty; but I think you may reduce that dishonesty and that fraud to the minimum by a good system of store accounts and cash accounts.

102. Are you of opinion that the Ordnance regulations furnish more of those checks than the system which, for the reasons you have mentioned, was allowed to some extent at Weedon at its commencement?—The Ordnance regulations, as I have already stated, applied only to articles in store, therefore they were not applicable to clothing, of which we had no store.

103. But had you not for instance several hundred thousand pairs of boots at Weedon?—Exactly; the moment there was a store, I conceive the Ordnance regulations applied, but it was deliberately and well considered here, that having no store of clothing, the regulations did not apply. For instance, it was useless to say (which would have been the course in the ordinary state of things) "write down to the clothing store to deliver 100 tunics to the 29th regiment," or "deliver such and such things to the 33rd regiment," because there was no such store, and we had immediately to make contracts with contractors to supply directly such articles to the regiments as were wanted. You must remember, that for almost the whole of the period since the establishment of the Weedon store, we have been more or less in a state of war. We could delay nothing; we had not time to organize our

system, and having no store of clothing, and we were obliged to abandon in that respect the Ordnance regulations.

104. Receipt of stores, of course, must precede delivery of stores; you cannot deliver what you have not received?—Certainly not.

105. The Ordnance regulations, as I understand them, are distinct both as to receipt and as to delivery?—Yes.

106. Was there anything to prevent the Ordnance regulations as regards receipts being in force at Weedon from the very commencement of the establishment there?—Certainly not.

107. Then your observation as to the non-applicability of the Ordnance regulations, of course, only refers to delivery?—It applies really to receipt and delivery, because the very articles that we ordered the contractors to supply, ought to have been lodged at the store at Weedon, and delivered by the storekeeper in the regular way. According to our regulations all those things ought to have been delivered by the contractors into the store, to have been re-issued by the military storekeeper, that would have been the ordinary course of business provided by the Ordnance regulations. But it was a mixture of the two things. At first, I believe, there was a certain amount of clothing,—tunics, trousers I mean,—latterly there was none; therefore there was irregularity from the very state of things in which we were then placed. Of clothing we never had a store.

108. (*Mr. Turner.*) Still it does not occur to me that there could have been any very great difficulty in keeping an accurate account of the stores at Weedon. When you were in a state of war the condition of things was something analogous to a place of business with a very active demand for its productions, of which it can scarcely obtain supplies to meet, and when you were in a state of inactivity as to war, you would be somewhat analogous to an establishment where there is a stagnation of business and the stores are accumulating, why should not there be accurate accounts kept of the receipts although the articles might remain only for a week or a day in the place?—There is no doubt, I think, that the accounts ought to have been equally accurately kept, whether we were in a state of war or of peace, but they would not be kept at the same place. The clothing, as I have already stated, was not delivered into store, because there was not time to deliver it into store; it was sent direct, after inspection in London, to the regiments, therefore you never had a store of clothing at Weedon, and you never had an account. There were certain stores there, and I am bound to say that Mr. Elliott was the man who ought to have kept a correct account of all his receipts and deliveries of all stores. He did not keep that account correctly; he had other pursuits, and those pursuits interfered with the regular discharge of his business. I think if you had had a man as honest, as he was able, you would have had no confusion at Weedon at all. At the same time the store regulations would not have applied to clothing, because there was no store.

109. (*Chairman.*) I do not quite understand your observation that there never was a store; it has been given in evidence before the Contracts' Committee that as many as 600,000 or 700,000 boots found their way to Weedon—of course they were not there at the same time—but it was a very considerable store, was it not?—Certainly; I was speaking of clothing as distinguished from boots or any other store,—tunics, trousers, and so on.

110. Were not large quantities of those delivered at Weedon?—I think not; I think the great bulk must have been delivered direct, after inspection, under the orders of the Director of Clothing. Some may have been sent to Weedon; but latterly the cloth was bought and issued to the clothiers who made up the clothing, which was inspected in London.

111. The cloth first went to Weedon for inspection, was thence issued to the contractor, and then was sometimes sent back to Weedon by the contractor

when made up, and sometimes to London?—The cloth was undoubtedly contracted for and largely delivered at Weedon, and there inspected.

112. And thence delivered out to the contractors?—Yes. I ought to add, that up to 1857 I had no knowledge whatever of the transactions at Weedon, and that only recently have I had any immediate and personal knowledge of them.

113. One of the suggested ways in which defalcations from dishonesty might have arisen is, that a contractor having contracted to deliver 100,000 yards of cloth only delivered 80,000, and that Mr. Elliott, in collusion with his inspector, may have given the contractor a certificate of having received the amount contracted for. Under the Ordnance regulations, as I understand from you, that could not have happened without the articles having been twice counted, and at least three or four persons having been cognizant of the quantity that came in; but under Mr. Elliott's system, only himself, and perhaps one subordinate inspector, being the person who was also deputy store-keeper, were cognizant of the transaction; so that the collusion of two persons only was necessary, who might be fraudulent. That is said by Captain Gordon to have been a deviation from the Ordnance rule; am I to understand you to say that any such deviation from the rule as to the persons by whom the cloth was received and taken into store was sanctioned?—Certainly not; because there it becomes a store, and I hold that the moment a delivery took place at Weedon it came under the Ordnance regulations; we could not bring all the clothing strictly as such under the Ordnance regulations, because we could not always insist that it should be delivered at Weedon.

114. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was not it expected that an account should be kept at Weedon of the receipts and deliveries of those articles which only went there to be examined, although they did not go into store?—Such an account ought to have been kept.

115. If that had been done there would have been an accurate account of everything that went to Weedon, whether it went into store or went merely for examination?—Certainly; if it went there at all I consider that it went into store. At present we have not found any defalcations of stores.

116. I think you said that you had security from the Guarantee Society for Mr. Elliott to the extent of 2,000*l.*?—Yes.

JOHN ROBERT GODLEY, Esq., examined.

120. (*Chairman.*) You are now Assistant Under Secretary for War?—Yes.

121. When did you become so?—In June 1857.

122. Previously to that time were you Director General of Stores?—Yes.

123. Were you Director General of Stores at the time of the formation of the Weedon establishment?—Yes.

124. As you have been already examined at some length before the Committee on Contracts, I will ask you generally, have you had an opportunity of looking over that evidence?—I have not read it over carefully lately, but I am generally acquainted with it. I have not read it with regard to this inquiry.

125. May we take it as if that evidence had been given before us?—Yes.

126. If there should be any modification or alteration that you desire to make in that evidence before we have closed our inquiry, perhaps you will be good enough to state what it is?—Yes.

127. Were you a party to the formation of the establishment at Weedon?—Not in the least; I had nothing to do with it in any way. At that time stores and clothing were separate branches in this establishment. I was then only a branch officer. I had charge of the store branch, from which the clothing branch was perfectly distinct. Sir Thomas Troubridge was in the same position as regards

117. That of course you will obtain from them?—Certainly.

118. I do not know whether you have observed it, but it has been remarked in the House of Commons that the Guarantee Society feel now a considerable reluctance to giving guarantees to Government servants, on account of the feeling that exists, that they are not sufficiently checked in their proceedings. Do not you think that it is incumbent upon every department of the Government to have an accurate check upon all its servants, whether keepers of stores or keepers of money accounts, in order to avoid that obloquy which is cast upon the Government by the Guarantee Society, that they do not check their servants, and that therefore they are dangerous persons for the Guarantee Society to have anything to do with?—There is a good deal to be said upon that. The Guarantee Society took the place of the old sureties; formerly a man was required to enter into security on his own behalf, and to find two sureties; those two parties before they took that obligation upon themselves knew something of the party, and the very knowledge they had of the party was a guarantee for his future good conduct; but with the Guarantee Society the case is somewhat different; a man holding a Government appointment, or about to hold one, goes to the Guarantee Society, and they are very glad to get a policy, and they enter into a bond with the office to insure it against loss to a certain amount. I do not think under that system that we have the same security for the good character of individuals which we had under the old system. With regard to the other branch of the question I think it of course of extreme importance that the Government should look after its servants vigilantly and closely, and I believe they generally do. I believe you would find that the amount of defalcations, if you could get the facts, bear a very small proportion to the money amount of the transactions in which the parties are engaged, and though the Guarantee Society may have lost, still on the whole I think it will be found, if you could measure the amount of defalcation by the money transactions passing through the hands of those individuals who have been defaulters, that they bear a very small proportion to the whole.

119. (*Chairman.*) Will you have the kindness to suggest to the Commissioners the names of any gentlemen who occur to you who could assist them in this inquiry?—Certainly; I will do so most readily.

clothing that I was as regards stores. He was called Director General of Clothing, and I was called Director General of Stores.

128. Was not Weedon a depôt for stores, as well as clothing?—There was a small depôt for stores; which remained under the charge of the barrack-master, who reported to me with reference to them. I had no connexion with the clothing depôt in any way.

129. What do you include in the term clothing?—Clothing, necessaries, and saddlery; whatever the colonels of regiments used to supply. Others will give you a list of what it comprises better than I can.

130. Sir Benjamin Hawes, who has been examined here, made a distinction, as I understood him, between clothing and boots?—Boots are necessaries, not clothing; necessaries is a technical term. I do not know exactly what are the articles included in it.

131. I understand you to say, that you had nothing to do with the formation of this establishment at Weedon?—Absolutely nothing. I was not even consulted.

132. Nor with the directions given at the time to Mr. Elliott, who was appointed to take charge of that establishment?—No.

133. Who would be the person to give those directions if they were given?—I should think Sir

LONDON.

Sir B. Hawes
K.C.B.

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J. R. Godley,
Esq.

LONDON.

*J. R. Godley,
Esq.*

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Thomas Troubridge. I may add, that I was in favor of amalgamating the store and clothing departments, but it was decided that they should be kept distinct. I thought they should be put under the same regulations, and the officers should be made parts of the same service, and that they should be under the same direction here. I did not think that there was any sufficient distinction between the articles called "stores," and the articles called "clothing." I considered clothing to be a store, and saddlery to be a store; and I thought they should be treated so. It was decided otherwise, and consequently I had no official connexion with clothing whatever.

134. You took no share in the construction of directions for Mr. Elliott's guidance when he was appointed?—Absolutely none.

135. (*Mr. Turner.*) You thought that stock of any kind should be treated as stores?—"Stores" is a technical term including all the articles supplied to troops or for the use of troops by the Government.

136. When the word "stock" is mentioned in the commission, I apprehend it relates to everything, whether clothing or stores?—"Stock" is not a term which we recognise officially.

137. We are to inquire into the system upon which the books and stock have respectively been kept at Weedon?—That is a mercantile phrase imported by some person who was not acquainted with our terminology.

138. It appears to me to imply that we are to embrace everything in our inquiry?—At Woolwich and the Tower there is nothing else but stores, and at Weedon there is nothing else but clothing—it is a mere question of words.

139. (*Chairman.*) We do not at present propose to enter into the inquiry with regard to Woolwich and the Tower, but I believe those places were more immediately subject to your direction when you were director-general of stores?—Completely and entirely; for everything there done I was exclusively responsible under the Secretary of State.

140. Are you cognizant of the mode in which the business at Weedon has been conducted?—Since I have been Assistant Under-Secretary of State, matters connected with Weedon have often come before me.

141. Have you had any reason to feel any dissatisfaction with the mode in which the business was there conducted?—Yes.

142. When was the first time?—It is difficult to say exactly when, for the first time, dissatisfaction arose, for it was growing; but I should say that it was about August or September last that Captain Caffin and I concurred in desiring that there should be a change of storekeepers there; we were not satisfied with the way in which Mr. Elliott conducted business, and it was only postponed in consequence of the necessity, or at least the expediency, of having the estimates for Ireland prepared by Captain Gordon before he was moved. He had become thoroughly conversant with the requirements of the store department in Ireland, and we thought it desirable not to move him from there till those estimates were prepared. We had no suspicion at that time of Mr. Elliott's honesty, but we were not satisfied with his mode of doing business.

143. I presume you are cognizant of what are called the Ordnance regulations?—Perfectly.

144. Would they, in your judgment, apply to such a store as that at Weedon?—In most respects they would, but in one respect they would not.

145. Will you explain that answer?—The only particular, so far as I am at present aware, in which the Ordnance regulations would not apply to Weedon would be as regards that part of them which throws upon the storekeeper the responsibility of keeping up his store, and directs that requisitions to supply the stores should come from the storekeeper. That regulation was established and enforced for the purpose,

in the first place, of throwing the entire responsibility upon the storekeeper of adequate preparation to meet the wants of the service, we at head-quarters not having any means of knowing the exact state of his store from time to time; and therefore, unless the whole responsibility of keeping it up were thrown upon him, we should be attempting to interfere in a matter on which we should not have sufficient information. That was one reason. The other reason was, to avoid the risk of our ordering articles from contractors, whilst there was a sufficient quantity of those articles in store which might be made available. This was found often to be the case, so long as the practice continued of ordering from contractors here upon our assumed knowledge, instead of making the requisition come from the storekeeper who wanted the articles. The Ordnance regulation is that every storekeeper shall be held responsible to keep up his store to a certain proportion, having reference to the probable wants of the service at the station; that he and he alone is to be responsible for keeping up the store to that point, and that as fast as his issues go out, he shall make requisitions upon us to supply them. We do not consider ourselves at all responsible for looking after his store, or for the supply in default of his requisition. We consider that would be a divided responsibility upon the subject of keeping up the store which experience as well as theory shows not to answer. Consequently the Ordnance regulation with respect to all stations where there is a reserve store kept up is strictly adhered to, but it did not apply to Weedon as regards what is technically called clothing; because at Weedon, from reasons of finance, it has not been thought necessary to establish a store, consequently it would only be unnecessary circumlocution to call upon the storekeeper to make requisitions for the purpose of keeping up a store which we know he has not got; I mean that we can safely order clothing from contractors, because we know that there is no store of clothing at all kept, and therefore only with respect to a few articles of which stores are kept at Weedon, such as boots, saddlery and great coats, is it necessary to act upon that regulation.

146. Of course, in a new establishment where you begin with nothing you could not apply that rule which provided that you should have a certain quantity in store?—It would have been quite possible to have made Weedon, as any other store station is, a real store, and to have had a reserve to draw upon, and that would undoubtedly, in my opinion, have been the proper way to deal with Weedon, as with all store stations. You should have commenced by establishing proper reserves, so that when the time came that things were wanted, you should not have to go and purchase them from tradesmen, but merely order them to be issued from your store,—nothing but the want of money has prevented that from being done. I should also say in addition to the want of money there was the want of sufficient storeroom to have an adequate store. That does not apply to having a small store, but it does apply to having anything like the same kind of proportion store which we keep in other places. We might have had small reserves of a great many things, and I think it would be desirable that we should have them.

147. Although the Ordnance rules as to the quantity and amount of reserves would not apply, is there any reason why those rules should not have been applied to the establishment at Weedon from its inception as to the mode of receiving?—None.

148. Nor as to the mode of issue when they began to issue?—None.

149. The rules would apply to the clothing at Weedon, as well as to stores at Woolwich and the Tower?—Quite so, and I always understood that Mr. Elliott, who was an old storekeeper, did as a matter of course adopt and act upon these store regulations.

150. We were rather led by Sir Benjamin Hawes to imagine that he had permission, or even direction, to depart from the Ordnance regulations?—I do not know exactly what his instructions were. I believe that they were not precise as regards his adopting the whole of the Ordnance regulations, and it would not have been right that they should; because, as I pointed out to you, there is one very important regulation to which he could not adhere, and there may be others, which, if I looked into the question very narrowly, I could point out, and I dare say others may point them out to you. I understood that Mr. Elliott was given as a guide the Ordnance regulations, and being an old Ordnance storekeeper, it was assumed that he would apply them as far as he could. He could not apply them strictly under the changed circumstances.

151. Who can give the Commissioners information upon that subject?—Sir Thomas Troubridge and Mr. Ramsay. Sir Thomas Troubridge was the Director-General and Mr. Ramsay was his assistant, they were conversant with the whole of the circumstances attending the organization of the clothing department.

152. (*Mr. Turner.*) We have heard a great deal of the arrears in posting up, and the confusion in the books at Weedon. I suppose the irregularity in the state of the books applies chiefly to the keeping the books as to stock, and deliveries, and receipts?—To the store ledgers generally.

153. It was not so much the mode of keeping money accounts as the store accounts, so that there were no means of ascertaining what the state of the stock was from the books?—There was rather a singular and fortuitous facility afforded to Mr. Elliott for keeping us in ignorance longer than in the ordinary course he would have been able to do, from the fact of his taking charge towards the end of the year 1856. Now the store ledgers are rendered up to the 31st of March of each year; it was not thought necessary to ask him for the store ledger from December to March, so that his first store ledger, instead of being a year old would be 16 months old. Then he was allowed three months to examine and transcribe his ledgers after the completion of the year and to send them up here. It was not, therefore, until a year and seven months, after his taking charge, that his first ledger would be due here, and in the ordinary course of proceeding it would have been due at the latest 15 months after his taking office.

154. (*Chairman.*) You are aware probably of the Ordnance regulations that “remains,” as they are called (taking stock, as a merchant would say), are directed to be taken only once in five years: as far as your judgment goes, is that with sufficient frequency?—Yes, I think so. We have a good number of remains besides those quinquennial remains. Remains are practically more frequent than that, because there is a remain whenever a storekeeper dies or is changed. We have never adhered very strictly to the exact term of five years. It is called five years or as nearly as convenient, but the exact term of five years has never been rigidly adhered to. Generally it has been oftener and sometimes more seldom. If we were to adhere rigidly to the quinquennial periods we should very often have more remains to take in a particular year than our strength would allow us to take effectually. It is an extremely troublesome process:—the remains of the great depôts, such as the Tower and Woolwich, require a large number of clerks for many months, with probably 30 or 40 labourers engaged all the time at a cost of about 600*l.* or 700*l.*, therefore it would not be desirable to take remains very often; besides it is a great obstruction to the current business.

155. (*Mr. Turner.*) The operation of taking the remains is in fact counting all the articles that the books show are or ought to be in stock?—Counting millions of nails, millions of screws, files, and all sorts of things.

156. Do you think that examination in detail is necessary; could not it be taken in bulk by bales or packages?—It has been often suggested, but it is considered that it would open the door to an amount of inaccuracy over which we should have no check. Those small things which we are obliged to take in bulk, are just the things in which there is the most temptation to dishonesty. I have often talked the matter over with those who are most experienced in the matter, and they tell me that if we really want to know how we stand we must have a detailed account of everything.

157. Suppose you have 100 packages of nails or screws, or such articles as you describe, would you go in detail through every single package, or would it not be sufficient to take in detail every seventh, fifteenth, or other occasional number?—I think they count them all. Perhaps I am wrong as to the exact mode in which the remain is conducted, but my impression is, that it is conducted by counting all the articles.

158. Is it not done by weighing?—Either by weighing or counting; probably in the case of nails they would be weighed.

159. On those occasions have you found any gross discrepancies? There may be little errors, no doubt, occasionally after five years stock being kept, but is it usual to find the stock pretty accurate?—Almost invariably. No doubt in time of war, for example, when business has been carried on in extraordinary hurry and confusion, there will be issues that have been overlooked. Where there has been a constant change of officers, which there always is in war time, we have had larger errors, but on the whole it is very rare to have important errors.

160. (*Chairman.*) There is a provision for a half-yearly survey which I do not quite understand, as distinguished from the quinquennial remain?—The survey is merely a general inspection—it is what it describes itself to be.

161. You are required to report upon the state of all the things; for instance, that rule applies to clothing, does not it?—No, I think not. I do not think that rule has ever been applied to clothing. I have never examined the Ordnance regulations with a view to ascertain how many of them have been made applicable to clothing; but I am pretty sure that that has not been applied to clothing.

162. One regulation says, “Respective officers will ‘half-yearly jointly survey, and report to the board ‘upon the state of their stores?’—‘Respective officers’ have been abolished, so that the regulations which concern them are obsolete.

163. What is the meaning of the term “respective officers”?—It is an old Ordnance term which denoted the commanding officer of Artillery, the commanding officer of Engineers, and the Ordnance storekeeper. As you are aware, the artillery and engineers were the Ordnance corps; and the heads of the three great Ordnance departments, the artillery, the engineers, and the stores met once a week and conducted Ordnance business in a board. Since the Ordnance Board has been abolished, the respective officers have also ceased to exist; the general commanding abroad has now the duties imposed upon him that the “respective officers” had, and at home they devolve on the central office.

164. The result is, that there is no inspection for the purpose of ascertaining the quantity of stores more than once in five years?—None.

165. Have you found, as far as your experience goes, any practical inconvenience from that lapse of time between the periods of ascertaining the quantity of stores?—No. A merchant must know the exact state of his affairs, from time to time, to determine whether he is working to a profit. Government only takes remains sufficiently often to secure itself against speculation.

166. Sir Benjamin Hawes has more than once referred to what I think he called “Mr. Godley’s regulations” (App. No. 2), or some scheme which was

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suggested or prepared by you, as to the organization of the department; has that anything to do with what the staff should consist of or their duties?—Not directly.

167. Those regulations do not define the duties of the officers, do they?—The duties of the officers remain the same as before; it is with respect to the organization of the service.

168. And has nothing to do with the mode in which the business is conducted?—No, it has a very important bearing upon that indirectly. It was a complete re-organization of the service with reference to promotion, and to other things besides promotion. The better way would be to put in your hands the memorandum, which I drew up, upon which those changes were founded (App. No. 2). That showed the evils which, in my opinion, existed, and proposed a remedy which was adopted. Perhaps Sir Benjamin Hawes may also have been alluding to certain alterations that I recommended to the Secretary of State with reference to the inspector's department at the Tower when I came into office (App. No. 1). As you will find in my examination, the inspection at the Tower was carried on by means of clerks, assisted by viewers at 28s. a week. There were no assessors or assistants to the Tower clerks, except labourers, and my object was to import into the inspection a higher class of mechanical inspectors. For that purpose I proposed that the inspection department should be entirely reorganized, and that there should be a superintendent of inspectors who should not be a mercantile man but who should be one of the best administrators we could find to do the office business, and under him I proposed that there should be placed four inspectors who should be buyers taken from mercantile houses, and who should receive a fixed salary of 250*l.* a year; and that those should be employed for the inspection of certain classes of stores; that under them there should be placed viewers at a certain scale of salaries, rising to 105*l.* and going down to about 50*l.*. It was a very important change, and I think I may say that it has produced the most complete and entire satisfaction in the whole of the inspection of the Tower stores ever since. It has been very severely tried and we have had hardly any complaints against the Tower inspection since that system was established. Before that time, the complaints were so frequent, and generally so well founded, that it formed a very considerable branch of the business of this office to examine into them.

169. Have you the means of telling us in what respect that system is different from the one which was adopted at Weedon by Mr. Elliott?—There was no superintendent of inspectors at Weedon, nor was the same classification and organization adopted. It was intended to adopt it. It was proposed that the Tower system of inspection with its classification and its organization should be introduced into Weedon, but Captain Caffin and Mr. Ramsay were anxious that no change should be then made. It was just about the time that we were proposing to change the storekeeper, and Captain Caffin was anxious that no change should be made in the existing organization until he had got Captain Gordon to take charge. He thought Captain Gordon would initiate and start a new system like that better than Mr. Elliott, of whom we had formed a bad opinion and who was going away.

170. Your system was introduced at the Tower early in 1856?—Yes; it was never introduced at Weedon.

171. The Weedon establishment was commenced very shortly before your new regulations as to inspection came into operation?—At the end of 1855.

172. Your regulations as to inspection at the Tower came into operation early in 1856. On the 1st of July 1856 you said that it had been four months in operation, and had given satisfaction, was not that long before there was any dissatisfaction with Mr. Elliott?—Long before.

173. Can you give us any good reason why that system should not have been introduced at Weedon earlier?—No.

174. It did not rest with you then?—There may have been very good reasons. I do not know that Lord Panmure had any reason to be dissatisfied with the way in which things were going on at Weedon. I am not aware that during 1856 he had any complaint against Weedon, or had any reason to complain that the inspection there was not what it ought to be; he may have had, but I am not aware that he had.

175. You had substantially, I may take it, the appointment of those inspectors who carried out your new system at the Tower?—They were recommended by me to the Secretary of State. I described in one of my evidences the kind of men that I recommended, and where I procured them; I think I was asked personally where they all came from.

176. (Mr. Turner.) May I infer that it is your opinion that the inspectors under Mr. Elliott, at Weedon, were not men of a class calculated from their position or their salaries to deal with amounts of property so large as came before them?—I do not think they were properly organized. The principle of the Tower inspection was that the stores should be classified, and that an inspector with a salary of 250*l.* a year should be made responsible for every class of stores, and that under the inspector should be placed viewers with a scale of promotion who should actually examine the articles; that the inspector should be continually walking about and checking. That was the principle; so that every inspector had his class of articles generally in one room, and he had viewers in all parts of the room looking at different articles, and he was constantly walking from one to the other, taking up one or two of the things that they had rejected and one or two of the things that they had accepted every time he visited them, making them explain their reasons for rejecting and so exercising a vigilant superintendence over those viewers who were day labourers. The viewers were also classified, so that every man when he entered into the department should look forward to something better if he behaved himself perfectly well. The highest class among the day labourers got 42s. a week, which is very good wages for an artisan. Above him was an inspector who got 250*l.* a year.

177. That was not the plan pursued by Mr. Elliott?—No; I did not approve of his plan when I came to know it.

178. Is the improved system now adopted at Weedon?—Not at Weedon; there has been no alteration of the organization of the Weedon inspection.

179. (Chairman.) As Weedon is to be given up, probably there will not be any change made?—It will be given up at Weedon, but it will go to the Tower, and just the same business will have to be done there. A great deal too much importance has been attached to Weedon being given up. Weedon is to be given up because we have found that Weedon is a very bad place to have a clothing depôt at; but the clothing depôt is not to be given up. The clothing business will go on somewhere on the banks of the Thames, and the business which is now done at Weedon will have to be done there. We are already in negotiation for the hire of warehouses.

180. (Mr. Turner.) Of course there you will introduce your improved system of inspection?—I hope so, if the Secretary of State approves of it.

181. (Chairman.) Do you think that the system of inspection which you have detailed, gives any additional amount of security against fraud?—I think it is as complete as ingenuity can make it; we have always the possibility of fraud, but so many must be accessories to the fraud, that I think it is almost impossible that it can take place. I should be glad if the Commissioners saw the instructions that were given to Mr. Charles Elliott as to the superintendence

of the inspection at the Tower, and as to the mode in which he was to conduct the business there.

182. The system alluded to in the evidence before the Contracts' Committee of handing over the stores when inspected to the storeholder is not a new one—is it?—It could not be done otherwise.

183. One of the complaints with respect to Weedon is, that there was not the check which should be given by the inspector signing the quantity of the thing inspected, and the storeholder counting the articles also to see that what the inspector handed over to him was correct?—The inspection branch should be under the control of the principal store officer, but it is quite necessary to have a check, and to have the inspector hand over to some other officer those stores. I think the principal store officer should have the direction of the whole proceedings, but when the inspecting branch has done with the stores it should hand them over to the storeholder or storehouse clerk, who should give his receipt.

184. I am assuming the storekeeper to be at the head of the department; that the inspector receives the goods and inspects them, and signs a certificate of having received them and having passed them, and then they go to the storeholder. Does the storeholder verify the amount?—Yes, and becomes responsible for it to his chief, the military storekeeper.

185. The complaint at Weedon was that the inspector and the storehouse clerk, or storeholder, were one and the same person, and that there was no check?—Quite so.

186. (*Mr. Turner.*) When are the articles recorded in the books?—The storeholder keeps a ledger of his

own for his own class of stores, but they are passed first through the inspection ledger, then the inspection notes, certified by the storeholders, go up to the general ledger rooms; and the storekeeper debits himself with them in his general store ledger. He does not see the stores himself, but he takes them on the certificate of his subordinate, the storeholder, who says, "I have actually taken them into my hands, and put them into store;" and upon the faith of that certificate they are posted.

187. Is there any comparison of accounts or check between the man who examines the goods, and upon whose examination the contractor is paid, and the amount that goes into store, so that there can be no discrepancy between the amount paid for and the amount sent into store?—Without all parties are in collusion there can be none. But I may add that upon these details an experienced storekeeper would give you better evidence than myself.

188. (*Chairman.*) Are all those Ordnance regulations now in force?—Some of them may have become obsolete; I have mentioned one.

189. They are for the guidance of storekeepers and others?—Yes; we are at this moment engaged in revising and publishing a new edition; it is a very long and troublesome business, because we have to amalgamate with them the War Office regulations, which office has been amalgamated with the Ordnance, and that involves a very elaborate comparison to prevent clashing. I beg also to hand in a memorandum addressed by me, in July 1857, to Sir Benjamin Hawes, on the expediency of taking periodical store accounts, which has been approved of by Lord Panmure. (App. No. 3.)

Captain JAMES CRAWFORD CAFFIN, C.B., R.A., examined.

190. (*Chairman.*) You are chief Director of Clothing?—My title is Director of Stores and Clothing.

191. When were you appointed?—On the 2nd of February 1857.

192. Who was your predecessor?—Sir Thomas Troubridge; the consolidation of the offices took place at that period.

193. Our object is to get at the instructions which were issued at the time of the establishment of the clothing department at Weedon; were you a party to that establishment?—I was not a party to it; it had been some two years, I think, in operation before I was appointed to my present office. In 1855, the clothing of the army was taken over by the War Department, and on the 2nd of February 1857 I took charge. Mr. Ramsay was assistant to Sir Thomas Troubridge, and appointed Assistant Director of Stores and Clothing under me, but specially charged with the clothing branch of the department.

194. Are we right in considering that Weedon is rather a depôt for clothing than for stores?—Yes, since the clothing of the army was taken over, by the Government, from the colonels of the regiments.

195. You had nothing to do with the instructions which were given to Mr. Elliott, the first storekeeper at Weedon, upon his taking charge of the establishment?—Nothing whatever.

196. Succeeding Sir Thomas Troubridge in office, have you afterwards become acquainted with any such instructions?—I understood that Mr. Elliott was appointed, as any other Ordnance storekeeper had been appointed, to be storekeeper in charge of that establishment. I conceived, of course, that he had received the same instructions which any other Ordnance storekeeper would have received. I was appointed in February 1857, and I think I visited Weedon in April.

197. Do you conceive that the Ordnance regulations would apply as much to clothing as to stores?—They would, certainly, if there had been a store of clothing; but the Ordnance regulations without the existence of a store are void, and are not applicable. An Ordnance

storekeeper cannot take the initiative in making demands where there is no store without incurring great delay, which the demands for the clothing of the army would not admit of.

198. As far as the Ordnance regulations are concerned in respect to receipts, would not they be as applicable at Weedon as elsewhere?—In all general points, certainly; but I believe that question, at the outset, when the establishment was organized, was thoroughly discussed, and it was determined that the Ordnance regulations were not applicable to Weedon as a whole, in part they might be, and it was thought that the Ordnance storekeeper, who was considered to be a man of great experience in all Ordnance matters, was perfectly competent to organize that establishment upon the Ordnance regulations, taking them as his basis.

199. We are not concerned to vindicate any individual, especially not Mr. Elliott, after what has taken place, but a great portion of the blame thrown upon him, so far as I can judge from the evidence before the Contracts' Committee, is his disregard of the Ordnance regulations. I wish to ascertain from you, or from any one who can inform us, whether Mr. Elliott was instructed to adhere to those Ordnance regulations so far as they were applicable, or whether he received special instructions to adopt any other system?—The letter of Mr. Elliott's appointment at Weedon, which is in this office, alludes to his thorough knowledge of the Ordnance regulations, which he is to adhere to.

200. Is that letter signed by Sir Thomas Troubridge?—No; I presume it is signed by the chief clerk; at all events it is signed by some one in authority in the office.

201. Can you furnish the Commissioners with a copy of that letter?—Yes; I think it is already printed in the proceedings before the Committee.

202. You have stated that your first visit to Weedon was in April 1857, you having assumed office in February?—Yes.

203. Had you personally known Mr. Elliott previously to that time?—No, I had not.

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204. Did you take a general survey?—I examined more especially with reference to inspection, the question which was then before us. I never dreamed of any departure from the Ordnance regulations; in fact, I thought he was adhering to them strictly. My object in visiting Weedon was to see what system of inspection was going on, and I was not very well satisfied with the state of things; there were labourers and others employed as viewers. In the organization of the establishment I presume properly qualified men could not be obtained, and the staff had been organized in a hurry, and it was thought desirable that a re-organization should take place; this had been under discussion, and I went down more especially with the view of looking into that branch of the department; I reported upon my return what alterations I had to propose, and they were carried out.

205. Who had appointed the staff in the first instance?—I presume, Sir Thomas Troubridge. I presume, that it was organized under his direction, as he was the head of the branch. I do not know how far he may have been personally responsible; he could only recommend, of course.

206. Will you state what was the mode of inspection which you ascertained to be in existence at Weedon, and upon which you subsequently reported?—It was that labourers were employed in the inspection of certain stores.

207. And that they were inefficient men?—There were some very well qualified men who had acquired a great amount of knowledge whilst they had been there, but thinking it more desirable that thoroughly qualified mechanics should be employed in all those positions, rather than men who had not been brought up in the various crafts, I recommended, upon this coming to my knowledge, that they should be superseded by the best men we could get, either clothiers or hosiers, or of whatever crafts might be necessary.

208. Your objection to the persons employed at Weedon arose from their want of previous technical knowledge rather than any imputation upon their general intelligence?—They were men of high intelligence in their particular class, but not having been brought up in the trade of which they were particularly required to have a knowledge, it was desirable that we should have men who were thoroughly acquainted with all these matters, and who could express a sound opinion upon them.

209. So far as you saw, Mr. Elliott, as the chief, was adhering to the system, but you thought his staff were not quite competent to their duties?—I do not say that they were not competent; they might have been quite competent, but feeling that there might be incompetence, I thought it better, according to the system which Mr. Godley had introduced at the Tower, that we should have thoroughly qualified men, who had been brought up in the different trades, to inspect the articles belonging to those trades which were purchased under Government contracts, and that the same system should be carried out at Weedon.

210. Was your wish to have other persons employed simply from that reason, and not from anything you observed?—Simply on that account.

211. Those men had been eighteen months at their work at that time, had they not?—Some of them might have been eighteen months.

212. (Mr. Turner.) What were the wages of those men?—Those men were receiving labourers wages, and perhaps a shilling a day extra for their extra duties.

213. Of course a very large amount of property passed through their hands, upon which property their decision was final as to its rejection?—No; their decision was not final; the system of inspection has a threefold check, as I may term it; first, there is the viewer, and then after the viewer the inspectors go over them. The viewer lays on one side those which he thinks are doubtful; and those which are not doubtful he places on the other side; the chief inspector who comes after him, and watches the whole

proceeding, has a certain number of men under his charge, and examines the articles closely after these men, and expresses his opinion to the superintendent of inspectors, who ultimately reports to the storekeeper; the matter has to go through the hands of three different men, who have each to express their opinion upon the articles before any rejection takes place.

214. That further decision applies to articles which have been rejected?—Either rejected or accepted.

215. Those which the viewer has passed in the first instance are subjected to inspection?—The inspector takes up some in the heap, looks over them, and examines them; but he would not examine them as he would the rejected, which undergo a more minute examination.

216. Still a considerable power would remain in the possession of the first inspector, as to the rejection or acceptance of many of the articles?—I do not think so, if the other men do their duty. I believe they are very closely watched by the inspector. I do not see any power remaining with the viewer. His position would be immediately endangered if it should be discovered that he was passing articles which were not equal to pattern; he would be immediately dismissed. As his position depends upon it, he would be very careful that he was not passing anything but what would be approved by the man who comes immediately after him.

217. (Chairman.) The viewers first exercise their judgment?—Yes.

218. And subsequently the articles are either passed or rejected by the inspectors who come after the viewers?—Yes.

219. There have been complaints, as you are aware, by contractors, that sometimes good articles have been rejected; and there have been complaints by the public or by the regiments that bad articles have been passed?—Yes.

220. Have those complaints of the contractors, on the one hand, and regiments, on the other, been more frequent, in your judgment, with respect to the Weedon establishment, than with respect to articles passed or rejected at the Tower?—I do not know that I can draw any comparison. I should think not. I do not know that I have received more complaints. We certainly are very much more strict than we used to be in former days. The orders are strict, and the inspectors cannot depart one iota from the instructions they receive, e.g., not to pass anything that differs from the specification or patterns, nor to reject anything that is equal. The causes of rejection are always notified to the contractor, and he may send and see the articles and ascertain whether those objections are valid. If he demurs, he can write to this office, and then the whole question is gone into. I take care that the thing is most carefully gone into; and I frequently have articles sent up here, and see them myself; not that I can give a practical opinion, but in nine cases out of ten the cause of rejection is so palpable, that a child might at once determine the difference.

221. We are not going at present into the expediency of the system of inspection. I want to know what was the state of things previously to the alterations you say were carried out. You say that a comparatively inexperienced set of viewers existed at Weedon?—I am not able to give any information as to that. I went to Weedon a month after my appointment; and as to what took place before I am not prepared to answer. The men that I referred to were men in the inferior position of viewers of the lowest grade.

222. Taking the general result, do you think that there have been more complaints that good articles have been rejected and bad articles passed at Weedon than at the other establishments?—I think not. I have no reason to come to any other conclusion.

223. You think no practical inconvenience has arisen to the public service in that respect from the

comparative inexperience of the viewers?—I am not aware of any. It was a question of principle, the desirability of having first-rate men, whose characters or judgments could not be questioned.

224. Did you make a report to the War Office of the result of your survey?—I made a report to the Under Secretary of State.

225. A written report?—Yes.

226. Has it been printed?—No; I do not think it has.

227. Is there any objection to its production?—I should think there is not the least objection to your having it.

228. Will you be good enough to furnish us with that report?—Yes. (App. No. 4.)

229. Are you aware of any deviations from the Ordnance regulations at Weedon?—Any details connected with the actual duties of the storekeeper you would obtain better from the storekeeper.

230. You only know it second-hand?—I only know it second-hand.

231. Nothing which you saw at Weedon upon the occasion of your visit in April 1857, induced you to think that Mr. Elliott personally was deviating from the established rules?—Nothing whatever.

232. Was your visit anticipated by him?—I dare say he was informed of it the day before, not earlier, certainly, because I could not determine what my movements would be.

233. Will the report which you furnished to this department, and which you have promised us, state what you did there, or only the results?—It will tell you the number of viewers and inspectors I found in each room, and their occupation, and what I recommended in lieu of certain arrangements that I found in existence.

234. Did you look at the books at all upon that occasion?—I went down by the first train in the morning, and left by the last train in the evening. I went through the books cursorily, and I examined the registry minutely, but only having been two months in charge of the department I could not do more. Mr. Elliott showed me his contract ledger and his letter book to see that they were posted up to the time, but beyond that I can give no information.

235. His contract ledger was posted up to the time?—Yes; the store ledger we now know was not kept.

236. It did not exist?—No; the way in which he kept us deceived in reference to that store ledger is most extraordinary.

237. The subsidiary ledgers, as he called them, did not exist?—No; although he made one of the gentlemen who was down there believe that they really did exist. That was Mr. Munro, who was an old store officer.

238. He did not see them?—He did not see them.

239. (Mr. Turner.) Since Mr. Elliott's defalcations have been discovered, have not a number of officers been looking into the accounts and trying to bring up the books to an efficient state?—Yes; we thought it better to put the matter into the hands of parties who were not actually connected with the office, so that there would be no wish to slur over or cover any blots that might be discovered. Commissary-General Adams, who was on half-pay, and an available staff of deputies under him on half-pay, were desired to go down and complete the whole of the arrears, and they are now doing so.

240. (Chairman.) When were they sent down?—Perhaps a fortnight or three weeks after Mr. Elliott's absconding. In the interim several committees were sent to inquire into the state of things.

241. I want to know when they went down. On the 4th June you were aware that the chairman of the Contracts Committee was to move for this Commission?—It was previous to that I think that Commissary Adams was sent down.

242. Mr. Elliott did not go away till the 23rd of May?—I thought it was long subsequently to that that the Royal Commission was spoken of.

243. We ought to know whether that inquiry was determined on, and the staff sent down before or after you had an intimation that this Commission was to be moved for?—As far as my memory serves me, I think we had no idea of the Royal Commission at the time that Commissary-General Adams was ordered upon that service. Commissary-General Adams received instructions to go down on the 10th June 1858.

244. (Mr. Turner.) Those officers are in course of their examination working at the books?—Yes.

245. Up to this time you have had no report so as to ascertain whether the stock actually existing at Weedon is correct, or whether they may not discover some very great defalcations?—No; we have not up to this date, nor shall we until Commissary Adams has posted the vouchers and completed the store ledger. There are two store ledgers due from Weedon, one for 1856–57. That is in the office and very nearly examined. Up to the present time they have discovered no discrepancies or irregularities. The store ledger which Commissary Adams is now completing will be up to the 1st of April 1858, in fact it will be up to the date of taking the remain on the 14th of May, and the balance then upon the store ledger, as compared with the remain, will display any deficiency or any surpluses, as may happen to be the case.

246. (Chairman.) Assuming the vouchers to be found, and that there is no discrepancy, you think that that would conclusively prove that there has been no dishonesty?—Certainly, and from all that I can learn I do not hear that anybody raises the slightest breath of suspicion as far as the store account goes. Mr. Elliott is deficient in his cash account, as you know.

247. Captain Gordon and various other persons have stated that it is utterly impossible that any investigation can enable any person to ascertain whether there is a defalcation or not?—Captain Gordon assumes that in consequence of his belief that many vouchers will be wanting. In order to recover those vouchers, we have issued a circular calling upon all the commanding officers of regiments to furnish an account of the receipts and issues to and from their regiments since the commencement of the establishment of Weedon. Then we know all the issues to the regiments abroad, because they take place through Messrs. Hayter and Howell, in Mark Lane. Their books will show distinctly every issue which has been made to regiments on foreign service; consequently, if we find on going over the account that certain vouchers are wanting at Weedon, we shall detect them by those two checks clearly and beyond all doubt. We shall prove that those issues actually did take place, although the vouchers are not there, and the stores so issued should be charged in the ledger. Commissary Adams told me that he should be able to complete a perfect store ledger from those materials. Captain Gordon, not knowing at the time, or not thinking in giving his evidence, that those two checks were available, at once said, presuming that many of the vouchers would be missing, that it was impossible to make up any correct store account. In my opinion it will be troublesome, but perhaps it may happen that Commissary Adams may not find that there are any of the vouchers missing; it is only assumed that there may be some missing. At all events when we get those returns they will be thoroughly checked. Before any accounts are sent in, all the ledgers from out stations are sent to this office, and every entry in the ledger is closely examined with the vouchers, and every discrepancy is noted down. Queries are sent to the accountant to answer before his store account can be passed, and that same process will be adopted with regard to the Weedon ledger.

248. (Mr. Turner.) I suppose you will have no difficulty whatever in making out the debit side of the ledger by knowing what articles have been contracted for and supplied by the payments to con-

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tractors in this office; cannot you by that means command an accurate debit side of the ledger?—Yes; there can be no doubt of that.

249. Your difficulty will be to ascertain how these various things have been accounted for?—Yes; issues may have been made without being properly entered, and no receipt obtained from the commanding officer to whom the stores were issued.

250. (*Chairman.*) You can get the amount contracted for accurately?—Yes; our payments will show that.

251. And you have got Captain Gordon's "remain," which we will assume was taken accurately?—There cannot be a doubt about that; for his own sake he would take that accurately.

252. Therefore if you find vouchers for issues to make up the balance, there has been no defalcation?—None whatever.

253. May there not appear a surplus instead of a deficiency in consequence of stores returned from regiments not having been taken in charge?—It is quite possible that that might be the case.

254. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did not they send a proper account of those returns?—Yes; but returned stores from abroad or from other places may not have been taken on charge.

255. (*Chairman.*) With those returned stores the Weedon establishment may not have debited itself?—No, possibly.

256. Are not there besides issues to regiments issues to contractors, and to other departments?—Not to contractors except returned stores, which would not be put upon the books.

257. I mean cloth, for instance, for the purpose of being made up into garments?—Yes.

258. They would not come back to Weedon?—No; but so much cloth would be used to make so many garments, and those garments would come to Mark Lane and be inspected, and issued by Hayter and Howell to the different regiments.

259. You have the opportunity, by means of Messrs. Hayter and Howell, of checking the account and tracing whether the articles came from Weedon or not?—Yes, because payments to Messrs. Hayter and Howell are made upon their issues.

260. (*Colonel French.*) It is hardly possible that Mr. Elliott could have charged the Government with stores issued to regiments which he did not send out; if he had done so, would not the regiments complain that they had not received the stores?—Certainly, and in the absence of any such complaint we may assume that no such frauds have taken place.

261. (*Chairman.*) It has been suggested that Mr. Elliott could not have gone away if he was only 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.* in debt, what is your impression upon that point?—My impression is that his character was altogether lost; he has gone away with a woman who was not his wife,—he is gone away with an actress; he knew that he was 2,000*l.* in arrears in his cash account; that his store account was in a sad mess, his ledger not posted, his vouchers missing, and so forth; these facts would have been brought to light, as now revealed; he would have lost his position, he would have been dismissed the service had he remained; consequently, in a pecuniary sense, he is better off by absconding, as he has obtained money from two or three parties. That is the only way I can reconcile it.

262. Was not Mr. Elliott frequently asking for additional assistance for the purpose of making up this very store ledger?—I do not know that it was for that purpose; the Weedon establishment had been over pressed during the war, and after the war ceased we were soon involved with China, sending 6,000 or 8,000 men to China, and before the Chinese expedition had reached its destination the Indian mutiny came, when there were 30,000 or 40,000 men sent out, besides an augmentation in the army, requiring, in the whole, clothing for 130,000 or 140,000 men, independently of the regular army; which brought an amount of pressure upon this

department that Mr. Elliott, being in arrear from the commencement, could never overtake. His arrears were accumulating, and he was always asking for more assistance, but still never was able to overcome the amount of work. His ledger became due in April, and it is usual to send up in six or eight weeks after the balance sheet. The storekeeper goes over his ledger, and examines it a second time, with his issue and receipt vouchers, so as to see that his ledger is correct; and after he has made this examination, his ledger is ready for transmission. It is not immediately called for from this office, nor until they are ready to go into an examination of it. There are ledgers from 70 or 80 places, the Engineers' departments, and others as well; in fact there are ledgers to be examined amounting to several hundreds. Mr. Elliott sent up his balance sheet, which was a very beautifully and clearly drawn up statement, and he was given great credit for having his posted ledger, and made a very perfect store ledger of it; but when he was called upon, in September I think it was, or in August, to send up his ledger, he then said he was examining it, and it would be ready in a short time, but requested that the ledger might be sent to Pall Mall, and a number of clerks to complete it. I desired that he should be informed that it was absolutely necessary for the storekeeper to complete his store ledger and to satisfy himself of the correctness of it before it left his department; that that duty could not be performed here, and he was to complete it and forward it without loss of time. Delays took place, and he asked for more assistance to complete his store ledger, and various questions arose until it was determined that Major Marvin should go down and report as to the actual amount of arrears existing in the department.

263. We shall possibly have Major Marvin before us, but as you have mentioned his report, is Sir Benjamin Hawes correct in thinking that he was rather taken in by Mr. Elliott?—I think that his report is most truthful so far as he knew, that he was perfectly honest and straightforward, but that he was most clearly deceived by Mr. Elliott, hoodwinked in every possible way. Major Marvin's report, so far as his honesty of intention is concerned, is not to be questioned, at least in my own mind, and I believe everybody in this department gives him credit for this; but he was deceived by this very clever Mr. Elliott, who appeared to be able to deceive everybody.

264. Have you any further report excepting Major Marvin's report?—Yes, there is the report of Messrs. Garrett and Baker, and Messrs. Garrett Baker, and Milton, and we have since sent out certain questions to Mr. Tatum to answer.

265. Is Mr. Tatum at Weedon?—No, he is at Malta; he is taking charge of the storekeeper's department at Malta; he was transferred to Malta before Mr. Elliott absconded, and as he was the second in the department at Weedon, immediately under Mr. Elliott, it was thought desirable to send him certain questions to answer. (*App. No. 5.*)

266. Was not Mr. Tatum at Weedon with Mr. Munro?—Yes.

267. There is a good deal of evidence upon the subject of "remains;" I find in the Ordnance regulations it is only provided that they should take place once in five years?—Yes.

268. Do you think that is sufficient?—Yes, with our system of surveys; the survey takes place annually.

269. Is that under the Ordnance regulations?—Yes; the storekeeper at a station requires to have notice given him when a "remain" is about to take place; he must make preparation for it; it is a very laborious operation; it takes five or six months to take a "remain" at the Tower or Woolwich, and requires twelve clerks or more to be employed upon that service, and therefore we should have to keep up a very large number of surplus clerks if the "remain"

was to be taken oftener than once in five years at the different stations throughout the United Kingdom. But a survey is made by an officer from this department, who is sent down without any intimation having been previously given to the storekeeper that he is coming. If it is at a naval port, Portsmouth, Chatham, or Devonport, there is a naval officer in conjunction with the army officer, and they are requested to inspect the stores, and see whether they are ready and fit for issue; they then pick out any particular kind of store they may think proper to have counted, and see whether the number actually in store corresponds with the number in the ledger; such articles as 13-inch shells at Woolwich, and boots at Weedon or anything else; they count all the boots, and see how many are in store, and whether they agree with the statement in the ledger. I get reports from the gentlemen after making their surveys; they report the state of the organization of the office, the state of the stores in charge of the storekeeper, and all other particulars, whether there are any surplus stores which can be made available for any other station, and in fact every other information which can be desired.

270. That is under the Ordnance regulation?—That is under the Ordnance regulation.

271. Can you refer me to that regulation? There is a regulation about half-yearly surveys, is there not?—During the war these “surveys” and “remains” were suspended, because it was found impracticable, under the pressure of the war, that they could be carried out. I am not aware whether it is here. It may be in a circular. I can give you a printed circular with reference to these surveys and remains. (App. No. 6 and No. 7.)

272. Would not that be as applicable to a clothing depôt as to a strictly military store?—Certainly.

273. But it could not be done from your description of it, unless the ledger was posted up, could it?—No.

274. The primary object is to ascertain the quality of the stores, is it not?—The object of the survey is to ascertain whether the stores are fit for issue.

275. And incidentally the persons conducting the survey have power to check the storekeeper's account?—Yes, by taking tale of any particular store that they may select.

276. You say that they would ascertain the correctness or incorrectness by reference to the ledger. Could they do so if the ledger was not posted up?—If the ledger was not posted up it would be difficult. That is one point he is to inquire into, to see that the books are properly posted.

277. But such a survey and inquiry were never made at Weedon?—No, it was not done at Weedon.

278. If it had been done, might not the non-posting of the store ledger have been discovered earlier?—Yes; I presume that the only reason why it was not done was from the pressure of the business. Weedon, as a clothing depôt, had been only a year and a half under the War Office, and the pressure of the time is the only excuse for it; there was really a difficulty in meeting the demands for clothing the army; the clerks were at work from 6 in the morning till 8 or 9 or 10 o'clock at night, and it would have been impossible for any of those men to have been taken off and put on a “remain.”

279. I am not speaking of a remain, but a survey. The Weedon establishment has been in operation since 1855?—Yes.

280. A remain has been taken upon Captain Gordon's accession to office, but no survey has been taken?—No; a remain is also a survey.

281. By whose direction would a survey take place?—By my direction; that is to say, I should submit to the Secretary of State a certain number of stations where a survey should be held; and, upon his approving of it, a survey would take place. I must tell you, that during the war these surveys

and remains were in abeyance, and they were only re-instituted lately.

282. Has any such survey, not remain, been taken since you became director of stores and clothing?—A remain took place at Weedon last year.

283. A remain would include a survey, but still more in detail?—Yes.

284. (*Colonel French.*) Do you or your assistant ever make a survey of the stores?—Yes, I visit different stations occasionally, but it is very difficult to get away to carry it out so fully as one would desire.

285. (*Chairman.*) The survey is by a Government officer, and not by what is called an independent person?—Yes.

286. You do not call in an independent person, but employ one of your own regular staff?—Yes, a person who knows distinctly the nature of the stores, and who can speak as to their fitness for service. The storekeeper is charged with keeping his stores in a perfectly serviceable state; and whenever he is doubtful as to any stores, he has a local survey. There is always a staff of officers at each station, who are qualified to form an opinion whether the stores are fit for service or not. If it is found upon examination that the stores are deteriorated by keeping, and that they are not fit for service, the storekeeper in his return would report the circumstance, putting them in three columns, as “serviceable,” “unserviceable,” or “repairable.” He would make that report to me, asking that his store charge might be altered to accord with this new state of things, as determined by the survey.

287. Have you any reason to suppose that any articles which have been in store at Weedon have become unserviceable?—None whatever. Some things may have become obsolete from change of pattern, but not from any damage arising from bad care.

288. You do not think that there has been any loss to the public from the fact that a survey has not been taken?—No.

289. (*Colonel French.*) Where a contractor for soldiers' kits sends them down, do they come complete in the knapsacks?—No; he sends down a case of socks or shirts, or a case of razors or shaving-brushes, or jackets, or whatever it is, and they are inspected separately before issuing, and afterwards they are made up and put together as one entire kit.

290. Would it not be a difficult thing, unless the articles were classified, to inspect them by a proper inspector?—Yes. The socks are put to one man, the shirts to another, the fatigue jackets to another, and so forth.

291. (*Chairman.*) Would an order to direct the sale of unserviceable stores come from you?—It comes from me. When a storekeeper finds that he has got an accumulation of old articles, which he wishes to get rid of, he reports the circumstance to me, stating the fact of their having been surveyed and found unserviceable or obsolete; or the reasons why he recommends their being disposed of. That report is submitted by me for approval to the Secretary of State or the Under Secretary of State; and when approved, orders are given to the storekeeper to carry it out.

292. Did you give evidence, or was it only Mr. Ramsay, upon the subject of a large number of boots being sold?—Mr. Ramsay. It was before I came into office. With regard to all the details of clothing matters, he will give you information, he having special charge of that branch.

293. So far as you know, is there any ground for the suggestion that a great number of boots went into store, and disappeared without anyone knowing what had become of them?—No; certainly not. It is impossible.

294. (*Colonel French.*) They would be discovered by this examination that is going on now under Commissary-General Adams?—Yes.

LONDON.

Capt. J. C.
Caffin, C.B.,
R.A.

23 July 1858.

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295. Supposing such a thing had occurred, that many thousand pairs of boots were taken out of store, would the examination which is now going on with respect to those stores discover it?—Yes; and Mr. Ramsay will show you a document by which you

will see exactly how many boots have been received since the commencement of our Weedon establishment, and how many have been issued by the regulations to meet the requirements of the army, making as close a tally of the two as it is possible.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

LONDON.

Saturday, 24th July 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

LONDON.

Sir T. V. Trou-
bridge, Bart.

24 July 1858.

Sir THOMAS VINCENT TROUBRIDGE, Bart., examined.

296. (*Chairman.*) You have already been very fully examined before the Committee on Contracts?—I gave that Committee all the information that it was in my power to give, with reference to the questions put to me.

297. You probably have had an opportunity of looking over your evidence?—Yes, I saw it afterwards and corrected it.

298. I will ask you generally, have you any alteration or modification to make in that evidence?—I went over the evidence rather hastily, for the purpose of correction. That evidence was only given in answer to questions which were put to me. I did not enter into any other subject, except in one particular instance, when I was asked whether I had any statement to make; with reference to some questions put in the previous part of the evidence, as to how the system was carried on, I stated that I had very little to say as to the system, so far as establishing it was concerned; I merely carried out the orders of my superiors; and the other answers were all with reference to special questions which were put to me.

299. I think your present official position is that of Deputy Adjutant-General?—Yes.

300. What office did you formerly occupy?—I was Director-General of Army Clothing.

301. I believe you held that post when the Weedon establishment was first set on foot?—Yes; it was established some six months after I had entered upon the duties of Director-General of Clothing.

302. You were cognizant, of course, of what then took place?—To a certain extent I was.

303. I presume you are familiar with the Ordnance regulations?—I have read them. I know the general regulations.

304. This Commission is appointed to inquire into the system upon which the establishment at Weedon was conducted. Will you state what instructions, if any, were given as to that system to the first superintendent?—I know that the ordinary letter was written, appointing Mr. Elliott storekeeper. He was desired to keep the books prescribed by the Ordnance regulations; and that letter, if you please, can be put in evidence before you. It was the usual official letter, signed by Mr. Richards, who was acting for the Director-General at the time; and in addition to that I desired Mr. Elliott to apply to me personally on every occasion when the slightest doubt arose. I told him that as it was a new establishment probably new questions would arise, and when they did he was always to communicate with me immediately, either by letter or personally. Those were the only directions that were given to him.

305. So far as you know, was any communication made to Mr. Elliott to the effect that the Ordnance regulations would not be applicable to Weedon?—I

should say the reverse, as far as my knowledge goes. When you have the letter appointing him before you, you will see that he is desired to keep such ledgers and books as are required, according to the custom of the service. I am not aware of any instructions to the contrary being given to him at any time.

306. The result was, that he did not keep books according to the Ordnance regulation system?—So it appears.

307. If I understand, your impression is, that the irregularities and the result of those irregularities have arisen not from the adoption of the Ordnance system, but from the deviation from it?—Precisely.

308. You are now Deputy Adjutant-General?—Yes, and I have been so since February 1857.

309. I think you have stated in your evidence before the Committee on Contracts, that you left the office of director of clothing before any discovery took place of the irregularities at Weedon?—Before any books had been submitted in accordance with the Ordnance regulations. The period had not arrived at which the first books would be submitted for examination.

310. Nor had any survey been taken?—No.

311. Can you tell me why a survey was not taken?—Surveys are only taken periodically, at intervals of three years generally; and as the establishment at Weedon had only been just started, there was very little to survey. At the period I left the office, there was very little in store at Weedon, comparatively.

312. I am not speaking of a remain so much as a survey. Is there not an annual survey provided for by the Ordnance regulations?—I think by the Ordnance regulations the regular taking of stock is only done triennially.

313. Is that the case with marine clothing?—I do not know.

314. Do not you think it would be an advantage to have a more frequent taking of stock?—Yes, if it were not attended with too much expense.

315. Will you be good enough to look at the 420th Regulation (*handing a book to the witness*)?—"When there is reason to suspect any stores to be unfit for service;" but what little there was at Weedon was quite new. I doubt if there were any such stores, because the clothing previously had been supplied to the soldiers under the old system, and I should not think anything had been six months in store at that time.

316. Do you apprehend that those words, "when there is any reason to suspect," override all the subsequent regulations?—I should think in a totally new establishment the stores received, probably about the beginning of 1856, were issued in many cases almost as rapidly as they were received, and it would have

been almost a work of supererogation to take stock at that period. If there had been any reason to suspect any irregularities a year afterwards, then of course a taking of stock would have been justified; but this regulation applies more to an old established store which has been going on for many years, and where there is an accumulation of old stores, and so forth, than to an entirely new establishment. At Weedon there were no old stores whatever; in fact we could hardly get the stores with sufficient rapidity to issue to the troops.

317. By the time you have mentioned, namely, Christmas 1856, there must have been a very large quantity of stores at Weedon, for instance, boots, of which we have heard so much?—Those were sent from the Tower, and were taken over. It was a special case, because those boots were inspected by a special Board and reported upon. Some were set aside as perfectly fit for use, and consequently no other survey would be held upon them, and others were condemned to be sold.

318. Why was there a special survey?—It was owing to complaints made by the regiments.

319. But there was no annual or half-yearly survey at Weedon?—No.

320. Do you think, as a general rule, it is desirable that such a survey should be held, so far as you can form a judgment?—Yes; the moment the store becomes permanently established. This rule has been framed probably from long experience, and ought to be carried on as a matter of course.

321. You cannot tell me whether any surveys are held in the Marine Department?—I have no knowledge of that at all.

322. I presume you have not had occasion to visit Weedon yourself?—No, never.

323. Or to inquire during the period that you were in office whether the Ordnance regulations had been adhered to by Mr. Elliott?—No; I had no opportunity of going into the question. With a man of his very long standing and experience it would have been tantamount to an imputation to have questioned his proceedings at first starting. I was in constant communication personally with him, and he seemed to me to be the most intelligent active man possible, and thoroughly conversant with his duties in every way; it never even occurred to me to ask him any such question.

324. Who would be his immediate superior to whom his accounts should be transmitted?—At the proper time they would have come to the Under Secretary of State, and I presume it would have been my duty to have looked into them. Of course the financial accounts would have gone to the Accountant-General.

325. Officially they would have come to the Under-Secretary of State?—Yes; and they would have come to me. I presume the accounts that were due in August 1857 would have come to me. An abstract of the accounts, I believe, did come to the office.

326. Personally and practically, you know necessarily but little of the actual conduct of the establishment at Weedon?—I know very little indeed. I know that Mr. Elliott frequently made applications, both in writing and personally, for additional assistance.

327. Were those applications made to you?—They were made to me; they came through me and went on.

328. Have you seen Major Marvin's report in the Appendix to the Contracts' Committee and Mr. Elliott's letter?—I have not read it very carefully. I have seen it.

329. Mr. Elliott says that not a month passed without urgent representations from him as to the deficient establishment at Weedon?—I think it is very probable; we started with a very small staff, and, of course, as the work accumulated, it was necessary to increase the staff. I think the staff was not increased in proportion to the increase of the work.

330. If you had sent down a larger staff at first, might not there have been a complaint that the public money was being wasted by that being done?—Just so. It was understood, when Mr. Elliott first started, that he should communicate whenever he required assistance, according to the work to be done, and that he would get that assistance as fast as he wanted it.

331. So far as you had an opportunity did you send him such additional assistance or recommend such additional assistance?—I always recommended that such assistance should be given immediately.

332. There were applications to be made to the Treasury for their sanction, were there not?—Yes; the estimates, and so forth, had to be taken into consideration; at the time he said, "I must be in arrear, if I cannot get the assistance I require; wait till you get an increased establishment before you throw additional work upon me."

333. Do not you conceive now, judging after the event, that if Mr. Elliott's applications had been more promptly attended to, that the arrears which are now causing so much difficulty would have been considerably diminished?—I have no doubt that if Mr. Elliott had had the assistance that he asked for at the time he would have had no arrears whatever; there is no reason to suppose that he would. He reported in the strongest way possible to me personally and in writing, and to Mr. Ramsay, who will tell you the same. You will probably see the actual applications that he made; the letters are numerous; they are very good letters, showing that it was impossible to expect that a new establishment could go on without assistance proportionate to the work thrown upon him. The work increased sometimes most rapidly. When the militia was called out the work was nearly doubled in the course of one week, and yet assistance was very sparingly given, so that it was almost impossible to avoid having arrears at that period.

334. I suppose I may take it that each addition of a man of intelligence to the establishment was in some sort a check upon Mr. Elliott as to dishonesty and irregularity?—I think so. There was never the slightest doubt of his honesty in any way. He told us that he was in arrear frequently.

335. Have you read a letter of Mr. Elliott to Major Marvin?—I think I have. I do not at this moment remember it.

336. Perhaps Mr. Ramsay can, equally well with yourself, inform us whether that letter is substantially correct?—Yes. Mr. Elliott strongly pressed upon Mr. Ramsay the necessity of giving him the increased assistance that he required. I discussed the matter with Mr. Ramsay, and Mr. Ramsay was equally anxious with myself to get it, but there were official reasons always given for not increasing the staff.

337. Would your joint representation, or rather your representation with Mr. Ramsay's concurrence, go to the Secretary of State for War?—Yes; I presume so.

338. You had nothing to do with the non-compliance with the request?—No, quite the reverse. I was extremely anxious that Mr. Elliott should have the assistance. I urged it in every way in my power. I felt that the establishment must be in arrear unless Mr. Elliott got the assistance which he asked for.

339. In your present position you have nothing to do with the actual inspection of the clothing?—Nothing whatever; my duties with regard to inspection of clothing are confined to sealing one of each suit which accompanies the annual supply, for the purpose of comparison.

340. (*Colonel French.*) Was your department as Director of clothing and stores created in consequence of the supply of clothing and necessaries being taken from the colonels by the Government?—Yes; it then became necessary to have a department for the supply of clothing.

341. Did not that change create a great deal of additional work in the department at Weedon?—The

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depôt at Weedon was not established till six months after my appointment.

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342. Still this department afterwards existed at Weedon, did it not, for the supply of soldiers' necessities?—The supply of the free kits in kind increased the work at Weedon considerably.

343. And the necessities?—Yes. Militia necessities in kind; that was one of the occasions on which Mr. Elliott represented the necessity of having increased assistance.

344. (*Mr. Turner.*) May not the Commissioners infer, although great blame has been attached to Mr. Elliott, both for his irregularities in the keeping of his books, and also for his defalcations in money, that there is a degree of blame attaching to his superiors for not supplying him with the requisite assistance which he was continually writing for?—I have very little doubt that his duties could have been carried on more efficiently with an increased staff.

345. Which staff, in your opinion, should have been supplied if accuracy was expected?—Certainly.

346. (*Colonel French.*) Had the statements of stock, and so forth, come to you from Mr. Elliott, what means would you have had of checking them?—Very little, personally; it depends upon what form they came in. I do not exactly understand the tenor of the question.

347. You said that those should have come in August; if they had come, what mode would you have had of checking them?—It depends very much upon the mode in which the accounts were made out; we should have devised some mode, I presume, from our books of checking the number of men who had been provided with clothing; all the requisitions come to the office here for clothing, and all the receipts of clothing at the regiments; I presume, if a great deal more clothing appeared to be issued than could be accounted for, we should have some check.

348. It would be necessary that you should check the accounts?—Yes; I presume we should have gone into them to a certain extent, but never having received such statements I am not competent to say what system would have been pursued.

349. (*Chairman.*) Who would have been the officer to have investigated that account if it had come?—The head of the clothing branch; it would have been his duty to have investigated in a general way with regard to the totals, I presume.

350. You never had any such account, you say?—No; I have no knowledge of the form in which they were rendered. I should certainly have thought it my duty to check the totals; we should have seen that we had supplied so many men at an average of so much, so as to have an approximate idea; the financial part would have gone to the Accountant-General.

351. That would be done in the Accountant-General's department?—Yes; I should probably have thought it my duty to have devised some sort of general check upon the quantity and number of stores issued; we know precisely how many men have been clothed, and we should have devised some general check of that sort.

352. Supposing the store ledger to have been properly made up, should you have had materials in this office by which to have checked it?—Yes; every requisition went through this office, and every report of transmission, so that, knowing what had been ordered and what had been issued we should have been able to have had some check.

353. That would apply to issues from Weedon, as well as to receipts at Weedon?—We should know what the storekeeper ought to have received and what he ought to have issued.

354. (*Colonel French.*) Did not the requisitions from the regiments for clothing or necessities come to you at your department?—As Director-General of Army Clothing the requisitions came direct to me, and we took the necessary steps on the receipt of them to provide the different things.

355. Did you send an order to Weedon to issue?—Yes; either cloth, or necessities, or garments made

up, as the case might be; every requisition, was seen by me before any issues were made.

356. (*Chairman.*) Mr. Elliott, during your tenure of office as Director of Clothing, never made any requisition as storekeeper for supplies, I suppose?—Mr. Elliott made requisitions for what he wanted for the use of the office, for packing and carpentering, and that kind of thing.

357. You are aware that there is an obligation with respect to every established store, that the storekeeper shall keep a certain quantity?—Yes.

358. The establishment at Weedon, I believe, never arrived at that stage?—No; it was originally intended that there should be two years' supply, and we started on that understanding, but owing to the emergencies of the service we could hardly get enough to meet the exigencies of the moment.

359. (*Mr. Turner.*) Still, I suppose that, although the receipts and the issues were close upon each other, so that there was scarcely any stock on hand, Mr. Elliott was expected to keep a regular account of all that he received and all that he issued, in a minute manner?—Such an account ought to have been kept, and probably it would have been kept, if he had had sufficient assistance; I do not suppose that he had any object in not doing so.

360. There is an examination now going on by efficient persons with a view to post up the books, and to find out the real state of the accounts. As Mr. Elliott has been found deficient in his money account, would there be any great reason to feel surprised if it turned out that some thousands of articles of clothing had found their way to some other quarter, and had never been accounted for in the public service?—I should be surprised; I do not expect that that will be the result. A slight discrepancy might arise from the loss of certain documents.

361. (*Colonel French.*) You have stated that the order for the supplies of regiments came through you to Mr. Elliott?—Not always directly to Mr. Elliott; all the requisitions from the regiments came to me.

362. Mr. Elliott received some of them?—Whatever we wished actually issued. The requisitions came to us from the regiments, and we ordered, for instance, tunics; they are divided into a number of parts, and we might have ordered cloth and buttons and linings, and so forth, from different people, and entered into contracts for them to be delivered at Weedon, and then Mr. Elliott had to issue certain quantities of those things to the contractors who made up the garments, so that it is not as if the requisition passed from me directly to Weedon to be carried out.

363. Would not that constitute a check against Mr. Elliott, or any other person's report?—Yes; that is why I say that when his accounts came in I think we could have checked them to a certain extent by the requisitions which we had received.

364. (*Chairman.*) To revert for one moment to the question of survey, or taking stock. If the stock at Weedon was in the main generally so low, in consequence of the demand upon it, would not that have facilitated the taking of stock?—As Mr. Elliott was always complaining that he had not enough staff to carry on the daily indispensable work, he could ill have afforded any time, or any clerk's time, to take any stock; it would have been impossible. Had we pressed him to do so he would have said, as he continually said, that he was obliged to leave undone what he considered of importance for the sake of the actual work of the day. There were regiments pressing from every quarter for things to be issued and sent out, and if there was no time to post ledgers, still less was there time to take stock.

365. Is the taking stock in Government stores done generally by the staff which is occupied in the daily work of the store?—I have no real knowledge upon that subject. I should think so; in a foreign station they would not be likely to have any extra assistance. There are stores all over the world. It is done by the "respective officers," as laid down in

the Ordnance regulations; but those were not entirely applicable to the store under Mr. Elliott, which was a new establishment, and could not be expected to be guided altogether by those regulations.

366. (*Mr. Turner.*) When the remain is ascertained, or the stock taken, which is the same operation, do the same officers who keep the stock report the remain by counting, and so forth?—The check on the storekeeper is that of the “respective officers,” but that check did not exist with regard to Weedon. I doubt whether the “respective officers” had anything to say to Weedon, or did interfere in any way.

367. At Weedon, in your opinion, it really amounts to what I say, that the same persons who kept the stock reported the stock on hand?—Yes; they have no check of the “respective officers,” as laid down in the Ordnance regulations.

368. Therefore the accurate reporting of the remains entirely depended upon their honesty?—Entirely.

369. In fact, owing to Mr. Elliott having a short staff, both for keeping books and also as inspectors, and so forth, he could scarcely be expected to observe any very great regularity?—Certainly not.

370. (*Chairman.*) The lowness of the stock, as I understand you, would be no sign that a large staff would not be necessary?—I should say quite the reverse. Mr. Elliott had a great deal of correspondence to hasten the delivery of articles required for issue.

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373. (*Chairman.*) You are at present Assistant Director of Stores and Clothing, I believe?—Yes.

374. I believe you have already been examined some twelve times by the Contracts' Committee?—A considerable number of times.

375. As we have said to Sir Thomas Troubridge, we do not desire to take you in detail through the evidence which you have already given; I will ask you generally whether we may consider that evidence as re-stated by you before us?—Certainly.

376. If it should occur to you that there is any qualification or any modification of it that you wish to make, will you be good enough to intimate that to us at some time before the close of our inquiry?—I do not think there is any qualification that I should make of that evidence, further than regarding the appointment of Mr. Elliott, upon which I think there has been some misunderstanding.

377. How long have you been Assistant Director of Stores and Clothing?—I was appointed Assistant Director of Clothing in June 1855.

378. Before the date of the Weedon establishment?—Before Weedon was established.

379. The Weedon establishment was framed, I think, in the autumn or the close of the year 1855?—On the 1st of December, 1855, Mr. Elliott received his appointment as storekeeper for the clothing department at Weedon.

380. As to that appointment, Sir Thomas Troubridge was examined before the Contracts' Committee; and although names were not given, it was quite clear that Mr. Elliott was the person referred to. You were also, I may say, a party to the appointment, —I mean that the merits of the candidates were discussed by you?—No; the person who is solely responsible for that appointment is the Secretary of State—it was made entirely by him. Perhaps I may be allowed to explain one circumstance, which is, that two candidates were not named at all. There has been an impression gone abroad amongst the public that there were two candidates,—that A and B were submitted to the Director General, that A was a moral man and B was an immoral man, and that the Director of Clothing recommended A, and B was taken contrary to his advice; that is the impression, which is not correct.

381. (*Mr. Turner.*) By a “moral man,” you do

371. May not lowness of stock arise from two sources, first, that the stock never had been there, and next, that it came in rapidly and went out rapidly?—That was the case the whole of the time I was in office. It was with the greatest difficulty we could get enough cloth for the exigencies of the moment.

372. (*Mr. Turner.*) I presume the operations at Weedon are in some degree analogous to those in a large business establishment. Where there is great activity in the transaction of business, and therefore a lowness of stock, there is more work for everybody employed; whereas when business is not brisk warehouses are piled up with goods which are unsaleable, and there is very little work for the hands and officials?—Quite so. I wish to say that I speak with great diffidence upon questions of examination of accounts. I really have no practical knowledge upon the subject, never having received any storekeeper's accounts. I wish everything that I have said upon the subject, as to how I would have checked Mr. Elliott's accounts if they had been received during my stay here, to be received as not of much value, because I really know very little about it. I had not an opportunity of making myself acquainted with that part of the duties, therefore nothing I have said can have much weight. Mr. Ramsay having had a practical opportunity of checking accounts will be able to give you much better information.

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not mean to refer to anything dishonest, but only as to personal conduct?—I simply refer to this: it was reported to the Board of Ordnance some time before Mr. Elliott took Weedon, that he had deserted his wife and was living with another woman; and when he was recommended to the appointment at Weedon, it was understood, and in fact it was the case, that he had gone back to his wife. This was the only charge in a moral point of view against Mr. Elliott's character.

382. Of course I need not ask you whether there was the slightest suspicion of his honesty?—Not the least; he had served in Canada, where he had been entrusted with great powers and he had fulfilled his duties to the satisfaction of everybody.

383. (*Chairman.*) The formal appointment of Mr. Elliott was of course by letter?—It was by letter.

384. We have asked other witnesses whether, at the time of his appointment, he received any intimation that the system at Weedon was to be conducted, as far as might be, by the Ordnance regulations?—I have got the letter of appointment here.

385. Will you be good enough to read it?—“War Department, Pall Mall, 1st December 1855. “Sir,—Lord Panmure having been pleased to approve “of your appointment as storekeeper for the Army “Clothing Department, I have to request you will “assume the charge of the depôt at Weedon with the “least possible delay. In carrying on the duties “connected with that appointment, you will communicate with and receive your orders from the “Director-General of Army Clothing, through whom “you will submit your requisitions both for money “and stores. You will also keep a cash and a store “ledger, upon the forms of which, or of the requisite “vouchers to substantiate your accounts, it will be “unnecessary to add to the information which your “own experience will suggest. On assuming charge “at Weedon you will take over from Mr. Cooper the “clothing stores which have been placed temporarily “in his care, giving him a receipt for the same, and “bringing them on your charge, a report of which “you will make to this office.—I am, Sir, your most “obedient, humble servant, J. W. RICHARDS, for “Director-General.”

386. Although that letter contains no express mention of the Ordnance regulations, yet knowing that

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Mr. Elliott had been previously employed as an Ordnance storekeeper, do you deem that to be tantamount to saying that he is to adhere to the Ordnance regulations?—Yes; in fact he had been an Ordnance storekeeper for upwards of twenty years, and he received books and vouchers from this office to carry on his duties according to the Ordnance regulations.

387. I gathered yesterday from Sir Benjamin Hawes that he was rather under the impression that Mr. Elliott had been told at the time of his appointment that the Ordnance regulations could not be applicable to Weedon?—Only in one point of view had he any authority to depart from the Ordnance regulations. According to the Ordnance regulations the storekeeper is held responsible for keeping up a proper store of articles. He is bound to take the initiative in providing stores, and that was departed from; because, in fact, there were no stores of clothing, and we had to order the things from contractors. The contractors were told to deliver the articles at Weedon, and the storekeeper received a notification that certain stores were ordered, and that he was to inspect them and take them in charge. Then he received orders to issue, and that was the only point in which the Ordnance regulations were departed from.

388. Because they were not applicable?—Because there were no stores.

389. As regards the account of receipts and issues, he was to be guided by the general rules?—Yes; and if you refer to Major Marvin's report, which I think you have, you will see that one of the points which he was to ascertain was whether Mr. Elliott's accounts were kept according to the Ordnance regulations.

390. Were any other instructions given to Mr. Elliott excepting those which are contained in that letter of appointment?—No other instructions were given.

391. Did you make visits to Weedon from time to time?—I have been to Weedon as far as I could get away from my duties here, three or four times.

392. Were those visits by appointment, or did you drop down there unexpectedly?—I went down there unexpectedly three or four times.

393. Did you take any steps, or consider it necessary to take any steps, to overhaul the establishment, if I may use the expression?—I looked at Mr. Elliott's books, his letter book and the contract ledger, but his first store ledger was not due till the 1st of August 1857.

394. Had you so much reliance in him that you did not think it necessary to inquire whether he was in fact pursuing the proper course?—Yes.

395. Did he verbally upon that occasion communicate to you the difficulty he was in as to the arrears?—No; the only time that I knew that he was in arrears with his ledger was when Mr. Tatum, who was a military storekeeper, was sent down to assist him in October 1857.

396. Did not you know before then that Mr. Elliott had made frequent applications for assistance?—He had made frequent applications; but I do not think in any of those applications he ever said that the work of the dépôt was in arrear; but he grounded his applications for assistance upon this, the extra time the clerks had to work. I do not think he said that the work was getting into arrear.

397. Did not Mr. Elliott from time to time frequently remonstrate as to the arrears?—I will not be sure about that. I do not think he exactly mentioned that he was in arrear.

398. He says, "on the 13th July 1857, I was again constrained, in most forcible terms, to bring the necessity for further immediate assistance before the director of stores, representing the inevitable arrears which were accumulating in the posting of books, and that nothing more could be done with the hands at my disposal; that to meet the current orders and issues of the day that arrear was accumulating on all sides around me." He then says, that monthly,

during the twelve months, he was continually representing that arrears were accumulating in consequence of the insufficiency of his staff?—I think he had all the assistance that he asked for, although that assistance certainly was not given as soon as it ought to have been, but that arose from the number of inquiries which had to be made. In the first place, there was the application to the Treasury, and, as you are well aware, the Treasury are always anxious to keep down the growth of a public establishment, and therefore we could not go to the Treasury until we had made a full inquiry as to what assistance was absolutely necessary. Mr. Elliott got the assistance that he required, though in most instances it was delayed longer than it should have been.

399. But even without Mr. Elliott's representations, knowing the pressure there was upon the establishment at Weedon, and that it was rapidly growing into an extensive dépôt, did it not occur to you or to your superior officer that more assistance was requisite?—Yes; but we did not like to give that assistance without absolutely knowing that it was positively necessary. When Mr. Elliott first began to apply for assistance, I think, was July 1857.

400. Sir Thomas Troubridge would have nothing to do with those applications for assistance after he left this office?—No.

401. Sir Thomas Troubridge says that he conferred with you, and you both agreed in backing Mr. Elliott's applications for further help?—Yes; it was in July 1857 that his applications became very urgent and pressing, in consequence of the mutiny in India, which occasioned an increase to the army. I think just before Sir Thomas Troubridge went away, in November or December 1856, Mr. Elliott made an application for some more clerks, which he got afterwards.

402. He got some in the month of March; that would have been just after Sir Thomas Troubridge left?—Yes.

403. (*Mr. Turner.*) What length of time did your visits usually occupy at Weedon?—I used generally to go down for the day. I used to go through the stores and see the inspection rooms.

404. And during that day's visit did you look at the letter-book and correspondence?—I looked at the letter-book and the contractors' ledger, which contained receipts from contractors.

405. Of course you could not give any very minute inspection in a visit of a single day?—No.

406. Having heard of the want of assistance which Mr. Elliott wrote about, did you, during your visit, ascertain what grounds there were for those repeated applications, and inspect the state of his books, in order to see whether they were very much in arrear?—When I went down to Weedon I ascertained that Mr. Elliott's applications for assistance were all well founded, and I always recommended them strongly.

407. Can you give us any idea as to how many months his ledgers were then unposted?—I think Major Marvin states that in his report.

408. At all events, it was for several months that the ledgers were unposted?—The ledger was, I think, five months in arrear.

409. Ascertaining that upon your visit to Weedon, did not you think it necessary to make a more forcible application in the proper quarter, to the Treasury, or wherever the matter had to be decided, as to furnishing Mr. Elliott with the necessary means of keeping the books correctly?—Yes; and in October he got the assistance of ten clerks and two experienced officers, Mr. Tatum and Mr. Munro.

410. Was not that after there had been some vague suspicion created that he was a little irregular?—I do not know. I do not think that we had any suspicion that he was so irregular. We had a suspicion, more from his want of any knowledge whatever of military details, that he had not conducted the business satisfactorily; and so far back as August 1857 I strongly recommended the removal of Mr. Elliott to Dublin,

and that Captain Gordon should take his place ; on account of Captain Gordon having had military experience, it was thought that he would carry on the duties in a more satisfactory manner than Mr. Elliott did.

411. That was only from the idea that he did not understand the work that was given to him, not that you had any suspicion of irregularity ?—Yes.

412. (*Chairman.*) I think Sir Benjamin Hawes has told us, if not he has told the Contracts' Committee, (Parliamentary Paper, 1858, No. 328, Q. 6476,) that the balance sheet which was then sent up required further explanation, and the ledger was asked for. The ledger did not come, and I think the expression he used was "Mr. Elliott fenced with us" ?—That was after we had decided upon the removal of Mr. Elliott.

413. I thought it was in consequence of that ?—No ; Mr. Elliott's removal was brought under consideration in August 1857, and it was finally determined in September 1857, but the exchange could not then take place, because it was thought inconvenient to make the exchange before the storekeeper in Dublin had made his annual demands, which he makes in November and December, for the whole year.

414. Then that alteration, in your judgment, was discussed independently of any suspicion that things were going wrong at Weedon ?—Entirely.

415. Had you not an opportunity upon those visits to Weedon of inquiring whether the regulations as to inspectors and storeholders being different persons were adhered to ?—Mr. Elliott assured me that those regulations were adhered to. I did not think it necessary to make further inquiry.

416. Did not you know of what the staff consisted ?—I knew of what the staff consisted.

417. I think there is a return of that staff to be found in one of these appendices ?—Yes.

418. Does that show a different set of persons ?—That shows that he had inspectors, that he had viewers, and that he had foremen of stores.

419. Whether he used them for the purposes for which they were required you do not know ?—According to the regulations, directly the goods received were inspected the inspectors ought to have handed them over to the foremen ; but instead of that Mr. Elliott used his foremen simply as issuers.

420. Or as clerks—at all events, some of the additional men who were sent down were asked for as storeholders ?—Yes.

421. And when they went down did not Mr. Elliott make use of them as clerks ?—He appropriated some of them as clerks instead of using them for the purpose for which they ought to have been used, namely, as storeholders.

422. So that in reality the inspector was the storeholder, or, the storeholder was an imaginary person ?—So far he was an imaginary person, that when Major Marvin went down he was produced by Mr. Elliott, who told him, "This is the man who receives the stores from the inspector."

423. Do you know who that was ?—Major Marvin will tell you all that.

424. We have been looking to the Ordnance regulation with reference to taking stock, or what you call "taking remains." As regards surveys, does the term "survey" in the Ordnance regulation apply merely to an investigation as to the quality of the articles when there is any suspicion about them, or does it mean a sort of stock-taking ?—Regulation 432 provides that there shall be a survey for the purpose of ascertaining the quantities and condition of the stores.

425. How often is that to be taken ?—According to the old Ordnance practice it used to be taken once a year, but that practice of necessity fell into abeyance during the war time ; in fact it would have been practically impossible to have carried it out during the war time.

426. Why ?—The storekeeper, particularly at a station like Weedon, when they were working from hand to mouth, could not have carried it out.

427. Not perhaps with an over-taxed staff, but would not the lowness of the stock facilitate taking it ?—You would have had to increase the storekeeper's staff. I do not think you could have put that duty upon the storekeeper.

428. Is the stock-taking always conducted by the regular officers of the establishment ?—No ; there is the storekeeper himself, and there is an officer on the part of the Director of Stores, who is an experienced clerk in the office here, and there is an officer of the army or navy, as the case may be.

429. The only person specially engaged in that stock-taking belonging to the establishment would be the storekeeper himself ?—Yes ; but he would have to engage a number of clerks, and labourers would be taken off their employment to assist him.

430. Has that rule fallen into desuetude generally ?—During the war time, but it is revived again.

431. And will be annual ?—Yes.

432. No survey appears to have been taken at Weedon, from its establishment in 1855, till the remain was taken by Captain Gordon on the 14th of May last ?—Mr. Elliott was appointed on the 1st of December 1855 ; he only began to receive his stores in the spring of 1856 ; then in the autumn of 1857 it was decided upon removing him, and it was thought advisable to delay taking the remain till his successor arrived.

433. Does not the half-yearly survey, which is mentioned in regulation 422, rather refer to the quality and state of the stores than to the quantity of the stores ?—Yes. It is to guard against the stores deteriorating, that is what the half-yearly survey is for.

434. Will you be good enough to look at regulation 415, with respect to remains, which are to be quinquennial ?—That is the stock-taking, where every article is counted. There is a great difference between stock-taking and a survey.

435. I can understand the difference between stock-taking and a survey for the purpose of ascertaining the state of the stores. I thought the survey that you spoke of, which was taken annually, was a survey as to quantity as well as quality ?—It is a survey as to quantity according to the books. It is not a survey as to quantity by actual counting.

436. What is the object of that survey ?—In fact a survey is what you may call a cursory stock-taking.

437. There might be a deficiency which that survey would not discover ?—A survey is for this purpose : take the case of a large store, such as Portsmouth, the storekeeper is charged with a certain quantity of stores, and a survey is made of those stores ; and then according to the ledger they see whether the balance of receipts and issues tallies. They do not count strictly every article like they do in stock-taking, where they actually count every barrel of cartridges, and every musket, every sword, every pair of shoes, and every thing.

438. Then it is a survey of the books rather than a survey of the articles ?—It is a survey of the books, and a survey to see the condition of the store altogether.

439. There were no store ledgers at Weedon to survey, even if you had been desirous of surveying them ?—That is the point. Mr. Elliott ought to have had a store ledger.

440. In point of fact there was no annual survey at Weedon, and if there had been there were no materials for making it ?—If a survey had taken place the storekeeper would have been called upon to account for the arrears in his ledger, because the only book that was in arrear was his ledger. He had his other books, such as his contract ledger and his letter-books.

441. You could not have made the yearly survey of which you now speak upon the materials which then existed at Weedon ?—Certainly not, because the

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ledgers were not posted. But according to the store-keeper's own statement materials for posting his ledgers were in such a state that he could post his ledgers with the greatest facility, it was only a matter of time.

442. (*Mr. Turner.*) Am I to understand you that every five years there is an actual stock-taking by counting, to ascertain that the articles which appear in the books are actually present bodily?—Yes.

443. That is a real *bonâ fide* taking of an account?—It is.

444. But what you call your survey, even when the books are perfectly kept, amounts, as far as I understand it, to this, does it not, that you have a survey, the books are balanced, and they show, taking one article, that you have 200,000 pairs of boots according to the books?—Yes.

445. The books are checked by the deliveries and the issues?—Yes.

446. Then the person surveying goes into the store, and looks at the stock of boots?—Yes.

447. Is that all that he does?—He would do still more; for instance, take the case of the storekeeper at Portsmouth, where there is a great number of miscellaneous articles; the surveying officer might take one article, for example, a case of gun sponges; he would see according to the ledger that there were perhaps 1,500 gun sponges received and 1,000 issued, therefore the storekeeper's stock ought to be 500 gun sponges. The surveying officers might count those 500, and then in fact when the surveying officers make a report they report as to the manner in which the books are kept, and generally as to the quality of the stores, and also generally as to the arrangements of the storekeeper. There was a survey the other day at Portsmouth, and the papers could be produced, if you wish, which would show exactly what a survey is.

448. I understand you that in order to make this survey a really efficient check, the surveying officer fixes upon some article, it may be gun sponges, and says, "Now with respect to this one article I will go further than surveying them; I will have them counted, and ascertain if that particular article is strictly correct, and then I may infer that the others are correct;" is that the case?—I cannot say whether it is done, but the surveying officer is at liberty to do it if he pleases.

449. That is the theory?—Yes.

450. What is the practice?—I could show you the practice by producing the report that was made on the Portsmouth case.

451. I should like to know, as you are an experienced officer in this department, whether this is really done, or whether it is only imagined as a good plan?—The only way in which I could show it would be to put in the report of a surveying officer.

452. Do not you know, of your own knowledge, the fact whether the counting takes place?—No.

453. Do you see any value in the theory without the practice?—I think the survey is more to ascertain the condition, to ascertain the quality of the stores, to ascertain the general arrangements of the storekeeper, and to ascertain generally whether his books are properly kept—whether he performs his duty properly.

454. In answer to my question about boots, you took another article, and you said that at Portsmouth on a survey they might count 500 gun sponges; I wish to know whether that is really done?—I should suppose that any surveying officer, acting on the part of the Director of Stores, would take some steps to satisfy himself before signing his report.

455. (*Chairman.*) Is the Portsmouth report a long one?—No; I can produce it.

456. (*Mr. Turner.*) I have been assuming hitherto in the survey that the books are properly kept, and that the surveyor has the means, if he chooses to take the trouble, of ascertaining in any one article that the actual stock corresponds with the books?—Yes.

457. I fancy that nothing was done at Weedon; and that you had no books showing the state of the stock, and therefore the surveyor could not have the means of ascertaining whether the stock in any article corresponded with the books?—No; we only ascertained the stock on the 14th of May last; on the 14th of May last we ascertained exactly what the stock was.

458. I put this question to a previous witness, and I will put it to you; Mr. Elliott has absconded, as it is supposed, in consequence of deficiencies in his money accounts?—Yes.

459. That money deficiency has been ascertained to be about 2,300*l.*?—Yes.

460. You have not ascertained yet anything with regard to the accuracy of his stores?—We have ascertained so far, that Mr. Elliott's store ledger, up to the 31st March 1857, is now under examination, and will be entirely completed in about a fortnight, and as far as it has been examined as yet, there are very few inaccuracies; there are the same kind of inaccuracies that might occur with any very careful storekeeper.

461. You have found, or the officers have found, the vouchers for the deliveries and the vouchers for the issues pretty complete?—Yes.

462. The officers can post the books accurately from those vouchers, so as to give an account, so far as the books show it?—Yes.

463. In time you will have the books posted up and everything will be accurate, so far as the books are concerned?—The next ledger will be made up to the 14th of May, at the time that Captain Gordon took the charge; that ledger is not due; it is due four months after the 14th of May, so that we shall have it in about four or five months.

464. (*Chairman.*) You mean from May?—It is not due till the 14th of September.

465. (*Mr. Turner.*) At what period shall you be able to ascertain whether the existing stock of each article corresponds with the books when they are so made up?—I should think when the ledger is received, supposing it to be received about the 14th of September, it will take about six weeks or two months to be examined in this office.

466. That will perhaps be by the end of October?—Yes.

467. Up to what period will those books, when they are so checked, affect the balance which ought to exist?—Up to the 14th of May last.

468. In October you will know what there should have been on hand in May?—Yes.

469. Was anything done in May, by which you can ascertain whether the actual stock corresponded in May with the state of the books as finally checked and ascertained, which, you say, will not be done till October?—We could not do it because the books were not checked.

470. You will not ascertain the state of the books till October, but you should at all events have ascertained the actual existence of the stock in May, which those books are supposed to represent in October?—We have got the actual existence of the stock on the 14th of May last.

471. Having actually ascertained, as I say, bodily, by counting and so forth, what existed in May that will be checked by the books in October, and it will require that period to check up the books?—Yes.

472. (*Chairman.*) Is there any possibility, without inconvenience to the public service, of expediting that making up of the store ledgers?—I do not know; I can make inquiries. We are going to work in examining the ledgers at Weedon very differently to what we do in the other ledgers. In the first place we can ascertain for a positive fact the value in money paid to every contractor since the Weedon establishment has been formed. All we have to do is to convert that money into stores; we shall then charge the storekeeper with those stores, then we shall get information from all the regiments in the service, because the stores are only issued to the regiments, and

an exact statement of every thing they have received from Weedon, and by comparing that with the stores which we know we have paid for, we shall be able to ascertain accurately any defalcations, if there are any.

473. You say that stores are only issued to the regiments,—is that strictly correct?—are not they issued to contractors and departments?—That is a very small thing. Cloth is issued to contractors for making up garments; a garment represents a certain quantity of cloth.

474. If you issue to a contractor cloth to make a thousand garments you will not want the receipt of the contractor for the cloth, but all you want is the receipt from the regiment for the garments?—A receipt is received from the contractor and a receipt from the regiment.

475. Have you also applied to the regiments for returns, not only of all receipts but of what they have sent back?—We have applied for that. There is one thing about which there has been a great deal of discussion, namely, the boots. There has been a report of a certain quantity of boots having been missing. I have ascertained that since the Weedon establishment has been formed, up to the 14th of May 802,081 pairs of boots have been received. On the 14th of May, when stock was taken, there were 247,421 pairs of boots in store, that leaves 554,660 pairs to be accounted for. According to the orders which we have issued from this office, 554,498 ought to have been issued, therefore leaving a defalcation on the part of the storekeeper of only 162 pairs, which I have no doubt will be accounted for when the ledger comes to be examined. That is merely a calculation made upon the orders given, and it must be pretty correct, because these men ought actually to have received the boots, and if they had not received the boots, they would have complained, and we should have had notice that they had not received them. I merely mention that to illustrate the way in which we shall in due time arrive at the result of Mr. Elliott's defalcations, if there are any.

476. So far from any boots having disappeared from Weedon without having been accounted for, you can account for all except 162 pairs?—Yes.

477. Now we are upon the subject of boots, will you allow me to inquire as to a statement respecting 170,000 pairs of boots sent from the Tower, what became of them?—When the Weedon establishment was first formed in December 1855, 170,000 pairs of boots were sent from the Tower to be issued. Upon examining those boots it was found that they were very inferior to the standard pattern, which had been improved, and they were not considered fit to be issued to the troops.

478. Not considered fit by whom?—By myself and the other person who went down. I must observe that since these boots have been sent to Weedon, the standard pattern for the troops has been improved, and therefore, if we had issued those boots to the troops, they would very naturally have grumbled, and said "they are inferior to the standard pattern."

479. Had you the power to condemn them?—No.

480. You thought they required re-inspection?—Yes; the boots were ordered to be re-inspected, and those that were condemned were ordered to be sold. The result of the re-inspection was, that 20,000 pairs were condemned and sold. The original contract price of these boots was from 7s. 9d. to 8s. a pair, and they fetched about 5s. 5d. a pair at the sales. 150,000 pairs of these boots remained in store; 46,460 pairs have been issued to the troops and to the disembodied militia, and the difference, 103,540 pairs, were in store on the 14th of May, when stock was taken at Weedon. I can also give the history of these boots since the 14th of May.

481. Then, if I understand you rightly, of the 150,000 pairs, none of them had been condemned after re-inspection?—None of the 150,000; but 20,000 of the 170,000.

482. And those were sold long ago?—Yes.

483. None of the 150,000, although you thought they required re-inspection, were condemned after re-inspection?—No.

484. They have either been issued, or are in stock?—Yes.

485. And none are missing?—No; since the 24th of May 20,000 pairs have been issued for hospital purposes, and about 15,000 pairs have been issued to the Irish militia now out for training, leaving 68,540 pairs still in store; these will be issued to the disembodied militia of Great Britain when they come out for training in the autumn, and whatever remains in store will be kept for issue to the disembodied militia next year. They will probably all be issued by that time.

486. Are any of the boots that remain now in store, not according to the present pattern?—They are very inferior to the present pattern.

487. I think your practice is, to go on issuing the old store until you have exhausted it, unless the articles are unserviceable?—We are going to issue these boots to the disembodied militia, who only come out for training for 28 days, and therefore it would be no hardship to them to get those boots, although it would be a great hardship to the soldiers of the line to get those boots.

488. (Mr. Turner.) To whom were the 20,000 boots sold?—Some were sold to Mr. Levy.*

489. Were they sold in one lot?—No; they were sold in lots of 450 pairs.

490. By auction?—Yes.

491. There is an impression on the part of the public, that some of these boots have found their way again into the service for the use of the militia?—Yes.

492. Have you since that sale of boots ever received any fresh supply of boots, except of the approved pattern?—No.

493. Have you ever received any boots of the old description since that sale?—No; perhaps you will allow me to observe the reason why these boots were bought back; they were not bought back by us, but by the quartermasters of the militia regiments, to be issued to the militia.

494. Do you mean those boots that were sold to Mr. Levy?—Yes; that is the only way I can account for their getting back. They were not bought back by us.

495. Did Mr. Levy sell them to some quartermasters of militia regiments?—I have no doubt he did.

496. (Chairman.) Have not the colonels of militia regiments the right to purchase from individuals?—We gave them authority to purchase.

497. And you pay for the articles?—Yes.

498. (Mr. Turner.) Have you any idea at what price the boots were bought back?—No.

499. Could you ascertain that?—Yes, by the bills. But then if those boots were bought back, they were bought back most probably at the price of the approved quality of boot, and therefore the responsibility of supplying the embodied militia with an inferior boot, and charging that inferior boot at the high price of the superior quality of boot, rests not with the War Office in any way.

500. Have you any control whatever over the purchases of the militia officers?—No.

501. I gather from you that the militia officers purchased those boots which were sold at 5s. 5d. a pair, and you have to pay the bills of those militia officers who did purchase them back at the price of the approved regulation boots?—Yes.

502. So that the country really has suffered to that extent?—Yes; but the militia colonels ought to have purchased the improved quality of boots.

503. You throw the blame upon the militia colonels?—Yes; if they purchased inferior boots.

504. (Colonel French.) Why were the militia colonels allowed to buy the boots?—When the militia was first embodied in the autumn of last year

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they were allowed to purchase their necessaries because we could not supply them. We were then supplying the army in large quantities, and therefore we allowed the militia colonels to purchase necessaries required for their men, and a pair of boots, as you know, is an article of necessaries.

505. (*Mr. Turner.*) All that you infer from this transaction is, that Mr. Levy is a very sharp man of business?—Very.

506. Could not those boots have been supplied direct from the store at Weedon for those militia regiments?—No; we were then supplying the East India Company, and the expedition to China, which reduced our store very considerably.

507. If those boots were sufficiently good to be purchased by the militia colonels at something like 9s. a pair, how came it that they were condemned at Weedon as so very bad?—The inspectors condemned them in comparison with the standard quality, and certainly with regard to the boots that I saw myself, not knowing anything upon the subject of a pair of boots whether they are good or bad, merely from their appearance, I took four or five pairs and put the soles in water, and they went to pieces like brown paper. When I cut the sole open and put the sole in water it all went into a sort of sponge.

508. Then they must have proved ultimately very bad for the use of the militia soldiers?—I do not think that Mr. Levy sold any of those actual boots to the militia; my impression is, that the boots he sold must have been boots that were returned from the quartermaster-general's stores. I cannot conceive it possible that any militia colonel would have purchased any of those boots; in fact, those boots we now issue to the disembodied militia, and issue them also to the permanent staff of the militia employed in recruiting by General Peel's orders.

509. I have been referring all along to the 20,000 pairs of boots which you sold, and now you think that none of those 20,000 pairs of boots were supplied to the militia?—Allow me to observe that 54,000 pairs of boots were sold at the same time, that came from a different source altogether; they came from the Crimea.

510. (*Chairman.*) Did you ever say in 1856, that the state of 150,000 pairs of boots was disgraceful?—Certainly; I made the complaint in my official report, that the receipt of those 150,000 boots at the Tower was very discreditable to the then inspectors. There is some confusion, here is a mistake certainly, it ought to have been 170,000 pairs, not 150,000.

511. I find that observation in Mr. Elliott's evidence, but not in yours, if you said it?—I reported it here, that the reception of those 170,000 pairs of boots at the Tower was very discreditable.

512. Why there were only 20,000 pairs condemned on re-inspection, and 150,000 pairs still retained in store?—The whole of them ought probably to have been condemned, they were all most improperly passed.

513. You differ from Mr. Pew?—Yes; in fact my Report upon those boots led to a total reorganization of the inspection at the Tower.

514. I do not quite understand now, if they were in such a disgraceful state that they ought never to have been received, how you meet Mr. Roebuck's question,—if they were so disgraceful that they ought not to have been received, why should you now be issuing them?—Simply because it is not desirable that such an enormous sacrifice should be made; that is the only reason. If we had not the disembodied militia to give these boots to, we should be obliged to sell them, because we could not issue them to the troops of the line.

515. Although they ought not to have been received, yet as they have been received you must make the best of them?—That is it; they ought never to have been received at all. The viewer who passed these boots was dismissed, a man of the name of Conchie.

516. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are those boots charged to the militia soldiers?—No.

517. Are they a free gift?—We make a free gift of those boots, that is to say, we have made a free gift of them this year, for this reason: when the militia regulations were first established, it was decided that the men should have boots issued, but that they should be allowed to take them away with them upon payment of half the sum, but we have never been able to recover half the sum.

518. Are there any instances of boots sold by Mr. Levy being charged to the militia soldiers?—Certainly not; because all the boots bought by Mr. Levy have been issued to embodied militia, and not to disembodied militia.

519. (*Chairman.*) You gave to the colonels of the militia regiments, or to the quarter-master, as the case might be, the power to purchase necessaries without any supervision, did you not?—We do not do so now; we did so in the autumn, when the militia were called out, in consequence of the pressure in supplying the troops for India with necessaries.

520. What further control does the department now exercise over such purchases?—Now we issue them in kind ourselves.

521. (*Colonel French.*) How did the circumstance which you have now related with regard to the militia boots come to the knowledge of the War Office?—Mr. James Elliott, the storekeeper at Weedon, was desired to issue boots to the army from his stores, and he reported that his inspectors were of opinion that those boots which had been received from the Tower were of so inferior a quality, that he could not issue them; and as the quantity was about 170,000 pairs, it was not considered proper that they should be condemned simply upon the report of the storekeeper that they were bad, and then an inquiry was held.

522. (*Chairman.*) Did not you go down to Weedon with Mr. Eaton?—No, with Mr. Charles Elliott.

523. You had a regular investigation?—Yes; we took a referee with us.

524. A professional bootmaker?—Yes.

525. Upon that a re-inspection took place, and a certain portion of the boots were condemned?—Yes.

526. Where is the Weedon establishment to be transferred to?—It is to be transferred to London.

527. Is that partly with a view of consolidating the department?—Yes. In fact, the clothing establishment ought never to have been at Weedon, and it was established at Weedon strongly against the remonstrances of Sir Thomas Troubridge and myself; but there was no other place for it, and therefore it was sent there. The principal ground upon which we remonstrated was, that it was improper to allow a large establishment like that to be so far from head-quarters, because we could not exercise proper supervision over it.

528. Do you go to Woolwich and the Tower more frequently than to Weedon?—Captain Caffin is at Woolwich generally once a fortnight.

529. You have nothing to do with Woolwich yourself?—No; Captain Caffin takes charge of that himself.

530. Do you go to the Tower pretty frequently?—Captain Caffin goes to the Tower; I have been to the Tower myself upon several occasions.

531. May we anticipate, when the clothing department is removed to London, that the visits of yourself and Sir Thomas Troubridge, and the officials generally, will be likely to be more frequent?—Certainly.

532. Are there any witnesses besides those who have been already examined before the Contracts' Committee who, in your opinion, could furnish any additional evidence which has not been given?—I think there is a man, who gave me his name the other day, who wanted to be examined, Joseph Manson; he was a dismissed clerk from Weedon.

533. Manson has not been examined at all, has he?—No.

534. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was he at Weedon some time?—Yes; he was dismissed for misconduct, and he came to me the other day and said that he had very

important evidence to give, and I told him simply that if he would give me his address I would give it to the Commissioners.

535. (*Chairman.*) Did he state the purport of his evidence?—No.

536. As we understand, the Ordnance regulations are likely to be codified or simplified; I think Mr. Godley intimated that some were obsolete, and should be condemned?—There is an entire revision going on of the Ordnance regulations with regard to surveys and examination of stores; we propose now to examine the store account quarterly instead of annually; and if we do that we shall not have the store ledgers in arrear at all. In fact, after the close of the financial year, all the store ledgers, from the home stations, at least, ought to be examined within three months after their receipt.

537. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do not you think it incumbent upon you and others of this department that you should pay personally the most minute attention to the conduct of the affairs at these establishments?—Yes.

538. I know, as a commercial man, and you must know, as a high officer in the department, that it is necessary for the superiors to look very shrewdly, and I will not say suspiciously, but with a very vigilant eye to the operations of all the subordinates over whom they have control; do not you think that a moral responsibility rests upon you when defalcations and irregularities take place if you have not entirely performed your duties in looking after your subordinates?—The only answer I can give to the question is, that it is impossible for the superiors here to go and make periodical visits; really we are detained in London from one end of the year to the other, with very little vacation; we are at our offices from 10 or 10½ to 6 o'clock. If I went away for one day to Weedon, I used to come back and find my desk covered with papers.

539. (*Colonel French.*) With regard to Mr. Elliott's correspondence about extra hands, when Mr. Elliott applied for extra hands, did he specify the number that he required?—Yes, he generally did.

540. You have stated that you made urgent applications on that head?—Yes.

541. Can you show your correspondence with the Treasury?—The only thing I can say is, that I made an urgent representation in my own minute to my official superior. I do not think the Treasury ever refused the assistance.

542. But they were very tardy in giving it?—No; I do not think they were. There is always, as you know, an unavoidable delay in going through the public offices.

543. Did they give Mr. Elliott the assistance he required at each period?—I do not think they did at each period.

544. You have stated that you had such confidence in Mr. Elliott that you had no suspicion when he made those applications of anything being wrong?—No suspicion whatever.

545. That arose from the confidence which you had in him?—It did.

546. Would it be prudent in the director of a bank to place such confidence in a cashier?—Mr. Elliott was not a cashier.

547. I am merely putting that by way of analogy. I am speaking with reference to a question which Mr. Turner put to you with regard to responsibility; whether it would be right to place such confidence in a person of Mr. Elliott's position?—Mr. Elliott was a man very high up in the service. He had served upwards of forty years. He had borne the highest character as a public servant. He was in the receipt of a very considerable salary. He had reached the top of his profession; and I think if you were not to place confidence in him, I do not know in whom you could place confidence.

548. But was it right to place confidence in him to that very great extent?—Certainly there was a withdrawal of that confidence in the autumn of 1857,

when his removal was brought under consideration; but the withdrawal of that confidence was not on account of any want of duty on his part, but simply because we did not think that he was quite up to his position; that he was not quite fit for the duties, and that he would have discharged those duties very well if they had been the duties of an Ordnance store-keeper at an old established station. But at Weedon, which was a new station, it was thought that the entire absence and want of knowledge of military details rather prevented his carrying out his duties as satisfactorily as we could have wished.

549. Would not that be also a reason for his superiors to ascertain that things were going on correctly?—We had no reason to doubt that things were not going on correctly; he had, during a period of great difficulty, carried on his duties certainly so far in a satisfactory manner that from the outbreak of the mutiny up to the period that Mr. Elliott left, about 45,000 men had been sent out to India, the embodied militia had been called out, and about 50,000 men had been added to the line, and not one single embarkation was delayed from the want of clothing, and after that has been said I do not think we could have charged Mr. Elliott with any gross neglect of duty.

550. (*Chairman.*) In fact, unless there should be a defalcation in the stores, which at present is not ascertained, and which I understood you do not think probable, putting the 2,000*l.* out of the question, the only positive loss to the public service has been the trouble and delay in making up the arrears in the books?—We shall not lose the 2,400*l.*, because Mr. Elliott gave security for 2,000*l.* We shall lose 400*l.*, that is all we shall lose.

551. It has been stated by one of the witnesses that there was gross neglect of duty on Mr. Elliott's part?—There was gross neglect of duty on his part, which was only discovered since he went away, but we were not at all aware of that neglect of duty at the time he was here.

552. Did you know anything of his frequent absences?—No, nothing whatever.

553. Is there any rule of the office which requires any superior officer to report his absences from his post?—There is nothing said about a superior's being away for one day.

554. I think it has been proved that Mr. Elliott was frequently away?—Yes.

555. There being no regulation that any superior officer of a district establishment like Weedon should report his absence, is there any mode by which you can ascertain it?—We should ascertain it in course of time.

556. Officially, would it be the duty of the second officer to report the absence of his superior?—No; but it is the duty of the second officer to sign all letters in the absence of his superior, and if the second officer was signing so frequently in the absence of his superior, it would immediately be found out.

557. Did not you find that Mr. Tatum was signing very largely for Mr. Elliott?—No; it was only recently that Mr. Tatum signed during Mr. Elliott's absence. Mr. Elliott used so to contrive his absences that he would be absent for a whole day; he would go down at night, sign his letters the next morning, and go off again the same day; therefore we could not know it at all.

558. Mr. Tatum is not in England, therefore I must ask about him what I should not ask about others who can speak for themselves. I understood it was proved that Mr. Tatum had signed for Mr. Elliott very largely, and had made it a point that the letters should not be postponed, but that he should have the liberty of signing them?—That was only during the month of November; it commenced about the 1st of November. Mr. Tatum only went there in October 1857. Mr. Elliott went to Dublin for three weeks to take the remain there; therefore I think Mr. Tatum could only have signed the letters in Mr. Elliott's

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absence while he was at Dublin for two or three weeks.

559. As a matter of fact you did not find that Mr. Tatum or any one else signed so frequently for Mr. Elliott as to cause you to imagine that he was

continually absent?—No; we have reason to believe that after Mr. Tatum insisted upon it, Mr. Elliott's absences were less frequent, and he managed always to come back at such an hour as to sign his letters and go away again.

Major WILLIAM MARVIN examined.

560. (*Chairman.*) What office do you hold?—At this moment I am compiler of statistics in this department.

561. How long have you filled that office?—Since the year 1855.

562. Is that a new office?—The appointment was created in 1855.

563. You were employed, I think, to go down to Weedon in February of this year?—I was.

564. We have before us your report (see Parliamentary Paper, No. 328, 1858, p. 434); you have probably had frequent opportunity of referring to it since?—Yes.

565. We have been given to understand that you have seen reason to modify the opinions there expressed?—From the facts which were submitted to me I have prepared a statement here, which I should be obliged if you will take the trouble to read; it goes into detail with reference to my proceedings at Weedon.

566. Is it explanatory of your former report?—Yes; I have put in the margin of my report the authorities upon which I founded my report, and I have also here the written evidence of those persons from whom alone I could get information to enable me to make my report.

567. The evidence on which you proceeded has not been published, and was not submitted to the Committee on Contracts?—It was not, and another thing was not submitted which I think ought to have been, namely, my instructions, because my report ought to be read with the instructions.

568. Will you be so good as to put in the instructions?

The same were delivered in.—(App. No. 8.)

569. Would you prefer stating voluntarily anything which you think would now be different if you had to make a report?—There are certain points here reported upon by me with regard to the establishment which, I am told since, have been proved to be inaccurate, but I have no means of knowing that the thing is at all imperfect or incorrect—such, for instance, as no store check having been kept. I do not state in my report that a store check was kept, or that it was not kept. I stated how the ledger was kept, and that the ledger was consistent with the Ordnance regulations—that it was posted from certain documents which are alluded to in page 3 of my report.

570. Are you conversant with the Ordnance regulations?—I am.

571. You examined Mr. Elliott, the store-holders, and the inspectors?—Yes.

572. You also examined the books?—Yes.

573. Taking the order in which you have yourself put it, the first point is the "Amount of stock taken over from the Tower, and if this was regularly brought upon charge." Your report begins by stating, "The stock taken over on the 10th of January 1856," when the establishment commenced, and then you give the items. You say that that was the first delivery from the Tower?—That was the first exhibited to me in the books at Weedon.

574. In what book?—In the ledger. The statement in the report is an extract from the ledger.

575. The first delivery from the Tower was in the ledger correct?—Yes.

576. We have it in evidence that the ledger was in arrear?—It was in arrear, unquestionably. This begins in 1856; you will observe that I report that the ledger is in arrear.

577. You give the first delivery from the Tower as

correctly entered in the ledger, and you say "many others of subsequent date have also been received therefrom, and correctly brought on charge." Up to what date were those deliveries?—I cannot tax my memory up to what date they were brought on charge. I have shown in another part of the Report up to what time the ledgers were completed. You will see that there were very few things posted in the ledger; but they had vouchers, which clearly acknowledged the receipt of them.

578. "Brought on charge" does not imply mere vouchers, it means properly entered in the ledger, does not it? You have put in the first amount brought from the Tower, and you say there are others, but you do not say how many, or up to what date. This would lead one to imagine that they were all regularly brought on charge?—The principal portions that were taken on charge were those detailed here. To the best of my knowledge and belief they were included in the ledger.

579. That was one delivery two years before, and the very first delivery?—Exactly; and several other items were included in the ledger. I cannot without going through the ledger again tell what those things were. There were lots of things that were considered on charge, the whole of which they had vouchers for, although they were not entered in the ledger. They were equally on charge as much as when they were brought into the books.

580. Do you consider that a thing is on charge before it is entered in the ledger?—Most unquestionably if there are vouchers, which are an acknowledgment.

581. Do you mean to say that you examined the whole of the vouchers?—I did not examine the whole of the vouchers certainly, but I stated that there were certain other vouchers containing deliveries from the Tower, which were ready to be entered in the ledger. That was a portion of the arrears as well as many other vouchers that were not brought into the book.

582. Do you consider that a thing is as correctly and regularly brought on charge when there is merely a voucher for it, which you did not examine, as when you found it in the ledger?—Considering that the ledgers were so much in arrear, upon which I have adverted here, I take it, that anything acknowledged by the storekeeper is as much on charge as if it had got into the book.

583. But did you see the vouchers?—Many vouchers were brought out and shown to me which were not entered in the ledger, as vouchers from the Tower, and as stores that had been sent from the Tower, which were ready to be put into the ledger with the other arrears.

584. There may have been some vouchers shown to you, but you were asked to give the whole "amount of stock taken over from the Tower, and if this was regularly brought upon charge;" do you think you did that when you gave merely the first entry which you found in the ledger, and said that others were correctly brought on charge though they were not in the ledger, and you did not see the whole of the vouchers?—I have not professed here to give the amount of the other articles.

585. Can you give any other reason why you did not further specify the amounts brought over?—I cannot, for this reason, there was so much arrear; that was amongst the others.

586. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did you take it for granted when Mr. Elliott stated that he had vouchers representing deliveries from the Tower, that it was so? Without seeing those vouchers, were you content to

take his word?—The statement was made in the presence of Mr. Munro, who had charge of the entire business connected with the ledgers, and I took it for granted that if Mr. Elliott had made a misstatement to me it would have been corrected by the officer who had charge of the vouchers and ledgers.

587. With your ideas of statistics, could you think that there was any fair representation of accounts by mere loose papers and vouchers either for deliveries or issues?—The store was in the state I should not like to have had it in myself, which I have adverted to. I have stated clearly the state of the stores, and the vouchers that ought to be entered. I considered, from seeing the vouchers consecutively numbered from 1 to the end, that they were as perfectly in store as if they were in the books. Those vouchers were consecutively numbered and put carefully by in a cupboard, the representation having been made that they had not the means of bringing up those ledgers.

588. Did you examine the vouchers?—I did not see whether the numbers were consecutive.

589. Then you had no evidence of the correctness of the vouchers?—Excepting that I was told distinctly they were there.

590. And you took it upon their statement?—If I had had to examine every voucher that was there, I must have been at Weedon weeks, instead of three days, the period that I was there.

591. (*Chairman.*) Did you ascertain whether the vouchers were numbered consecutively and filed?—They all had consecutive numbers.

592. How could you tell that, unless you looked at the numbers?—I did not look at every number. I took a handful out and saw that they were numbered.

593. There is evidence to the strongest effect, of Mr. Elliott himself, that there was a large quantity of loose memoranda?—If they had so stated to me, I should have recorded it in my report, but they led me to believe that all the vouchers were perfect.

594. Did you examine the vouchers themselves to see that they were consecutive, and were all there?—I took out a handful of them, and saw they were consecutive. I asked them whether there was any chance of errors arising from the non-entry of the vouchers in the books, and Mr. Elliott distinctly told me in the presence of Mr. Munro, that the vouchers were all there.

595. When you are sent down to ascertain the correctness of accounts, do you take it from the statement of the person who is implicated, if there is any irregularity, without examining for yourself as to their correctness? We are now upon the vouchers, apart from the question of the books; do not you think you were too easy in that respect?—I really cannot tax my memory; I am inclined to think that those articles from the Tower were really in the book, but at this distance of time I really cannot say with certainty.

596. You now think that they were in the store ledger?—A great many of them were entered up to the time; the store ledgers were complete.

597. Up to what time was that?—I have stated it here somewhere.

598. Were there not 1,100 certificates out of the ledger of 1856 unentered?—Yes.

599. If that be so, how can you say that all the

entries, as to those deliveries from the Tower, were in the books?—It is a great distance of time since I was there, and I really cannot tax my memory; I know that this first entry was in the book.

600. And you say several others were?—I wish to explain that I meant by having the things regularly brought to account, that they were as much brought to account if they were in vouchers acknowledged by the store-keeper who was responsible for them, as if they had been in the book.

601. You are rather shifting your ground; we make a distinction between merely having vouchers and things being in the ledger; you appear to think that there is no essential difference between the two. When I press you upon that point, then, I understand you to say “I think they were in the ledger;” can you tell us up to what time?—If I am to give an answer I should say, that these first articles were in the ledger; but I cannot say with any certainty with regard to the others. I think that they were simply in the vouchers.

602. You had not time, or for some reason or other you took Mr. Elliott’s account of their being correct?—His statement having been made in the presence of others.

603. (*Mr. Turner.*) I will ask you as a sort of summing up of this question,—with your knowledge of the defalcations of Mr. Elliott, are you now satisfied that your examination was sufficiently rigid?—Certainly not; but we did not then suppose that Mr. Elliott was the man he has turned out to be. When I went down there I was told it was a delicate duty, and I was to conduct it accordingly. He was a man who was supposed to be one of the most experienced storekeepers, and there was not the slightest suspicion of any improper proceedings.

604. (*Chairman.*) Were you not sent down expressly because there was an arrear?—There was an arrear, as I have reported distinctly. That arrear came to my knowledge and I have reported it.

605. Do you think that the principle adopted as to the ledger, was that of the Ordnance regulations?—I went to the Tower before going to Weedon, in order to see how their ledgers were kept; the book itself was filled in the same way that the ledger at the Tower appeared to be.

606. That is the ledger only?—Yes; then the means from which the ledger was completed is stated here at page 3.

607. That is in answer to the 6th question, is it not?—No; it is under the head of “ledger branch” at page 3 of my report. The first answer is in reference to the book itself.

608. (*Colonel French.*) Considering your opinion of Mr. Elliott’s character, when you went down to make this inspection, I presume you thought the inspection of the store was more like the inspection of a general officer, a sort of matter of form?—Not exactly a matter of form.

609. But still that kind of inspection which a general officer would be expected to make at the stores on his half yearly inspection?—Precisely; I also kept this in view, that I could not make any report against Mr. Elliott (I was not told that he was suspected of any improper transaction at all) that I should not be prepared to substantiate on oath before a court-martial.

LONDON.

Major W.
Marvin.

24 July 1858.

Adjourned to Monday next at 1 o’clock.

LONDON.

Monday, 26th July 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

LONDON.

Major W.
Marvin.

26 July 1858.

Major WILLIAM MARVIN further examined.

610. (*Chairman.*) Your report contains your return of the stock taken over on the 10th of January 1856 ?—That question related to the stock taken over from the Tower at the commencement of the Weedon establishment. It is clearly an amount of stock taken over from the Tower, and it was regularly brought on charge by entry in the ledger.

611. Was no stock taken over from the Tower and regularly brought on charge, except that taken over in January 1856 ?—That was the first brought under my notice and exhibited to me in the books.

612. My question is, whether other stock besides that was taken over from the Tower ?—There were several issues taken from the Tower. I do not know whether they were taken at the beginning of the Weedon establishment. The figures that I have inserted in page 1 of my report were represented to me as the stock taken over from the Tower ; that is the answer to that question.

613. Was there any stock taken over from the Tower besides that stock which was taken on the 10th of January 1856 ?—There were several issues from the Tower, as was the case with other places.

614. Issues to Weedon ?—Yes. I simply turned my attention to stock taken over at the beginning of the establishment.

615. You give the particulars as to the first delivery from the Tower. You say, " this was the first " delivery from the Tower, but many others of subsequent date have also been received," but you do not give the particulars of those ?—The latter part was gratuitous on my part, because I concluded that this stock, having been represented as the stock taken over from the Tower to begin the establishment with, it was an answer to that question, and I had nothing to do with the other ; but in casting my eye over the ledger I saw several other entries from the Tower.

616. Did you conceive that the first inquiry you were directed to make referred only to stock which was taken over from the Tower at the first establishment of Weedon ?—I did.

617. You nevertheless have gone on to say that there were other deliveries from the Tower ?—It was from the fact of running my eye down the ledger, and seeing " received from the Tower " at such and such dates.

618. Of those subsequent deliveries you have not given the particulars ?—I have not ; I did not consider that I was called upon to do so.

619. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would the subsequent entries that you saw in the ledger equally include those particular items which you have enumerated in the first entry ?—Precisely.

620. Suppose you had gone at more length into a report of deliveries from the Tower, you could equally have stated the particulars as to the subsequent entries ?—I could have done so ; that was not required of me ; there were lots of things that came from contractors, and other stations. I certainly regarded and everybody regarded these mentioned in my report as stock taken over ; that was the answer to the question.

621. (*Chairman.*) You mean what they commenced business with at Weedon ?—Precisely.

622. (*Mr. Turner.*) You consider the subsequent deliveries from the Tower in the same light as de-

liveries from contractors ; they merely went to the debit side of the ledger at Weedon as stock they had received from somewhere, whether from contractors or elsewhere ?—Precisely.

623. You considered that those subsequent deliveries were accounted for in the ledger as much as the first delivery was ?—Precisely so, up to the period at which the ledger was completed. Of course the arrears I have not regarded. I wish to correct the evidence which I gave on Saturday, with regard to vouchers ; it had no reference to them.

624. In your examination of the ledgers, of course you found entries regularly made, and you judged from the state of the ledgers as to the accuracy of the accounts ; but did you not also consider as amounts of stock brought to the debit of the stores at Weedon, articles which only appeared in the vouchers and not in any ledger entry whatever ?—I considered that the storekeeper was equally responsible for the articles contained in those vouchers as if they had been brought into the ledger, his ledger having been in arrear.

625. Could you make any examination of the vast number of vouchers which were not entered in any book ?—Certainly not ; I could not pretend to do so. I was at Weedon but three days, and it would have taken me three months to have examined all the vouchers.

626. In that short period were you able to make such an examination as to enable you to say that the accounts were in the satisfactory state which you have reported ?—The accounts, by which I mean entries in the ledger, so far as I saw them made up, were in a satisfactory state, as I have reported.

627. In that state of the accounts which you considered to be satisfactory you include mere figures and documents, and not entries in a book, do you not ?—No.

628. You do not profess, in that report, to include anything but what is actually posted in the ledger ?—In the ledger.

629. That ledger was many months in arrear, was it not ?—Years in arrear, almost.

630. But, in reading your report, I rather gathered that you considered the state of the accounts to be satisfactory ; did you examine them to lead you to that conclusion ?—I could not do so ; it was impossible, in the time that I gave to the examination, that I could have done so. I could not have arrived at the state of the accounts unless I had taken stock.

631. Have you not stated that you considered the accounts were in a satisfactory state ?—I do not know that I have. I think not.

632. (*Chairman.*) Have you not stated in your report that the principle adopted in keeping the accounts is in accordance with the Ordnance regulations ?—That is the principle of the entry in the ledger. I am speaking there with regard to the actual entries in the ledger. I simply allude to the principle. The ledger was of course incomplete, and I have stated distinctly how far the ledgers were in arrear.

633. You think the principle was a very good one, but there was no practice in accordance with it ?—Precisely. The practice of carrying stores into account is clearly shown at page 3 of my report.

634. What do you mean by "correctly brought on charge"?—A memorandum that I have since discovered clearly enables me to say that I mean those articles that were entered in the ledger up to the date when the ledger was completed.

635. You do not refer to articles for which merely vouchers had been given?—I do not.

636. Were there entries in the ledger of deliveries from the Tower subsequent to the 10th of January 1856?—Yes.

637. Would it not have been better for you to have given other items as well as the first?—The question is with regard to the stock.

638. The amount of stock, and if regularly brought upon charge. You say that one delivery of stock was so much, and you give a specification of it; you stop short there. Then you say there are others "correctly brought on charge," which you have not given?—This was represented as stock taken over at the beginning of the establishment. I take it that was the object I had in view.

639. Need you have said anything about the others?—I need not. This latter part is quite gratuitous. I should have stopped there, because that is really an answer to the question, and this part of it is quite unnecessary.

640. You were directed to inquire "whether the receipts and issues have been regularly posted in the ledger according to the Ordnance regulations?" Your answer is; "The ledgers are very much in arrears, as shown in detail, in answer to inquiry No. 7, but the principle adopted is in accordance with the Ordnance regulations?"—That is the principle of the entry, as far as the entry goes. Then the system of entry is clearly shown at page 3 of my report.

641. (*Mr. Turner.*) You said, in reply to a question from me, that the vouchers were unposted for some months, or almost years. For how long a period were the vouchers in existence without any entry in the ledger?—I cannot answer that question. I do not know. There was a very considerable mass, a frightful mass, and of course it was quite out of my power to ascertain.

642. As a statistical officer could you form any idea whatever of the mass of vouchers?—Not the slightest, excepting that they described to me that there was very little fear of anything going astray.

643. (*Chairman.*) Whom do you mean by "they"?—I am speaking now of the storekeeper and the assistant military storekeeper.

644. Give their names.—Mr. Elliott, in the presence of Mr. Munro and the clerks in the room, stated that the vouchers were consecutively numbered, and that he had no doubt but that they could make the entries correctly. That was Mr. Elliott's statement in the presence of the clerks who were in the room.

645. (*Mr. Turner.*) That was all, in fact, that you had to rely upon?—That was all.

646. (*Chairman.*) You believed in the statement without verifying it. Is not that so?—I had no means of verifying it, unless I had gone there for two or three months.

647. Did you ascertain whether the "vouchers were regularly filed in consecutive order"?—I certainly looked at some of them. I do not mean to say that I looked at the whole, that was a matter of utter impossibility; but I looked at some of them, and found that they were numbered.

648. Supposing the vouchers were filed in order, and consecutively numbered, so that there was nothing to do but to copy them into the ledger, how long would it have taken to post up the arrears which then existed, in your judgment?—This is the statement in my report:—"I append memoranda (*see* 'Enclosure B.') of the duties of each clerk, in which 'is given the amount of arrears, the result being as follows.'"

649. I want to know the time that it would take to post them up?—I have not the least idea; I am under the impression that the ledgers are not completed yet.

650. (*Mr. Turner.*) From your habits of business,—being accustomed to statements of accounts,—can you give any idea of how many vouchers occurred both in the delivery department and in the issue department in each day?—They are stated in my report.

651. From this statement I gather that in the month of April 1857 there were 237 receipts and 251 issues, making 488 distinct entries in the month unposted?—Yes.

652. What possible difficulty could there be in anything like an active clerk making those entries? they seem to me, engaged in extensive mercantile transactions, to be ridiculous as a difficulty. Supposing they were numbered and all ready as you saw them, what difficulty could there be in any one single clerk making those entries in the books?—I do not know that there could be any material difficulty if the clerks could be spared for that purpose; they said that they could not, that they had other work to attend to, and they allowed them to stand over, seeing that the vouchers were filed, rather than delay any other work.

653. In ten months, from April 1857 to January 1858, there appear to be receipts 5,265; I suppose that means that there were 5,265 distinct vouchers?—Distinct receipt vouchers.

654. In the same period there were 6,700 issues of stores?—Yes; but some of those vouchers perhaps consisted of four or five pages of closely written articles.

655. It appears in those ten months that of the 5,265 receipts only 900 were entered in the ledger, and that of the 6,700 issues only 280 were entered in the ledger; that is your statement?—Precisely. It is a statement given to me in writing by the head of that branch.

656. Leaving arrears to post of receipts 4,368 and of issues 6,450?—Yes.

657. How many clerks were there upon whom this work could be put?—The number of clerks is given in that branch; it is Mr. Munro's branch—"Mr. Munro, Assistant Military Storekeeper, and five clerks."

658. Did it not occur to you, as a statistical officer in the War Office, when you went down and found this state of things at Weedon, that it was exceedingly disgraceful to the establishment?—I have stated the facts as they occurred.

659. I am asking for an opinion. Was not it in your opinion a very disgraceful state of affairs?—Excepting for this reason: it appears by the statements of the storekeeper and the officers of the department that the clerks had been taken off this work to go on to the mere current work of the office, and they really had not time to attend to this business. I could only report the information as I received it.

660. I am not reflecting upon you; but I want to know whether you do not conceive that it was very wrong?—Decidedly wrong.

661. Was not it necessary to report that fact rather strongly when you were bringing the state of affairs at Weedon before the attention of the authorities of the War Office who sent you down there?—I think, if you observe my instructions, I have gone into each item and reported the state of affairs as they occurred.

662. (*Chairman.*) Perhaps you considered it your duty to report facts, and not to give an opinion?—Yes. I was not led to suppose that there was any suspicion with regard to Mr. Elliott's conduct.

663. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was not the real error that misled you thinking Mr. Elliott a worthy, efficient officer, when he has turned out to be the reverse?—I treated and considered Mr. Elliott as an efficient officer, and he has turned out a great rogue.

664. (*Colonel French.*) Were you personally acquainted with Mr. Elliott?—No, I had never seen him before.

665. Or with Mr. Munro?—I never saw him before.

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666. (*Chairman.*) You say, or rather, I said for you, perhaps, that you thought your duty was confined to making a statement of facts; but you do conclude your report by offering an opinion, do you not?—I offered an opinion that I should not give now; but I was induced to offer it by the facts set before me in Mr. Elliott's statement. You will find in his statement that he did make several applications for assistance.

667. You say that the books were well kept, according to the Ordnance regulations?—That is, het ledger.

668. Do you confine that observation to the ledger?—That is the question in my instructions, clearly.

669. Is not the ledger, as a general rule, copied, not from the vouchers, but from the day-book?—There is nothing in the Ordnance regulations that says so; and if they wanted to know whether there was such a day-book or not, it was clearly answered by my account at page 3 of how the entries were made.

670. You confine your observation about the books having been kept according to the Ordnance regulations to the ledger?—To the ledger alone. The Ordnance regulation describes the ledger, and how it is to be kept; there is nothing said about a day-book.

671. With regard to the statements which you have appended to this report, I find that your report is in reality taken almost verbatim from the several returns made to you?—I had no other means of doing it, because if I had investigated the circumstances by oral evidence, and taken it down in writing, I must have come to the same conclusion.

672. You were asked to ascertain "what amount of articles received from contractors remain unspected?" It may be an unimportant question, but still you were asked to give an answer to it. Did you make your answer simply upon the evidence of the person whose duty it was to inspect?—I took the answer from Mr. Elliott himself, in the presence of the inspectors.

673. Had you any ocular inspection?—It is impossible that I could have arrived at the quantity of cloth, for example.

674. If that were so, might not the War Office just as well have sent to Mr. Elliott a direction to give certain returns, instead of sending you down to Weedon to take the statements which Mr. Elliott made and put them into your report?—Not precisely. Mr. Elliott made his statement in the presence of those whose duty it was to have undeceived me if he made a false statement.

675. If returns had been called for by papers instead of an official being sent down to Weedon, would not Mr. Elliott have got them in the same form and his subordinates and others have signed them?—Possibly so.

676. Was there any additional security that these questions were answered accurately by your going down?—Except that they might have been corrected, and ought to have been corrected. I gave every officer of the department an opportunity of correcting them by going round myself, and questioning them upon the same subjects that I had questioned Mr. Elliott about in their presence.

677. Did you, in point of fact, question particularly any of the subordinates with respect to the statements which had been made by Mr. Elliott in their presence?—I could not do so.

678. I thought you just now said that you did so?—I got the same answers to similar questions that I put in his absence; the same questions that I put to Mr. Elliott in the presence of these men I repeated, not perhaps in the same words, when I went round the stores again, and got the same answers from them that I got from him.

679. For instance, as to "the system of inspection as followed at Weedon, and the method of bringing the approved stores on charge." Did not Mr. Munro furnish you with the answer which you have incorporated in your report to the sixth query?—No; this

was furnished by Mr. Elliott himself in the store-house.

680. Are you sure of that?—You will find it was Mr. Elliott; my papers will show that.

681. Is this Mr. Elliott's handwriting (*handing a paper to the witness*)?—Yes, that is known to be his handwriting.

682. You say that you asked Mr. Elliott this question and he gave you this answer?—Yes.

683. Did you make the same inquiry of any subordinate afterwards in Mr. Elliott's absence?—I do not know that I did specifically; but he made that statement to me in the presence of others. I am not quite sure whether I did not ask the same question when I went round again. The object of my going round was if possible to elicit information to corroborate what Mr. Elliott had stated.

684. Having that object in view did you ask the questions?—I cannot tax my memory.

685. A general statement of that sort does not carry the same weight that it would if you could corroborate it by reference to particular instances. Mr. Elliott makes you a certain statement. I ask you whether you verified Mr. Elliott's statements by inquiries of his subordinates, and you say "yes." Then I refer to this particular statement, and I ask if you verified that statement?—I verified it in this way, if it will be received as verification. When Mr. Elliott stated these facts to me in the presence of these men in the store, then I desired him to give it me in writing.

686. Are not you now satisfied that almost the whole of this answer to the sixth question is, I will not say false but fallacious, as leading one to imagine that the receipt and the inspection and the delivery were all separate acts?—I must explain to you with regard to the issue: the issue was quite distinct from the inspection. This statement was induced by my inquiry, on seeing the articles for inspection in the same room as those for supply, as to whether some confusion was not likely to result from such an arrangement. I therefore understood the reply to mean that no issue was made except from the supply which had been carried into stock. I could scarcely put any other construction on it, as Mr. Elliott in the sixth and seventh paragraphs of his statement appended to my report shows that the inspection and issue branches were connected.

687. Did not Mr. Elliott show that they had previously been connected instead of being disconnected?—They were then connected instead of being distinct.

688. The statement in your report is that the issue and inspection are entirely distinct?—Yes, as I explain here, the issue was distinct from the inspection. That statement was induced by my inquiry, on seeing the articles for inspection in the same room as those for supply, as to whether some confusion was not likely to result from such an arrangement. I therefore understood the reply to mean that no issue was made except from the supply which had been carried into stock. I could scarcely put any other construction upon it, as Mr. Elliott, in the sixth and seventh paragraphs of his statement appended to my report shows that the inspection and issue branches were connected. That was the only construction I could put upon it. Seeing the things together, I said, "Is there not likely to be some confusion arise from the fact of issues and inspection being together?" He then replied that the issues were kept perfectly distinct. No issues were made except from those that had been passed and carried into stock. Then I could not have supposed that they were under two distinct managements. In his statement on the last page of my report he distinctly says that they were connected.

689. In Mr. Elliott's report to you, which you made as an appendix to your report to the War Office, he says distinctly that they were connected, and in your own report you state that "the issue is quite distinct from the inspection." How do you reconcile those statements?—Mr. Elliott tells you they are so con-

nected that he finds it an inconvenience, and he actually sends for more clerks and more storekeepers for the purpose of disconnecting them, and he goes on to say that unless some clerks and storekeepers came he cannot disconnect them?—Yes.

690. Then in your report you state what seems to me directly contradictory, that “the issue is quite distinct from the inspection?”—Yes; the issue was distinct from the inspection. I have had stores in charge for years. I have received things, and kept my inspection as distinct from the issue as possible.

691. You have not said that they are connected?—I have not implied that; it is simply that the issues are kept distinct. I do not mean to say by my report that they were in different, distinct hands.

692. Mr. Elliott tells you in substance that they are not distinct, and that his object in applying for “six clerks and four storeholders” was “with a view of applying the former to official relief, and the latter to disencumber the inspectional branch of any connexion with the issue of stores.” That implies that they were then connected, does it not?—Yes.

693. He goes on in the next paragraph to say that the storeholders who were sent, or men intended for storeholders, were not fit for the purpose, and therefore he did not use them for that purpose?—Yes.

694. Therefore he shows in his statement to you, does not he, that the inspection and issue remained connected?—Yes.

695. And in your report you state that they are distinct?—The issue and the receipts are distinct. I do not infer or imply or state that they are in the hands of two different persons.

696. Is this in Mr. Elliott’s handwriting (*showing a paper to the witness*)?—Yes.

697. “He passes the goods when inspected to the storehouseman, who takes them on charge.” Was there any storehouseman?—There was a man who had the custody of the things; he was one of the people connected with the inspector’s department.

698. Can you give me the name of any one storehouseman?—I cannot.

699. I think one of the witnesses before the Contracts’ Committee said that there was no such person at all as a storehouseman; but that one of the inspector’s clerks was put up for the purpose and shown to Major Marvin?—There was a man who professed to have charge of the things. I could only take it for granted. I had no reason to suspect that there was a fraud of that sort being practised upon me.

700. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would it not have been very easy to have examined this man, with regard to the duties of the office, in such a way that he would have committed himself if he had been put up as a dummy?—I had not the slightest suspicion of anything being wrong; there was nothing that could lead me to suspect that anything was wrong.

701. (*Chairman.*) Not when you found the ledger ten months in arrear?—There was a man who professed to have charge of the stores who produced his store-book.

702. Were not you sent down for the very purpose of looking into the system?—I did look into the system and reported upon the system.

703. But in such a way that “a dummy,” as Mr. Turner says, was put up and you believed him to be a real man?—The man was as much a man and as intelligent as any other man I saw in the store.

704. He was not the storeholder?—That I really cannot answer for at all. The man was represented to me as being the man in charge of the stores. It was a very improper act on the part of the officers of that department. There was Mr. Elliott and Mr. Tatum, and there were the inspectors, all of whom were responsible for any impropriety on the part of the people connected with the stores.

705. (*Colonel French.*) Did you see the pay lists of the employés?—No, I did not.

706. Was not that part of your duty?—No.

707. (*Chairman.*) You have stated in some portion of your report that the vouchers were copied into the branch ledgers?—Yes; under the head of “Contract Branch,” at page 2.

708. Were all those vouchers in the receipt branch copied into the branch ledgers, or, as Mr. Elliott called them, the subsidiary ledgers?—This is the statement of Mr. Green, the Assistant Military Storekeeper, and his statement was verified by my inspection of those books.

709. You saw the books?—I saw the books.

710. Were the receipt vouchers copied into a book?—Excepting the arrears which are stated. There were certain arrears stated in each branch.

711. Were the vouchers for receipts after the goods were delivered ever copied into any branch or subsidiary ledger before being entered in the general store ledger?—Mr. Munro’s statement is at the bottom of page 3.

712. “The storehouseman takes them on charge by entry in his book.” Did you see any storehouseman’s book?—I did.

713. Did it contain any entries?—Yes, entries of receipts and issues.

714. That is, by the dummy, as he has been called?—I do not profess to call him a dummy; each storeholder or the man of the store had one of those books in which the receipts and issues were entered, and at any moment what he had got in store could be calculated.

715. There was a great deal of evidence before the Contracts’ Committee to show that there ought to have been a “receipt journal book,” as it was called; there was no such book, was there?—I do not remember it.

716. You said that you examined the books?—I have made a report upon the books that I examined; I have not detailed the books.

717. (*Mr. Turner.*) You are accustomed to statistical accounts, I infer, from your position; are you acquainted with the principles of book-keeping?—Not as applied to store accounts.

718. Common book-keeping?—No; I have seen storebooks kept correctly. I have not practised it.

719. You are not acquainted with the system of double entry or single entry, or the difference between the two systems?—I have not practised double entry, but I know the difference between the two systems.

720. Do you know the nature of a day-book or journal?—Yes.

721. Was there any such book kept at Weedon?—I do not remember seeing it.

722. Was the system of book-keeping at Weedon the posting of delivery notes or issue notes at once, without the intervention of any day-book, into the ledger itself?—It is clearly described here that entries were so made.

723. Although you are unacquainted with the system of book-keeping, either by single or double entry, do not you think that posting from loose documents is most objectionable, and in fact no system at all?—I have seen books kept by single and double entry; but in answering your question I simply mean that I am not master of those systems.

724. There was no system of book-keeping pursued at Weedon by either double or single entry, but simply posting into the ledger at once from loose documents, either sent in as vouchers of delivery or vouchers of issue, is that so?—That is precisely as it was done, and I so describe it.

725. (*Chairman.*) You have given in a return from Mr. Munro. You called upon him for a statement and a report of the ledger branch, did not you?—Yes.

726. Mr. Munro has since been examined, and he was asked, “Did you point out to Major Marvin, when he was investigating the system on which your ledgers were posted, that you had no day-book, which by the regulations you ought to have been furnished with?” (*Parl. Paper, 1858, No. 398, page 140.*) Did he point out to you any day-book?—No.

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727. He had none?—No.

728. By the regulations ought he to have had a day-book?—I do not know anything in the Ordnance regulations with respect to a day-book; in the regulation for the keeping the ledgers I see nothing mentioned about a day-book.

729. Do you think that the Ordnance regulations do not require a day-book to be kept?—The question put to me here is, whether the books are kept according to the Ordnance regulations. I looked at the Ordnance regulation which directed how the ledger was to be kept, and I saw nothing about a day-book. I do not mean to say that it was not necessary, but no day-book is laid down in the Ordnance regulations.

730. By the Ordnance regulations ought Mr. Munro to have had a day-book?—I do not know that he ought; I did not discover it in the Ordnance regulations, and I have looked. Only on Friday or Saturday I had a conversation with Captain Gordon, and he told me there was nothing in the Ordnance regulations which required a day-book, although at most stations a day-book was kept.

731. And your impression is that a day-book is not required?—I did not mean to say that my impression was that a day-book was not required by the Ordnance regulation. I was required to state whether the books were kept in conformity with the Ordnance regulations, and I turned to the Ordnance regulation which describes how the ledger was to be kept. I found that it was kept in accordance with this regulation, and no mention is made of a day-book.

732. Do you think a day-book is a desirable thing or not?—Yes. I was required to state the system followed at Weedon, and I have distinctly done so.

733. You have taken Mr. Munro's account, and copied it verbatim into your report, although you think that there should be a day-book?—I have been told so since.

734. Was it your opinion then?—It did not occur to me. I took the statements of facts as they were presented to me.

735. Were you contented with reporting the facts, as you believed them, without expressing an opinion upon whether the system was the best or not?—Of course I was not called upon to state whether it was a good or bad system, but simply to state the facts, as you will see by the instructions I received. I was not called upon for an opinion at all.

736. Still you knew that it was the practice to have a day-book?—I was not aware of it till after. I take it for granted that there ought to be a day-book.

737. You did not know it in February when you went down to Weedon?—No, I did not. With reference to the ledger the question is distinct here, whether it is kept in accordance with the Ordnance regulations. I turn to that part of the Ordnance regulations which relates to the keeping of the ledger, and I find nothing at all about a day-book.

738. (*Colonel French.*) Were you ever connected with the Woolwich store department?—I have been a good deal among the stores in the arsenal.

739. Is not a day-book kept there?—I never went into any details of that sort.

740. You do not know that?—I do not.

741. (*Chairman.*) And it never occurred to you to ask the question of anybody?—It did not. I questioned the different officers at the head of the branch, when I got their statements as to how the duty was done.

742. But is there anything in your report to show affirmatively whether a day-book was kept or not?—There is nothing in my report to show it.

743. If you were asked to report upon the mode in which the duty was performed, do you not see that it was an important omission?—No, I do not see that. I was called upon to state how the duty was performed, not how it was not performed. I state how

it was performed, and it is for the authorities of Pall Mall to decide how it should be performed.

744. You think that you were not called upon to state the negative proposition that there was no day-book kept?—No. I was called upon to report how the duty was performed.

745. I may take it then that this report, as appears in fact from the papers you have been good enough to hand to me, is taken verbatim from the various statements made to you, and is rather a recapitulation of evidence than a judicial decision by you; you considered yourself rather as a person taking evidence than as a judge, did you not?—Precisely. If there had been two or three of us taking evidence we could only have done the same thing. I first made minutes or notes of what they stated to me in a memorandum book, and then I required them to state it in writing.

746. You have stated, "With respect to the general ledgers more particularly it would appear that, although they are so far in arrear, the means of completing them from the branch ledgers and from the receipt and delivery vouchers, which are correctly filed in consecutive order, is so ample, that no irregularity is likely to arise from the delay." Were there any branch ledgers?—Yes; each branch had a ledger.

747. Did you see them?—I did.

748. Mr. Munro says positively that there was no such thing in his own department?—His own department consists of the entries into the general ledger; he had no other ledger but the general ledger; if you look at the other branches, the contract branch, for instance, you will find that they had a ledger in which all the receipts and issues are posted.

749. The general ledger would mean the store ledger, would it not?—Yes. If you look at page 3, under the head of No. 5 you will see this passage. "The demands and issues are posted in regimental ledgers, under the head of each regiment, depôt, or service."

750. That is the issues?—Yes.

751. In that department was there any branch ledger?—That is the ledger: "The demands and issues are posted in regimental ledgers."

752. I am speaking of the receipts. You say in the concluding paragraph of your report that the general ledger is behindhand, but the vouchers remain and the branch ledgers remain; I want to ascertain whether there was such a thing as a branch ledger from which the receipts could be made up into the general ledger. When Mr. Elliott was before the Contracts' Committee, he spoke of branch ledgers or subsidiary ledgers. Mr. Munro says that the whole thing was a sham; that there were no branch ledgers and no subsidiary ledgers?—I saw the branch ledgers at Weedon.

753. What branch ledgers?—"After inspection the voucher is returned to the office, and the result posted into the inspection ledgers."

754. Do you mean by that the receipt ledger?—It would show the quantity of each article delivered from the contractor, the quantity approved, and the quantity rejected.

755. Is there an account in any branch ledger of stores received and receipts given for them; there is the general store ledger, which Mr. Elliott says is in arrear?—Yes.

756. You say that Mr. Elliott said that though it was in arrear it could be made up, either from the vouchers or the branch ledgers, as I understand?—Each regiment had an account, and the receipts for the supply of that regiment were entered in the regimental ledger.

757. I am speaking of the receipt of the stores; there ought to have been a receipt journal and day-book of all stores received, ought there not?—Yes.

758. As I understand you, that can be made up from the vouchers?—Yes.

759. You say that the ledger is in arrear (I am now speaking of the stores received), but that the

ledger might be made up from the branch ledger or from vouchers?—Yes.

760. Do you mean to say that any such branch ledgers existed?—I do.

761. In all the departments?—In each of those branches where it was their duty to receive stores.

762. (*Colonel French.*) Did you see the branch ledgers?—I did. Captain Gordon has told me that since he has been at Weedon he has discontinued those branch ledgers.

763. Did you see whether the branch ledgers corresponded with any of the vouchers?—I did.

764. Did they correspond?—With some of the vouchers; I did not prove the whole of them.

765. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were there exact postings into those branch ledgers from the vouchers?—From the regimental receipts, those receipts that ought to have gone into the daily journal. Of course there was nothing for it but to copy them from the vouchers. When I speak of the possibility of doing it from branch ledgers, each branch kept an account of the issues to the different regiments.

766. You say that there was a branch ledger kept, and I ask you whether into that branch ledger the vouchers were minutely posted?—“A notification having been received from the Director of Contracts of a contract having been entered into with a firm for the supply of certain articles, a personal account is opened with the firm with whom the contract has been made, the extent of the contract being posted on the debit side of the ledger; and when supplies are received they are posted to the credit of the firm from inspection vouchers stating the quantity sent into store by the contractor. The inspection voucher having been copied into a book for the purpose, to each voucher a distinct number is given for future reference.”

767. (*Chairman.*) There are three things. There is the contract branch and the issue branch, neither of which we are speaking of; but there is the ledger branch, in which stores received are entered, or should be entered. Now, that store ledger is in arrear, and Mr. Elliott is represented to have told the Contracts' Committee that, though that book was in arrear, he could make it up at any time from what he called his “subsidiary ledgers.” Did you see any such things as branch ledgers or subsidiary ledgers in the ledger branch?—I saw nothing at all in the ledger branch except the ledger itself. It was their duty alone to keep this ledger.

768. We have been asking about the receipt of stores. The ledger was in arrear, and the ledger has to be made up from inspection notes. Mr. Elliott told the Contracts' Committee that he could make the ledger up from what he called branch ledgers. In reply to Mr. Roebuck he said that he could tell in a moment from his subsidiary ledgers what amount of articles there was in store. Does that mean the subsidiary ledgers that you saw?—The books in the possession of each store man, or the man who was in the store, clearly showed on one side of the account the things he had received from day to day, and on the other side the issues, and a balance might be struck at any moment. Each store man had one of those books.

769. In which the daily receipt was kept?—As the articles were brought into the store they were entered, and the issues also.

770. To ascertain that you must have gone to each separate store man?—Yes.

771. Did you see any such books?—I did distinctly.

772. Who produced them?—Captain Smith produced one, and Mr. Moore.

773. What was Mr. Moore?—Mr. Moore was one of the viewers.

774. But he is not a storeholder?—I assure you that he had charge of stores. He had charge, I take it, under the inspectors.

775. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would you have confidence

in the statements of a man (I am assuming that he might be honest) who was the viewer of the articles delivered, and also acting as storekeeper of the articles in store?—I think it is possible that a man may be honest enough to perform both duties, but I should rather have them separated.

776. Would it not be a great temptation?—I admit it.

777. Do not you think it was an erroneous system where such a state of things existed?—Decidedly.

778. (*Chairman.*) Are you still of opinion that the materials are so ample for making up the ledger that no irregularity is likely to arise?—I certainly was of that opinion from the evidence I received at Weedon.

779. Are you still of that opinion?—Not from what I have heard since; decidedly not.

780. What has made that alteration in your opinion?—Because Mr. Elliott's honesty now is impeached, and it was not impeached then.

781. Mr. Elliott's honesty in the cash transactions has very little to do, as far as I see at present, with the irregularity in the books?—If the vouchers are present I do not see any difficulty in making up the ledgers.

782. Nothing but the inconvenience, the delay, and expense?—That is what I imagine.

783. How far did you satisfy yourself that the vouchers were in consecutive order?—I did not look at the whole of them; those that I did look at were so.

784. Did you satisfy yourself, from the amount of inspection that you did give to them, that they were “carefully filed in consecutive order”?—I was satisfied at the time that they were in consecutive order, and they were represented to me as being in consecutive order; and I will add also, that as far as my recollection goes they were in consecutive order; but at the same time the consecutive numbering would not have prevented some of the intermediate ones being lost, and imperfect numbers being given to them.

785. They might be consecutive with large gaps?—Certainly.

786. However correct they might be so far as sequency was concerned, if half of them were missing might not great irregularity arise from their loss?—I did not suspect that there was any loss.

787. From your stating that the receipt and delivery vouchers were “carefully filed in consecutive order” I should understand that they were all there; do not you mean that?—It was not represented that there was any deficiency. I took it for granted that the consecutive numbers indicated that they were all present.

788. (*Colonel French.*) With regard to the subsidiary ledgers, you have stated that you examined some of the subsidiary ledgers?—I do not know whether they ought to be called ledgers. They were accounts in a small book that each man had in the store, in which he showed his receipts and his issues, the receipts that came into his charge and the issues he had made from his particular store.

789. Having examined them with the view of seeing that they corresponded with the vouchers, can you recollect of what articles your examination consisted?—Certainly not; it was impossible to do so. Each store had an immense quantity of articles.

790. Of course each ledger was on a different subject?—Each ledger was on a different subject.

791. When you examined the vouchers, which consisted of various articles, and therefore applied to various ledgers, on taking up the ledgers you would of course ascertain whether the articles in the ledgers corresponded with those vouchers?—If you are speaking of the books in the storehouse, there were no vouchers, because after the man entered the vouchers into the book, the vouchers, I take it, went to the office. They were not in the store at all.

792. I thought you stated that you saw the

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vouchers and examined them?—I saw the vouchers in the ledger branch, not the vouchers in the storehouse; it was simply a book with an entry of receipts and issues.

793. (*Chairman.*) In whose custody did that book remain?—In the custody of the man in the store, I take it. The inspector had the general charge, and these men were under the inspector.

794. Who had the ledger?—I do not call it a ledger; it is some sort of book they had in the store.

795. Do you know of any books that were in Mr. Elliott's possession from which he could make up the ledger?—No, no books in his personal possession.

796. When you used the term "branch ledger," you meant those books that were in the hands of the four chief inspectors?—The term "branch ledgers" used throughout my report, referred to the ledgers in the contract and issue branches.

797. What was Mr. Munro's duty?—Mr. Munro's duty was keeping the general store ledger of the station; he had no other ledger.

798. Who would have the book relating to the receipt of stores and those vouchers which ought to have been entered into a ledger, before they got into the fair ledger?—I take it that those receipt vouchers were not entered anywhere unless they were entered into the storeman's ledger or the storeman's book.

799. (*Mr. Turner.*) I wish to satisfy my own mind, if I can, as to what the value of those books was. You call them subsidiary ledgers or books kept by the inspectors for the particular articles they had inspected and had in store. We will take the article of boots; confining yourself to the item of boots, who inspected the boots; some particular man, I suppose?—Yes.

800. Did the same person make out the vouchers that he had inspected so many boots?—The voucher is made out in the office in the first place, I take it, and then sent down.

801. From what is the voucher made out?—From the contractor's delivery paper that he has delivered so many boots. Then there are two or three columns for approved, rejected, and so on.

802. The first duty of the inspector is to ascertain that there are so many boots; and he notifies, by his inspection, whether so many of them are passed into store and so many of them are rejected, if any are rejected?—Yes.

803. Then that voucher, so far as the boots are concerned, should be entered in the storekeeper's subsidiary ledger or memorandum book, or whatever you choose to call it, (I can scarcely give a name to such books,) and, in fact, they are entered by the same individual who has inspected them in his account of stores?—Yes; there is no other individual.

804. The same individual?—Yes.

805. The person who is responsible for passing so many pairs of boots into store does not hand them to another person, who then counts them and takes charge of them, and ascertains, on his own behalf, that as storeholder he has received so many boots, but the same individual has charge of them still?—The same individual has charge of them; but he hands them to one of his subordinates who counts them over.

806. He is responsible for so many boots?—Yes.

807. They are under one charge throughout, from the time of their receipt to the time that they come to be issued?—Precisely.

808. And no other person checks them?—I do not know what check they have upon him.

809. He is the same person, is he not, throughout, never mind what he is called?—I have not stated anything to the contrary on my report.

810. (*Chairman.*) You state that the inspector when he has completed his inspection passes the articles to the storehouseman, who takes them on charge?—He is not the same person, he is under the inspector.

811. Is the storehouseman under the person who is the inspector?—He is.

812. (*Mr. Turner.*) The storehouseman is a subordinate officer to the inspector?—Yes.

813. Does he obey his orders?—I take it so.

814. (*Chairman.*) You say that a person was shown to you as the storehouseman?—Yes.

815. How many storehousemen were there?—There were a great many in the store; one had charge of this book in each store.

816. Do you know how many storeholders there were?—There is a cloth store, there is a boot store, a saddlery store, and a necessary store.

817. Four or five at least?—Yes.

818. And four or five various inspectors?—Yes.

819. In each case was there a man presented to you representing the storeholder of that particular branch?—There was a man who was acknowledged to be the man who had the stores in charge, and had possession of the book in which the stores were entered.

820. Did you understand him at that time to be a subordinate officer to the man who had passed the goods?—I did.

821. The inspector, in your judgment, remaining responsible?—Yes.

822. Did you ever make any investigation of the kind before?—Never.

823. Did not it strike you that the storeholder being a subordinate officer to the inspector, or to the receiver and passer of the goods, was an objectionable system?—I did not feel called upon to animadvert upon it, because I was under the impression that that must have been known at head-quarters, where it would also be known what the establishment was.

824. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were you aware that four men were sent down as storeholders?—Yes; it is distinctly stated.

825. Were you aware of it?—By what was told me by Mr. Elliott the storekeeper.

826. Were you aware that those men were not allowed to act in that capacity, but were employed as clerks?—Yes, by Mr. Elliott's report.

827. (*Chairman.*) Do you know whether those men were fitted for the office which they were sent down to fill?—No.

828. Mr. Elliott states that the reason why they were not made storeholders was, that they were not fit for the duty?—I only know that fact from Mr. Elliott's own statement.

829. Mr. Elliott says that he showed you various letters applying for assistance?—Yes; they are quoted in my report, the dates are given, and I had copies of the letters.

830. Have you satisfied yourself that there were no others, because Mr. Elliott speaks of repeated requests for assistance?—He gave me copies of all the letters that he alludes to in that part of his statement.

831. Have you satisfied yourself, by a comparison of the copies with the original letters, that his statements are quite accurate in that respect?—With regard to the letters; but of course it is to be settled by the authorities here whether he got the assistance he stated; they may have the means of contradicting the statement which was presented to me, referring to his want of assistance; perhaps his statement that he did not get the clerks may not be correct.

832. They cannot contradict the statement that he asked for assistance?—I should say not.

833. Did your inquiries at Weedon extend to the question of the efficiency of the staff for the posts which they respectively filled?—No, that did not form part of my instructions at all.

834. Did Mr. Elliott, at that time, make any request to you for further assistance?—None whatever. He represented all his difficulties, that he had applied for assistance from time to time, and that when he did get assistance it was some time after his application had been made. He said that he was in arrear when he made his application, and he was still further in arrear when the clerks arrived.

835. In the first year of the examination by the Contracts' Committee a statement of the whole esta-

blishment at Weedon was put in; is that statement correct?—(*Mr. Ramsay.*) That was a correct statement of the staff with which Mr. Elliott started. (*See Parliamentary Paper 362, 1856, pp. 100, 106.*)

836. (*Mr. Turner to Major Marvin.*) Your report is chiefly derived, is it not, from the evidence of men who had an object in making certain statements to you?—True; but I do not know how I could have arrived at the facts of the case without receiving that sort of evidence.

837. (*Chairman.*) Of course you received the evidence, and you should have stated it as evidence; but you believed it all, because you mix up now and then a statement of your own with it. For instance, "Each room should, moreover, have been so divided as to keep the stores waiting for inspection, and those under inspection, totally distinct from those approved and carried into stock. The latter remark applies more or less to all the store-rooms except the cloth and boot stores, each of which have separate inspection rooms attached thereto; but in every case I found the books of the viewers or store-holders kept with much accuracy, and calculated to show satisfactorily the amount of stock in charge of each." How could you tell whether the books of the storeholders were "kept with much accuracy?"—Judging from the manner in which they were kept;

GEORGE DALHOUSIE RAMSAY, Esq., further examined.

842. (*Mr. Turner.*) You stated on Saturday that in addition to the stock-takings or ascertaining the remains you had periodical surveys?—Yes.

843. I understood you to say that a survey was a general looking through the stock, and that the surveyors had the power of ascertaining, with respect to any particular article, whether the quantity of that particular article as exhibited by the books really existed?—Yes.

844. I then asked you whether the surveyors not only had the power to do this, but whether it was ever practically acted upon, and I understood you to be a little in doubt whether it was done?—I have since ascertained that it is the practice when surveying officers are appointed to proceed and make a survey of stores, to examine the storekeeper's books, and ascertain what his receipts and what his issues are according to his ledger. Then they say, "If your receipts and issues are correct you ought to have certain quantities in stock;" and they count here and there articles, for example, gun sponges; they say, "You have received 1,500; according to your ledger, you have issued 1,000, therefore you ought to have 500 in store." They count the stock of gun sponges, and if they find the stock of gun sponges to be 500, they go on to something else, and if they find that all those are correct, then they have a right to infer that the storekeeper's stock generally is correct.

845. (*Chairman.*) Would not that inference as to accuracy apply better where the number of articles was small,—500 gun sponges might be counted with tolerable ease,—but would not an examination with respect to 50,000 pairs of boots be a more troublesome matter?—All the surveying officers would have to do would be to count the casks of boots. I have the report of a survey held at Portsmouth, which will illustrate the manner in which a survey is conducted. If you will allow me, I will read the whole of the report:—"Report on the Survey of Military Stores in charge of Alexander Stewart, Esq., Senior Military Store Officer at Portsmouth; taken in pursuance of instructions from the Director of Stores of Her Majesty's War Office, dated 23rd June 1858, and containing such Observations as have occurred at the Station, conformably to such instructions."

846. That is a survey which has just been made?—Yes.

847. Has it been made in the ordinary course of business?—The surveys take place every year.

848. At a certain time?—No; as I before explained, during the war time they fell into disuse.

of course I could not prove them unless I had taken the stock.

838. (*Mr. Turner.*) You referred to the minuteness of the entries?—Yes.

839. (*Chairman.*) Minuteness is not equivalent to accuracy, is it?—The accuracy could only have been tested by counting the stores in hand, and that would have taken months to do. I think that even now the remain of the stores is not taken at Weedon.

840. If you undertake to say that books are kept with accuracy, does not that imply that you have satisfied yourself upon trustworthy evidence that they are so, and not merely that books are very neatly kept?—The distinction between Weedon and the Tower was, that at the Tower each compartment had a label put upon it, showing what there was in each of those compartments, and at Weedon the information was contained in a book kept by those storemen, instead of being put on the compartments in which the things were deposited.

841. If you had stated that the books were kept with great minuteness we should have understood it, but when you say that they were kept with accuracy, that implies that you have verified the accuracy in some way, does not it?—If I had to write that report again I should do so with more particularity.

849. Are the surveys conducted at Midsummer?—Generally in the summer time, on account of the length of the days.

850. In order to remove any possible idea that this report may have been got up for a purpose, can you state that this has been done in the regular course of business?—Yes; it commenced on the 13th of July and ended on the 15th of July:—"Survey commenced 13th July and ended 15th July 1858; present S. H. Payne, for Director of Stores; Lieut.-Col. Shakespear, Royal Artillery; Com. McDonald, of H.M.S. 'Urgent'; Alexander Stewart, Senior Military Store Officer. Sir,—I have the honour to enclose the list of stores surveyed at the Gun-wharf, Portsmouth, together with the certificate of the naval and military officers regarding the condition of the stores. I find the ledger fully posted up, and the fair or transcript ledger kept well up. The quantity of stores in charge of Mr. Stewart, including those due to him on demand, are sufficient to meet the probable wants of the service. There are no stores available for any other station. The arrangements for the stowage are, I consider, good. With regard to the security of the stores, I am of opinion that one, if not two more sentries should be posted at least nightly, if not constantly, along the wharf frontage. In this view both Lieut.-Col. Shakespear, and Commander McDonald (as well as the Principal Military Storekeeper), fully concur. The stores seem in good condition, and are well kept. There are four large old-pattern and two small fire-engines. I think that two good new-pattern engines, of the first quality, would be far more effective than the four old-patterns in use, and would therefore strongly recommend that they be exchanged accordingly; so that, in the event of a fire occurring, two really effective engines might be brought to bear upon it instead of four shaky and half-worn-out, ineffective machines." The surveying officer is instructed to point out anything defective which may occur to him; and these are the lists of stores which were counted at Portsmouth, which are a very small part of the stores in charge of the storekeeper. For instance, in one article, metal-pipe boxes, the ledger gave the storekeeper four in store, but upon counting he had twelve, so that there was an error in his favour which he had to explain, and which he has since explained, that they were produced from broken-up materials and not brought on charge. In the case of life apparatus for night buoys the ledger gives 81 pulleys, and the survey 82; there

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are three or four discrepancies like that (*handing in a paper*).

851. You said that the officer making that survey had instructions to point out anything defective; are those general instructions or specific instructions?—They were given in on Friday last (App. No. 6); they are printed instructions to officers making a survey; they are the old instructions reprinted, with some modifications.

852. (*Mr. Turner.*) This paper which you have handed to me is headed "List of stores in charge of 'principal military storekeeper at Portsmouth, surveyed between the 13th and 15th of July 1858.'" Then it enumerates all the articles alphabetically. You say that this list does not contain the whole of the stores at Portsmouth?—No; those are only the articles that the surveying officers actually counted.

853. I see there are 10,933 blankets, which were not only surveyed but counted?—Only the bales; the surveying officers did not open the bales actually to ascertain the number of blankets.

854. There were 10,933, according to the surveyor, and there is no remark opposite that item as to what there was in the ledger; am I therefore to infer that the ledger is correct?—Yes, that shows that the ledger is correct.

855. I wished to ascertain whether a survey really meant anything further than some gentlemen walking round the rooms and casting their eyes about them; but it appears from this paper that there is a methodical counting of a very considerable number of articles. I do not know how many, but there must be a great many articles if these are not all?—Yes; Portsmouth is a very large station.

856. It appears from this paper with respect to Portsmouth, at all events, (which is not included in our inquiry,) that there is a very accurate survey, and a very fair attempt made at checking a great number of items?—Yes; I have brought that paper as an illustration.

857. Can you state from your knowledge, having been at Weedon, whether anything approaching that kind of survey ever took place there?—No, certainly not; because when it was once decided to relieve Mr. Elliott of his charge, all stock-taking or survey was delayed till the new storekeeper came in.

858. I think we have a right to infer from the evidence afforded by that paper, that things are not only in theory but in practice very well conducted at Portsmouth, and that Weedon has been very much neglected?—Weedon has been neglected from the peculiar circumstance of having been created in the height of the war, and when the war had hardly terminated the Indian mutiny occurred, and the China war broke out, which led to such a vast increase of business and stores, that I do not think it would have been possible to have taken a survey at Weedon at that time.

859. (*Chairman.*) If Weedon was neglected, was the Tower neglected also?—There has been no survey at the Tower either.

860. For two years?—I do not know when the last survey was, but stock was taken at the Tower in October 1857.

861. And there was a stock-taking at Weedon in preparation for Captain Gordon coming in in the spring of this year, was there not?—Yes; the reason why it was decided not to have any stock-taking before was because it was known that Mr. Elliott was going to be removed; and if we had taken stock then we must have taken it again when he was relieved of his charge.

862. When was it decided that Mr. Elliott was to be removed?—It was brought under consideration about August 1857.

863. The omission to take the survey at Weedon was an omission to take it in the early part of 1857?—Or rather the end of 1856 the survey ought to have been taken.

864. The Weedon establishment began in December 1855?—The Weedon establishment began then;

but the storekeeper had no stores till February or March 1856. I was asked to inquire when the examination of the store ledger would be completed. I have since spoken to Sir Benjamin Hawes. I thought there was some misunderstanding, and what he referred to was the store ledger for the year ending the 31st of March 1857; that is completed and examined.

865. Supposing we wish to see it, you have done with it at the War Office?—The ledger is actually examined, and what we are doing now is verifying it by the actual expenditure; that is to say, taking the case of one item, the storekeeper says in his ledger that he has received 200,000 or 300,000 pairs of boots, and during that period he has issued so many and has so many in stock. We are verifying the ledger by ascertaining, which we can accurately, the exact sum of money paid to every contractor for boots delivered at Weedon, and the exact quantities delivered; so that we have a pretty good verification of the ledger.

866. (*Mr. Turner.*) And also valuable as the means of ascertaining that you have not paid at the War Office for more boots than you have received?—Certainly.

867. (*Chairman.*) It has been suggested by several witnesses before the Contracts' Committee that it would be impossible to ascertain the state of the ledger accurately, and the reason given is, that though you might ascertain the amounts contracted for and the amounts issued to the regiments or elsewhere, yet you could not ascertain the amounts returned from the regiments. Is there any great difficulty in ascertaining the amounts returned from the regiments?—No; we are ascertaining that now. We have sent out circulars to every regiment on service, calling on them to state the quantities of stores which they have received from Weedon, and the quantities which they have returned into store.

868. Are you aware that various officials have stated over and over again that the returns could not be ascertained?—I am; but I take quite the contrary view. Commissary-General Adams, who has been down at Weedon, also concurs with me that it will only be a matter of labour to ascertain to a very great degree of accuracy the defalcations of Mr. Elliott, if any.

869. I think a witness on Saturday stated that Commissary-General Adams's examination, posting up of the ledgers, and so forth, would not be completed for two months?—I am afraid it will be three months.

870. Looking at his report so far as it has gone, I am under the impression that he says it could be done in five weeks from the 10th of June?—I rather think that he has modified his opinion since then. I have written to him to state positively when he thinks it will be completed.

871. Of course we cannot take the actual vouchers out of his hands, but we should be glad to know when the store ledgers and all the documents and vouchers will be ready for inspection by an independent accountant?—They will come to the War Office first.

872. Do the vouchers come up with the ledgers?—Yes; I was talking to the Store Accountant to-day who examines those ledgers, and he tells me that he could get through the Weedon ledger in a month after it is received.

873. I understand you to state that the ledger for 1857 is up now?—It is finished.

874. Is it examined?—Yes.

875. Is it ready for us or for our accountant?—It will be ready in a week or ten days; the verification is not quite complete, but the examination of the ledger is complete. There is no reason why the accountant should not go on with the 1856-57 ledger when it is out of the hands of the War Office.

876. (*Mr. Turner.*) It will be satisfactory, I presume, to the authorities of the War Office, as it will be to us, that there should be a thorough investigation of the system of account keeping, by an independent man who has no connexion in any form or shape

with it?—Quite so; we shall be only too glad to receive any suggestions which can improve our system of keeping books. There is a proposal now for simplifying our books which I may state: the Tower ledger consists of nearly 17,000 headings of different articles, and amongst those articles there are nails; I suppose there are 1,200 different descriptions of nails, and the storekeeper has a separate heading for every description of nail; it is proposed to put nails all under one heading, files all under one heading, and brooms and mops under one heading, instead of having an individual heading for the different descriptions; but if you do that you will never be able to get an accurate statement from the storekeeper, if he lumps all his nails and all his files together; he may be minus one description, plus another, and so on.

877. The storekeeper would have one heading for springs an inch long, and another heading for springs an inch and a half long?—Yes; the Tower ledger is comprised, I believe, in twelve very large volumes.

878. (*Chairman.*) Did you hear what Major Marvin stated with regard to any requirement to keep anything but the principal ledger under the Ordnance regulations?—Yes.

879. Do you concur in that?—I cannot find in the Ordnance regulations that there is any direction for a day-book to be kept, but every storekeeper would of necessity as a safeguard for himself keep a day-book, because when he issues his articles he sends two vouchers to the person to whom he makes the issue. Suppose he issues, we will say, 100 muskets to the officer commanding the 59th regiment, he will send with them a voucher, signed by himself, which the commanding officer keeps, and he sends another voucher, that is the receipt voucher, which the commanding officer signs and returns to him. If he does not keep a day-book he would have no entry at all of the issue of those 100 muskets, and therefore he keeps a day-book for his own security.

880. That is in the issue department?—Yes.

881. Will you explain the meaning of an expression that I caught when you read that report of the survey at Portsmouth about the fair ledger, and the transcript ledger?—Every storekeeper has to make a transcript of his ledger; in all probability there may be erasures in his ledger, and he sends to the War Office a complete ledger.

882. Have you ever known a case in which there has been an issue of so much of an article, and the person receiving has, through inadvertence or the hurry of business, acknowledged a larger quantity than afterwards turns out to have been received?—I believe such cases have occurred; one case came under my knowledge of some cloth being issued for the officer commanding the Military Train. The voucher said 704 yards of cloth; they sent the receipt for the officer commanding to sign, and the officer commanding did not sign the receipt, but actually took the trouble to open the bale and count the yards of cloth; instead of their being 704 there were only 70 $\frac{1}{4}$. It seems that it was a clerical error on the part of the clerk at Weedon; instead of putting 70 $\frac{1}{4}$ he put 704.

883. If by mistake the commanding officer had signed the receipt, and it had been sent back, would he have been responsible for the cloth?—No; it would have been found out in the end. The store-

keeper would have had a surplus in his favour if the commanding officer had signed his receipt.

884. The suggestion is, that there may have been credit given to the contractor for more cloth than he sent in. It is said, "But that would be found out afterwards." "No," it may be replied, "that deficiency may have been supplied by issue notes for a larger quantity than was sent out." Do you think that is possible?—I hardly think it is possible; so many parties would have to be in collusion one with another. I may mention that we frequently have cases of one or two articles. Take the case of small stores issued. The storekeeper says he has issued 100 nails, and the commanding officer says he has only had 97 or 98. Those things occasionally occur, and a correspondence takes place; the storekeeper insists that he is right, and the officer commanding insists that he is right; and in a small thing like that we generally relieve the storekeeper.

885. Have you ever heard of any error of that sort that was not detected and corrected?—No; Colonel Macmurdo, to whom that cloth was issued, wrote to me privately about it.

886. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have stated that you do not expect to receive the ledger from Weedon for two months from this time?—No.

887. Ending when?—Ending the 14th of May. It will be made up to the day that stock was taken.

888. If you do not receive it for two months, how long will it require to examine it?—It will take a month to examine it.

889. Therefore we shall not have an opportunity of inspecting that ledger before three months from this time?—Certainly not.

890. (*Chairman.*) We are in some doubt as to the limits or rather the extent of our inquiry, whether we were to go over again the same ground which the Contracts' Committee have investigated, or whether they have referred to us only a section of the subjects which occupied their attention. As we thought Colonel Boldero was perhaps the best exponent of the view of the Committee upon that point, we put ourselves in communication with him this morning; and, personally, I am a little surprised to find how large a field he said the Committee desired to resign to us, because I should have thought, when seventeen gentlemen have been sitting upon an inquiry, that an investigation by three would rather have been confined to such matters as accounts, which of course can be looked at better by a small number than by a large one; but he says it is desired that we also should inquire into the question as to the efficiency of the inspectors, as to the mode of their inspection, and whether injustice has been done in such cases, for instance, as Isaac's kits or Dowie's boots. I thought it better to mention this to you, as in some degree representing the War Office, in order that any witnesses who can give evidence upon the subject besides those who have been already examined may be forthcoming upon such points as those. If the names of any such witnesses occur to you, will you be good enough to communicate them?—Yes.

891. Shall we be able to inspect the books which are now being kept at Weedon?—Yes. Captain Gordon's books will be perfectly ready for inspection immediately, from the 14th of May.

LONDON.

G. D. Ramsay,
Esq.

26 July 1858.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

LONDON.

Tuesday, 27th July 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

LONDON.

T. Howell, Esq.

27 July 1858.

THOMAS HOWELL, Esq., examined.

892. (*Chairman*). You are Director of Contracts in the War Department?—Yes.

893. How long have you filled that office?—Since 1855.

894. Was it established upon the change of system?—Yes.

895. The Commissioners do not propose to trouble you to repeat the evidence which you gave in detail in February last year. I presume you have had an opportunity of reading that evidence lately?—I have.

896. To its general accuracy I presume you fully adhere?—I do.

897. Are there any modifications of that evidence that you would desire to make?—There are one or two verbal inaccuracies; but the point upon which I should more particularly wish to offer an explanation is with reference to the large quantity of boots that are there spoken of. It was at page 13, and the questions are 183 to 190. (*See Parliamentary Paper, No. 93, 1857.*)

898. If you have any explanation to give with respect to those boots, as you were the first person who mentioned them, it will be satisfactory to us to have that explanation from yourself?—The explanation I would like to give to the Commissioners is this: with regard to the examination and sale of the boots, no official responsibility rests upon me. I had nothing to do with that proceeding, and therefore in replying to the question asked I was rather speaking of that which I gathered in the course of conversation than of what I knew officially, from papers that passed before me. What I would observe is this: an impression seems to have gone abroad that 170,000 pairs of boots were sold, and that upon those 170,000 pairs of boots a certain loss occurred. I did not say they were sold, because I knew that a portion, and only a portion, of those boots had been sold. The quantity that was sold was very much below the quantity that was referred to; and consequently I might, perhaps, in my evidence, more explicitly have stated, that, so far as the sales went, the boots had realized a certain price; I was not in a position to tell the Committee the exact extent of the sales that had taken place. If I had given that explanation more clearly at the time, it would probably have saved time and trouble to the Committee afterwards.

899. Did not you convey to the Committee the idea that 170,000 pairs of boots which had been passed by one inspector were refused by another?—Yes. I believe what occurred was this: when the Army Clothing Department was formed, they had to take possession of the boots that were in store at the Tower, and as complaints had been made from the Crimea with regard to the quality of some of the boots that had been sent out there, they were very scrupulously re-examined.

900. Are you speaking of what was done at Weedon?—It was either at Weedon or at the Tower. I am not sure where; but they went through a rigid examination; and a large quantity of boots was set aside, I believe 150,000 pairs, which they considered were not so good as the boots that they were then issuing to the soldiers. Some portions of those boots were ordered for sale, and were sold.

901. Do you know what number of boots went, in the first instance, from the Tower to Weedon?—I

do not know what number went from the Tower to Weedon.

902. You gave the impression, by your evidence, that 150,000 or 170,000 pairs of boots had been condemned, that has been contradicted over and over again; have you the means either of verifying your former statement, or are you satisfied that your former statement was inaccurate?—I believe there was a certain quantity of boots that was set aside as not so good as they ought to be, and that from them a certain quantity was sold.

903. Do you know of your own knowledge whether, out of that 150,000 or 170,000 pairs of boots more than 20,000 pairs were sold?—I do not know the exact quantity that was sold.

904. I am afraid, in your evidence, you did speak as if you were acquainted with the circumstances. Mr. Otway asked you this question, "There was a person in such a position that he could pass 170,000 pairs of boots, considered competent, who you say was not competent, and the boots which he passed were rejected, and in consequence the loss fell upon the public?" Your answer is, "Exactly." Undoubtedly that would convey to the Committee that 170,000 pairs of boots had been rejected, and that the public had lost the difference of price. Do you know of your own knowledge, or can you refer us to anybody else who does know, whether more than 20,000 pairs were actually sold or not?—I believe about 20,000 pairs only were sold.

905. And the 54,000 which came from the Crimea, and which were sold, we gather from other testimony, were no portion of those 150,000?—That is a question which I cannot answer; it is a matter which did not come before me officially. I was answering before the Committee from information received in the course of conversation, and not from papers which had come before me in my official position.

906. You do not know whether the inspection of those boots was at Weedon or at the Tower?—I do not know where the inspection took place.

907. As Director of Contracts, I suppose you would know nothing about the cash account of Mr. Elliott?—Nothing whatever.

908. Who would?—Mr. Garrett, who is in the office of the Accountant-General.

909. Would he know that by virtue of the investigation which he conducted at Weedon, or in his official capacity at the War Office?—All the payments which are made for stores delivered on account of contracts pass through his hands, therefore he would know what payments have been made on account of stores received at Weedon. Mr. Garrett also went down for the purpose of inquiring into Weedon matters, and he would be able to give the information upon that point.

910. I am speaking of Mr. Elliott's cash account, which had nothing to do with payments for stores?—I do not know if Mr. Garrett keeps those accounts.

911. Can you tell us who would?—I do not know.

912. Mr. Elliott's cash account has been examined and a certain deficiency has been discovered; we want to have that cash account before us?—I think Mr. Garrett will be able to give you all the information that you want on that point.

913. Is there any other point in your evidence to which you wish to advert?—There is nothing that I wish to observe upon.

914. Can you, in your capacity as Director of Contracts, tell us what the money value of the goods delivered at Weedon has been during the course of its existence as a depôt?—I have no register of that.

915. (*Mr. Turner.*) Your official position is that of Director of Contracts?—Yes.

916. Have you any cognizance of the sales of rejected articles?—I have no cognizance of sales; sometimes, but not always, catalogues are sent up to me.

917. You have not the direction of the sales?—No; Captain Caffin has.

918. You had the impression that 170,000 pairs of boots were handed over from the Tower to Weedon. We have had that number given by Mr. Ramsay?—I had the impression that when the army clothing establishment was formed at Weedon the store of boots which had previously existed at the Tower was removed to Weedon.

919. But you are not aware of the exact number?—No.

920. You had the impression that about 150,000 pairs were not considered so good as the boots then issued to the soldiers, but they were not absolutely condemned?—That they were objected to by the inspectors who were appointed to receive future supplies.

921. Still they did go into store at Weedon, and 20,000 pairs only were actually condemned for sale?—I am speaking now under correction.

922. Do you know anything to the contrary?—I only know that out of those that were condemned by the inspectors, or that were considered inferior by the inspectors, a certain portion was ordered for sale.

923. Is there not a distinction between being condemned and not being considered quite equal to the standard?—Certainly.

924. I understood that they were not condemned for sale, but were condemned as not being quite equal to the boots then issued to the soldiers?—Yes.

925. Were there not also, besides the 20,000 so condemned for sale, some 54,000 pairs of boots returned from the Crimea?—With those boots I had nothing to do.

926. You cannot state to whom they were sold?—I have no information upon that subject; it did not come before me.

927. (*Chairman.*) Who would be cognizant of the price at which they were sold?—The Director of Stores; he has a report from his own officers.

928. Who would be the best person to tell us the total cost of the Weedon establishment from its formation?—I think Mr. Garrett would be able to speak on the Weedon expenses from the Accountant-General's books; that is to say, the expenses of the establishment, not of the stores.

929. Mr. Garrett would have nothing to do with the stores at Weedon, would he?—He would have to pay for them in common with the other stores that went to the other stations.

930. As to any other matter connected either with the establishment at Weedon or with the proceeds of sales at the stores, who would be the best person or persons to give information?—All questions of expenditure will come to you best through the Accountant-General's department. Mr. Kirby is the Accountant-General, and Mr. Garrett is one of his important officers. Upon all questions relating to stores, either to the inspection or to the sale or the reception of stores, Captain Caffin or Mr. Ramsay is the party to give any information that is required. As to all questions relating to contracts, and the original engagements by which certain stores are to be supplied for the public use, I am quite prepared to give you information if it is required.

931. Have you anything to do with cases of improper inspection, improper rejection, or improper

admission of stores?—When contractors make complaints, those complaints then come before me.

932. Complaints as to rejection?—Yes. If they consider that the goods have been improperly rejected, they then make a representation, which comes before me, inasmuch as it is part of the operation of the contract.

933. Have you had more complaints from contractors as to the improper rejection of their goods at Weedon than at the other establishments?—I think not more with reference to the proportion of goods received there than at other places.

934. (*Colonel French.*) Do you furnish the sealed patterns to the departments?—No.

935. Do you see them?—I do not see them, except I make inquiry for the purpose merely as a matter of curiosity; sometimes I have asked to see patterns, but I am not called upon to see them, or give an opinion upon them.

936. (*Mr. Turner.*) When you make a contract, do you assume that a certain quality of article will be delivered at Weedon?—The contract is for an article of which the pattern and specification are to be seen either at the Tower or at the clothing office in Pall Mall, or wherever it may happen to be.

937. Would it not be a part of your duty to see that the pattern upon which the contract was made was sent down in its integrity to Weedon to enable the inspectors to make a comparison with the articles delivered?—The care of the pattern does not rest with me at all. I call for tenders for prices for an article that is to be in conformity with a given pattern, which may be seen at a given place, accompanied by a specification. It is the duty of the Director of Stores and Clothing to take care that the patterns are sent where the goods are to be delivered.

938. Supposing that a sealed pattern should at any time have been delivered at Weedon which was not exactly of the quality for which you originally contracted, who would be responsible?—The party who sent that improper pattern down.

939. Who would that person be?—There is a pattern-keeper who has charge of the articles in the pattern-room, and I presume that he would never send any pattern out of that room without the instructions of his superior officer.

940. Who puts the seal on the patterns?—The patterns are generally sealed by Sir Thomas Troubridge.

941. Then he is responsible?—He is responsible for the quality of the article upon which he puts his seal.

942. (*Chairman.*) Do you know who furnishes the pattern in the first instance?—Sometimes one party, and sometimes another; it depends entirely upon the article that is to be contracted for.

943. (*Mr. Turner.*) If I contract for 10,000 pieces of cloth of any particular kind, and have a pattern by which I give the order, I should take care that my servants who received the goods have a perfectly authentic sample by which to examine the goods for which I have contracted?—That is the case with us.

944. If it happens that an error or a fraud has been committed, and that a wrong pattern has got into the hands of the examiner of the goods delivered by the contractor, I want to know how that error occurs, and who is responsible:—Sir Thomas Troubridge, I understand, according to your first impression?—No; certainly not. Sir Thomas Troubridge is responsible if he puts his seal upon the pattern for the article which has been sealed as regards quality and character; those sealed patterns are kept in the charge of a pattern-keeper. When I mention to you that the articles that are received at the Tower amount to about 14,000 in number, you will at once understand the great variety of articles that have to be provided for at different establishments at Woolwich and elsewhere.

945. If the transactions are of great magnitude should not there be an equal magnitude of activity and responsibility?—Undoubtedly. The only patterns ever exhibited in Pall Mall are the patterns for the army clothing; all the other patterns are exhibited

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either at the Tower or at Woolwich, where the articles have to be received.

946. (*Chairman.*) Have you found any great difficulty, in your experience, attending the contracts which you have had to enter into, in consequence of the depôt of clothing being at Weedon instead of being in London?—Additional expense was incurred with particular articles that had to be manufactured in London.

947. Was the additional expense merely the carriage?—The transit charges, and also the expenses of receiving and remitting any rejected articles; for instance, if articles are manufactured in London, sent down to Weedon and rejected at Weedon, and have to be returned to London to be replaced, there will be the carriage backwards and forwards, which necessarily involves additional charge.

948. Is not the question of comparative expense to be determined by other considerations also? For example, the possibility of finding sufficient space for a depôt in London?—Unquestionably.

949. Had not the Government existing accommo-

modation at Weedon for the purpose of a store?—The Government had ample space at Weedon which was not occupied at the time, therefore they had the advantage of using that accommodation without cost.

950. (*Colonel French.*) To enable you to form your contracts, have you a pattern for clothing corresponding with that at the Adjutant-General's office?—The pattern after it is approved by the Queen, is sealed by the Assistant Adjutant-General. Then it is sent on to the office of the Secretary of State for War for the contract to be made; therefore there is always a pattern before I call for tenders.

951. (*Chairman.*) I understand you to say that you have nothing to do with the pattern, and perhaps you do not even see it?—It is a very rare thing indeed for me to see the patterns, inasmuch as the patterns are always in the charge of the party who has to deal with the reception of the stores.

952. Is there not a recent parliamentary paper showing the whole of the War Office establishment, with the salaries of each officer?—Yes. (*See Parliamentary Paper, No. 424, 1858.*)

S. S. Garrett,
Esq.

SAMUEL SILVER GARRETT, Esq., examined.

953. (*Chairman.*) What office do you hold?—I am in the office of the Accountant-General.

954. Are you chief clerk in that department?—I am the third in the office of the Accountant General.

955. In that capacity have you a knowledge of the cash transactions at Weedon?—Not in that particular capacity, but in consequence of the duty which was assigned to me, I have a certain knowledge of them.

956. Without regard to the special duty which you were deputed to perform at Weedon, have you any knowledge of the expenses of the establishment at Weedon?—I have a certain knowledge, as far as the contractor's certificates are concerned, but I do not know anything about the establishment of officers and clerks.

957. Can we be furnished with Mr. Elliott's cash account from the time that he had the superintendence of the stores at Weedon?—I can furnish you with that from the time he took it, to the time he left.

958. Amongst the other things that you went down to Weedon to investigate, was not the cash account one?—Mr. Alexander went down to investigate the cash account.

959. Can you furnish us with the result?—Yes.

960. And with such part of it as may be necessary?—Yes, we can do that. The final account is not quite finished; it has gone back to Weedon for some explanation with regard to some extra workmen that were put on; we expect it back every day.

961. Are you now speaking of Mr. Elliott's cash account?—Yes, the final cash account; there are one or two questions that have been referred back to the station for further information.

962. We understand from Sir Benjamin Hawes that there would be no loss in the cash transactions to the Government. Is that your opinion?—Very trifling, I think.

963. What do you call "very trifling"?—I think from what I can see now, Mr. Elliott's default at Weedon will be about 2,000*l.*

964. Against that you have the guarantee?—Yes; for 2,000*l.*, and then we have his pay from the 1st of April to the time he left.

965. How much would that amount to?—It would nearly absorb the remainder; there may be a small loss, but it will be very small.

966. Do you think that the loss by Mr. Elliott's defalcations as regards cash will be more than 100*l.*?—I do not think they will; I think 100*l.* will cover them.

967. (*Colonel French.*) Have you any general idea, being in the Accountant-General's office, what the annual charges were that passed through Mr. Elliott's hands? what remittances were made to him in the

course of a year to defray the expenses which he had to pay out of his cash account?—I think pretty nearly 2,000*l.* a month.

968. I believe Sir Benjamin Hawes stated it at 12,000*l.* annually?—I daresay he is right; I did not go into any of these matters, but we can tell you exactly what has been expended at Weedon from the time of the formation of the establishment to the present time.

969. How frequently did Mr. Elliott make demands upon the accountants' offices for remittances?—Once a month.

970. When he made such a demand, what expenses was it to defray?—To pay expenses for the forthcoming month.

971. Did he send you at the same time a statement of his cash account, showing the balance in hand?—He did; the cash accounts used to come only once in three months, but he used to give a statement monthly.

972. You say that he made monthly demands?—Yes; and in those monthly demands he stated what he had received, and what he would in all probability require at the end of the month.

973. When he sent those periodical balances every three months, was there generally a balance in his hands; did his cash account show that he owed so much cash?—Yes; it did.

974. About what amount?—I think the cash account that I took up was about 1,000*l.*

975. That he had in hand?—Yes; 500*l.* to 1,000*l.* in hand.

976. Why should Mr. Elliott make a demand for a payment of 1,000*l.* to meet the expenses of the coming month, when he had 1,000*l.* in hand, supposing that the monthly payments were 1,000*l.*?—He made the demand, alleging that he had two or three large bills for carriage to pay which he never paid.

977. Did you ever take any means of ascertaining whether those statements were correct?—They were not looked into so minutely as I think they might have been. The gentleman who had charge at that time has gone from the service.

978. (*Chairman.*) Who was that?—Mr. Thomas.

979. (*Mr. Turner.*) When did Mr. Thomas leave the service?—He left in March 1858.

980. Was that in consequence of dissatisfaction with his supervision?—It was that he was becoming unfit for service, and he was removed.

981. Then I suppose in your office Mr. Thomas will be made the scapegoat, as to Mr. Elliott's cash account not having been very vigilantly watched?—It certainly was his place, as it is mine now, to watch these balances.

982. (*Chairman.*) So long as your advance did not exceed your guarantee, I suppose there was no great apprehension felt?—No, but an excessive balance was never allowed.

983. In point of fact, was there a debt due to Messrs. Pickford for carriage?—There was, no doubt.

984. Has that been paid since?—It has been paid since.

985. About how much was it?—I believe it was what Mr. Elliott said, about 1,500*l*.

986. In the ordinary course of things you would let him pay that?—Yes; he ought to have paid it out of the money which he drew from us for the specific purpose.

987. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have since had to pay that bill, have you?—We have.

988. I understand that you do not expect to lose ultimately by Mr. Elliott's defalcations with regard to his cash account?—No; except this little trifle above the 2,000*l*.

989. May I ask whether you give security yourself?—I give none.

990. Is any security given in the office?—Not by any individual.

991. How was it that security was given in Mr. Elliott's case?—Mr. Elliott was at an out-station and entrusted with money; I am at head-quarters, and have no money under my control.

992. Do the authorities require a guarantee whenever their officers are entrusted with money?—They do whenever they are entrusted with money, except in the commissariat. I do not think they require a security from the commissariat officers, who are entrusted with large amounts.

993. When your office has obtained the security of the Guarantee Society for an officer stationed as Mr. Elliott was with the command of money, do not you consider that a moral responsibility is incurred to look very strictly after that man for whom the security is given for the sake of the Guarantee Society?—As far as I am concerned, I never would take the Guarantee Society at all as surety; I would resort, as they used to resort, to a private security.

994. Not on account of your suspecting their ability to pay?—No. Of course there is a certain moral responsibility to see that no man is led into difficulties.

995. Would not either a private individual or the Guarantee Society feel much reluctance to give security for any officer in a Government office if he is not as strictly looked after as he would be in any private establishment?—Certainly.

996. Do not you think that there is an equal responsibility on the part of Government officials to look strictly after the accounts kept by a servant, if they have received a guarantee for that servant, that there is in a private establishment?—I do think that the interests of the public were not lost sight of in this matter. I certainly think that the interests of the public were watched in making the grants. We have got Mr. Elliott's accounts up to December 1857, and there was but one quarter due when he left.

997. It would appear that the remittance you made to Mr. Elliott was not due to him, according to his own account, except to pay the amount due to the carrier?—It was to pay this money.

998. Why did he not pay it?—I cannot answer you that.

999. Had he not the money to pay it?—I cannot answer that question. I took it for granted when his March quarterly disbursements came in, that that identical payment would have appeared among the rest. We do not know what actual payments have been made until the quarterly accounts come in with the vouchers for everything that has been disbursed.

1000. So far as you know, was any officer ever sent down to Weedon to balance the cash-book, and to ascertain the existence of the cash balance which the cash-book exhibited?—No. They were not until after he left.

1001. Is it not usual, so far as you know, in banking establishments and large mercantile concerns, to ascertain that the balance in the hands of the cash-keeper agrees with his cash-book?—I do not know whether this is done at out or detached establishments.

1002. Is it not necessary still more rigidly to look after a branch establishment, than it would be to look after an establishment which is under your own immediate eye?—I conceive that all those out-stations were properly looked after with respect to the examination of their cash accounts when they came to hand; and if any man had got what appeared to be an excessive balance at the end of the quarter, steps would be taken to withdraw a portion of that balance from him.

1003. Do you consider the check complete, if you do not actually see the money, to ascertain that it corresponds with the balance in the cash book?—Until very recently, when the board of "respective officers" was abolished this check took place monthly.

1004. Do not you consider that seeing the money is necessary?—I do think that periodical checks with respect to the money should be made.

1005. Was that ever done in the case of Weedon?—It was never done at Weedon.

1006. (*Chairman.*) What was the largest amount previous to the time of Mr. Elliott's absconding that appeared in debit against him?—I think the very largest sum that ever appeared against him at any time was 1,400*l*. I do not think that a sum anything like that was ever in his hands before.

1007. And during the whole of that time there was a guarantee for 2,000*l*?—Yes.

1008. When was the guarantee given?—At the time he took his position at Weedon, in 1855.

1009. Before he had any balance in hand?—Yes.

1010. When was the sum due to Messrs. Pickford for carriage?—I think it was an account up to the end of 1857.

1011. It has been said that the account was not sent in although the money was sent to Mr. Elliott, for the purpose of being prepared to pay it; had he represented that the account had been sent in?—He represented that he wanted the money for that purpose.

1012. When an account for carriage becomes so large as 1,500*l*. would it not be better that the payment should be made from head quarters?—It would be better, and it is now done. We have paid Pickford some Weedon bills in that manner.

1013. You would have the vouchers or statements from the branch office that so much was due, and I understand you are of opinion that it would be better that such payments should be made from the pay office in town?—Yes, if they are of any considerable amount; a circular order has gone out upon the subject.

1014. I believe you conducted the examination of certain witnesses at Weedon?—I did.

1015. We hear that the Weedon establishment is likely to be broken up; are you aware whether there is a reasonable prospect of our finding those witnesses at Weedon?—I think you will find the major part of them.

1016. Will Hoile be there?—Yes.

1017. How long is it before the Weedon establishment is likely to come to an end?—I do not think it will come to an end for some two or three months.

1018. We are told that it will be some weeks before the store ledgers can be posted up, so as to be in a state for inspection; do you know whether we shall have all the materials when we go down there?—I think you will; I think, if not, you will have no difficulty in getting the individuals.

1019. Hoile and Munro?—Yes.

1020. Do you know what has become of Gray?—I never saw the man.

1021. You have reported pretty strongly against him, have you not?—Yes.

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1022. Was that without hearing him?—Gray was gone before I got down.

1023. Then it was without hearing him?—Without hearing him.

1024. Green you also examined, will he be there?—Yes.

1025. Were you aware that Hoile and Gray contradicted each other?—I was.

1026. You heard Hoile's testimony?—I did.

1027. Were you contented with a recollection of what Gray had said in his evidence before the Committee?—I did not see his evidence. We went from what was told us at the station.

1028. Did you take any steps to get Gray before you?—We did not.

1029. Do you know where he is to be found now?—No; but I believe you will have no difficulty in finding him out.

1030. You made a report, I think, as to the conduct of the subordinate storekeepers?—I did, on the 23d and 24th of June.

1031. You seem to have adopted from Captain Gordon the five items which he points out as the cause of the irregularities which were committed in the establishment at Weedon,—the separation of inspection from stores, the absence of a day-book, the non-report of extra receipts, such as returns of stores from regiments, which means, I suppose, non-report to head-quarters?—Yes.

1032. The fact of one of the contractors having been in the storehouse?—That was Isaac.

1033. And the absences of the storekeeper from his station?—Yes.

1034. From the best inquiry you could make, do you think that those five heads include all the causes of the irregularities in the establishment at Weedon?—They do, in my opinion.

1035. I suppose you had no time to examine the vouchers in order to see whether they were, as Major Marvin had represented, filed in regular consecutive order?—I did not look to that; I had no time for it.

1036. Did not you express to the authorities at the War Office your conviction that no deficiencies would ultimately be found?—I did.

1037. Upon what did you ground that opinion?—I grounded my opinion upon the general appearance of things and the inquiries which I made as I went along.

1038. That is rather a vague answer. Upon your investigation you arrived at a certain judgment; can you state what were the grounds of that judgment?—My judgment was formed upon the documents which were brought before me, and from the inquiries which I made.

1039. "Documents" and "inquiries" are vague terms; what documents and what inquiries do you refer to?—You have all the evidence before you that we took. I made no other inquiries but what are recorded in the evidence taken.

1040. You conceive that there would probably be no defalcation in the stores, but I do not gather from your report upon what you ground that opinion. You have made two reports, one as to the conduct of four subordinates, that is apart from the present question; and the other is a report as to the probability of any defalcation being discovered in the stores; you have reported that, in your judgment, very probably there will be no defalcations; have you not?—I have.

1041. Can you state on what you grounded that judgment?—I grounded that judgment upon this; for example, I went into the case of the kit contract, and I had all the vouchers that were given, and compared those with the books that were kept at Weedon.

1042. You mean that you took one contract, such as that for instance of Messrs. Isaac for kits?—Yes; that one particularly.

1043. And you went into that case?—Yes.

1044. Did you satisfy yourself that there was no defalcation upon that?—I did not satisfy myself that there was no defalcation, but I satisfied myself morally

that it would come right; that the vouchers which were outstanding from regiments, &c. when they were got in would in all probability make the accounts straight as regards the kits. We could not take the kits individually without taking every article of the same sort which made up the kits from the time of the establishment. The kit is composed of various articles, trousers, jackets, boots, and so on, and although the kit contract did not commence till 1857, in order to arrive at a conclusion whether there were any surpluses or deficiencies upon those articles, we were obliged to take all the receipts and issues of all the articles, comprising a kit from the formation of the establishment.

1045. Did you find upon that particular subject that the accounts and the stores between them furnished evidence which satisfied you that there was no deficiency?—I found that there was a deficiency in the kits, but I was persuaded that there were a great many issues which had been made, the receipts for which have not yet been returned from the regiment, and the storekeeper could not get credit for them without those documents.

1046. How did you ascertain that there were issues which had not yet been accounted for?—Because when we came to compare the issues with the books in London we traced out that fact instantaneously in two or three cases which we took up.

1047. You judged of the whole from a specimen?—Yes.

1048. Have you been at Weedon since June?—No, I have not. I was sent down on this matter; and I have not been near the place since then, nor have I had any communication with it.

1049. Do you still retain the opinion that when the vouchers and the other materials, the records of the regiments, and so on, are put in shape, there will turn out to be no defalcation as regards the stores?—Yes, I do retain the opinion that there will be no fraudulent defalcation found, no collusion, and nothing wrong.

1050. No giving credit to contractors for more than they furnished, and no robbery of things after they were received?—That is my opinion.

1051. A difficulty has occurred to many people,—if Mr. Elliott was only some 2,000*l.* behind in his cash, and he had the means of showing that there was no defalcation in his stores, how can you account for his going away, except from those private reasons which have been mentioned?—I account for his going away from his inability alone to make up his cash balance. I called upon him to pay over the balance to his succeeding officer at Weedon.

1052. How much was Mr. Elliott's salary?—800*l.* a year, I think.

1053. Mr. Elliott's cash deficiency was about 2,000*l.* Do you think that is a reason for a man going to America?—I believe it to be the sole reason in his case. Such is my impression. I believe the man had no other reason. As soon as there was a "remain" ordered for Captain Gordon, to relieve him, I gave instructions that Mr. Elliott's cash account should be made up to the close of that remain, and that he should hand over to Captain Gordon the balance, and produce his receipt for the balance of the money in his hands. In fact, I discovered among Mr. Elliott's papers, or Captain Gordon did, after this matter was closed, a few loose papers, which show that at the very time that I was pressing him, Elliott, for this balance, he, Elliott, was trying to obtain loans from loan societies.

1054. Do you know whether Mr. Elliott owed anybody else any money?—No, I do not. He obtained 350*l.*, as I dare say you are aware, from Messrs. Cox, the regimental agents.

1055. And he got 500*l.* from Mr. Isaac?—Yes.

1056. You do not know of his owing anything else?—No; I know of nothing else at all. I refused an imprest myself of 2,000*l.* to Mr. Elliott, because I could not get from him his March quarterly account,

which was due. If that money had been advanced, we should have been so much the worse off.

1057. Mr. Turner has asked you as to the necessity of guards and checks upon persons employed in situations of trust in your department. Have there been any deficiencies or levantings in the War Office during the time that you have been there, besides this case?—There was a person at Athlone who had a deficiency in his stores, but not in his cash; he paid up all his cash. I know of no other case.

1058. My object is to ascertain whether the system allows of frequent defalcation?—I know of no such case at all.

1059. When was the case at Athlone?—In January 1858.

1060. To what extent?—About 200*l*. I think.

1061. Was that a deficiency by a storekeeper?—Yes, he was a storekeeper.

1062. Were his cash transactions accurate?—His cash transactions were right to a fraction at that time, but a short credit of 5*l*. has been since discovered, but may be susceptible of explanation.

1063. So far as you are aware is the effect of the general system such as to allow of peculation or defalcation?—Certainly not.

1064. (*Colonel French.*) If Mr. Elliott's accounts had been proved to be correct, was there any other cause for his dismissal from the service?—None that I know of; if Mr. Elliott's cash account had been balanced, he would, in all probability, have been storekeeper at Dublin.

1065. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was Mr. Elliott in charge of the whole establishment at Weedon?—The whole clothing establishment, and he was relieved by Captain Gordon, whose office he took in Dublin.

1066. Had the authorities at the War Office any reason to be dissatisfied with Mr. Elliott, independently of this deficiency in his cash?—They had reason to be dissatisfied, and they caused inquiry to be made through Major Marvin; but Major Marvin's report removed from them all dissatisfaction.

1067. Was not Mr. Elliott very frequently absent from his duties?—Yes; but it was not known at the War Office.

1068. You hope, but I think it is more a hope than any just confidence, that everything will turn out to be quite right when the books are balanced, and that no defalcation will be found?—I not only hope, but I believe that it will be so.

1069. I have not yet gathered from you quite sufficient ground for that expectation?—You may have seen more of the matter than I have.

1070. Would you be content,—putting a home question,—to believe that an account rendered by a tradesman to you for payment was correct, if you had no accounts or vouchers to verify it?—Certainly I should not without satisfying myself that I owed what he claimed.

1071. I am afraid we have scarcely arrived at a point that we can be content to believe that these accounts will turn out to be correct?—I merely give you an opinion that I formed when I was at Weedon, that the absconding of Mr. Elliott was not the result of any fraud that he had committed, but that it arose from the total inability on his part to meet the balance that he had to pay over to his successor. I may be wrong; I only give it as an opinion.

1072. (*Chairman.*) In your opinion, can any mode be suggested by which defalcations can arise except these two, first—by collusion with contractors, to give them credit for more than they sent in, which, of course, is possible; and, secondly, the actual abstraction or disposal of goods in the store, stealing them, in fact. Mr. Elliott may have been guilty of either one or both of those modes?—Yes.

1073. Is there any third mode by which any defalcation could have arisen?—There is a third way by which I think it might have been done, and that is by his altering a certificate to a larger quantity after it had passed through the hands of the clerks and come to him for signature, if he despatched it himself.

Supposing he gave a certificate for 100 articles and that was passed through the books of the office, when it was brought to him for signature, he might put another 0 and make it 1,000.

1074. Do you mean in receipt or issue?—A certificate for payment.

1075. Had Mr. Elliott anything to do with paying the contractors?—Nothing whatever; but he certified for the quantities delivered, and if the quantity did not exceed what was due upon the contract it would be paid for, no doubt. When you got to the end of the contract it would have discovered itself.

1076. Are there any running contracts upon which Mr. Elliott furnished certificates which are not yet completed?—Yes. I could prove that fact myself if I had time to be there with all my certificates.

1077. Somebody must do it; is that a portion of the duty which devolves upon Commissary-General Adams?—No, it is not.

1078. Can you tell me what those running contracts are?—There are a variety of articles, boots, clothing, and an immense number of things.

1079. Still running?—Yes; for such quantities of articles as may be demanded or required within a given period; the whole of the articles have not yet been terminated for supplies. When you enter into a contract with a man, you contract that he shall supply quantities of a given article, at a given price, within a given period. As requisitions are made for the articles, the warrants are issued to the contractors to make supplies upon the running contracts.

1080. (*Colonel French.*) Would that apply to the miscellaneous articles in the soldier's kit?—Yes. The kit contract is at an end.

1081. (*Mr. Turner.*) Can you be perfectly satisfied that everything will turn out right with regard to Mr. Elliott until all the running contracts have been fulfilled and accurately paid for?—Not without a comparison of our certificates with the books in his office.

1082. (*Chairman.*) If I understand rightly, when the certificate is altered, the contractor would in that case be paid in advance for more goods than he had delivered?—He would.

1083. Could the storekeeper alter a certificate for 100 pairs of boots into 1,000 without the contractor himself being in collusion with him?—It could not be done without that. You asked me whether there was any other way in which defalcation could arise and I pointed out that mode; it could only be done by collusion with the contractor, because the contractor's bill of parcels must accord with the certificate.

1084. Cannot you very easily get from the contractors who have running contracts to furnish goods at Weedon a statement of the amounts which they have respectively delivered?—The details of the contracts, if they are called for, could be obtained.

1085. Would they be difficult to obtain or voluminous?—Very difficult and amazingly voluminous. You can have no conception of the amount of documents that are constantly coming to us. I suppose from Weedon to day I have had fifty certificates. Those goods may have been delivered some few weeks, or perhaps months ago.

1086. We have it in evidence that Weedon is to be no longer a clothing depôt. Are deliveries still going on there?—I believe they are withdrawing everything from Weedon as fast as they can; but they are delivering things at Weedon to the best of my belief.

1087. And I suppose will continue to do so till the depôt is established that is intended as a substitute?—Until there is another place to receive the goods, that I know nothing about.

1088. (*Mr. Turner.*) In your department, are any steps arranged for ascertaining that all the contracts in which Mr. Elliott was concerned, or with respect to which he has passed certificates for part payment, are completed, and that the money account agrees with the deliveries of the contractors?—I believe the commissariat officers are upon that very business some

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of them in London; they are borrowing our books from time to time, and I believe it is for that very purpose.

1089. Does not it occur to you that it is quite essential before you can pronounce positively an opinion that there will be no defalcation in Mr. Elliott's accounts beyond the mere money defalcation, that you should ascertain that everything under each contract has been delivered on which the contractors have had payments on account?—Yes.

1090. (*Chairman.*) Are those running contracts for specific quantities or for indefinite quantities at a given price?—Some of them are for specific quantities to be delivered in certain proportions, and others are for indefinite quantities to be delivered within a limited period.

1091. Any irregularity in contracts for specific quantities you will very soon find out, because those contracts must come to an end?—Yes.

1092. And if a contractor has been overpaid in respect to portions of a specific quantity, he will have the less to receive when the balance comes to be paid?—Of course he will. When his final account comes, he will be told, "You have already been paid for 'this.'"

1093. Assuming the contractor to have been in collusion with the storekeeper to alter the certificate all the benefit that he would have derived would have been by anticipating the payment, and he would not have so large a payment to receive at the termination of his contract?—Of course the last payment would detect it.

1094. In the other case, where you had a contract to deliver indefinite quantities in a specific time, would not the same rule apply?—The warrants upon which the demand is made would produce the same result; that is, they would show whether the contractor had been paid for more than was demanded or not.

1095. In such a case as that you are speaking of the payment warrants, I suppose?—No; the warrants that order the contractors to deliver the articles.

1096. Those of course you have, or duplicates of them?—We have got those.

1097. Could you tell us what requisitions or warrants have been issued to the contractors?—We could tell you every warrant. All the warrants are entered in the clothing branch from the time of the formation of the establishment.

1098. If a certificate came back from Weedon for a larger quantity delivered than there had been a warrant or a requisition for, would it not be detected on the instant?—They do not always certify for the whole supply under the warrant at one time; they put so much the first instalment, so much the second instalment, so much the third instalment, and so much for the final one.

1099. I am taking the case of an indefinite quantity to be delivered in a specified time. The warrant goes to the contractor to deliver so much at Weedon, and in pursuance of that warrant he delivers something. The suggested dishonesty is, that Mr. Elliott certified that the contractor delivered so much more; would you not compare the certificate of what had been delivered with the warrant of what he was to deliver, and would not the fraud be detected at once?—It would not be detected until he had completed the supply under the warrant.

1100. Under one warrant might there be more than one delivery?—There might be a dozen deliveries.

1101. Are certificates given on account?—Yes; I do not see at all how it is likely that any such fraud has taken place. If there was any sort of erasure, or anything of that suspicious nature, we should have questioned it at the time; but you asked me if there was a possibility of such a fraud, and I told you that there was. I do not think there has been anything of the kind. By comparison of our certificates, upon which we made payments, with the records in the office at Weedon of what they granted certificates for, we could prove that instantaneously. If you took our

certificates, and compared them with their books, you would detect it immediately.

1102. (*Colonel French.*) In regard to issues, would it be any check if for whatever was sent from the store, the recipient of the store had to furnish a duplicate to the War Department?—I think it would. I think it would be an advisable plan for every certificate to be granted in duplicate, though not signed in duplicate; if it were signed it might lead to double payment. I would have every certificate granted in duplicate, one certified and one uncertified, and when they both came to the office of the Accountant-General, he would pay upon the certified copy, and send on to the store branch the uncertified part, that steps might be taken to see that the store account was charged with those articles; it would, however, greatly increase the work.

1103. But would it not give additional security?—Yes.

1104. (*Chairman.*) I suppose when contracts have been made for large quantities of goods, they have generally been made with long-established firms of respectability?—That is all done by the contract branch; I know nothing whatever of that; it is only the price and the quantity, &c., that are declared to me, and upon those I pay.

1105. A difficulty has arisen from various officers of great respectability and intelligence telling the Contracts' Committee that no examination could detect defalcation; if those opinions be true, will not an inquiry as to whether there have been defalcations or not be fruitless?—Unless you can ascertain from every regiment all the articles which they have received and sent in, you cannot prove that the deficiency was the result of fraud, because the deficiency might arise by an issue being made to a regiment, and that regiment never having returned its receipts, the storekeeper would not have credit for what he had legitimately issued.

1106. Have you called upon every regiment to do so?—We have called upon every regiment at home and abroad—it will be a work of time—this information I think has been called for by the commissariat officers.

1107. In the article of boots, if the vouchers are found, or what profess to be the vouchers, and the store ledger is made up, and the amount received and issued is stated, the remain taken when Captain Gordon went shows the balance. I want to understand, if it is so, how there can have been any fraud if there is no defalcation?—But the actual balance which was transferred to Capt. Gordon as the actual number of boots which were in store at the time he took the remain, cannot be proved as right or wrong till the storekeeper's ledger is made up.

1108. Supposing 100,000 pairs of boots were proved to have been sent into the store at Weedon, and supposing you have vouchers for the issue of 50,000, and supposing the remain shows 50,000, then they are right?—Yes.

1109. Supposing you are right in the figures, can you suggest any possible mode in which there can have been any defalcation or any fraud?—No, I cannot. If the articles received, and the articles which have been issued to the regiments and the articles in hand, tally with what the contractor has been paid for, there can be nothing wrong, and it must be right.

1110. (*Mr. Turner.*) Supposing that a voucher was sent for payment to your office for a larger proportion of the contract than had actually been delivered, that you say might possibly be paid; still you would find it out when you got to the end of the contract?—Yes.

1111. Might not vouchers be continuously sent in until the whole quantity contracted for had been delivered apparently, and therefore paid for, whereas the whole quantity might never have been delivered?—Then we should stop payment.

1112. Supposing you had contracted for 100,000 pairs of boots and in the first instance a voucher was

sent in for 20,000 pairs, whereas only 15,000 pairs were delivered, then another voucher for 20,000 pairs, whereas only 15,000 again were delivered, and so on till you got vouchers sent in for the 100,000 pairs of boots, and you paid for them, whereas only 80,000 pairs were actually delivered, can you ascertain the correctness of that account or find out the error until the stock-taking, which would enable you to ascertain that the whole 100,000 pairs have not been delivered and accounted for in stock?—Every store accountant sends periodically (I think it is once a month) to the Director of Contracts a list of all outstanding supplies upon every contract, and upon those outstanding supplies they levy fines for non-delivery, and so they continue to do until the supplies are made. If they are not made they take steps to annihilate the contract.

1113. That is not my point at all. You are supposing everything to go on honestly, I am supposing that things are arranged dishonestly;—that you have vouchers sent in for the payment for 100,000 pairs of boots, whereas only 80,000 were ever received into the store at Weedon. Could you find out that deficiency of 20,000 pairs unaccounted for until there was the actual balancing of the stock account?—Not if he arrested the final certificate.

1114. (*Chairman.*) If the “remain” in this case has been accurately taken, and the certificates have been false, that must be discovered when the store ledger is made up?—Yes.

1115. (*Mr. Turner.*) I am assuming not that they find the remain corresponding with the books, and that everybody has been honest, but I am supposing that there may have been collusion at Weedon between a man like Mr. Elliott and the inspectors, who are also storekeepers; and that amongst them there may have been very false accounts rendered. Except somebody by ocular demonstration and actual counting finds that everything is correct, there might be a defalcation, might there not?—Yes.

1116. There is that possibility of fraud in spite of all your watching at the War Office, unless the articles were absolutely ascertained to be there?—Yes.

1117. (*Chairman.*) In the result, if the account squares with the “remain,” there can have been no defalcation and no dishonesty?—No. If the account squares with the remain it must be straight. If the number of boots which you have received tallies with the issues which you have made, and which you hold the regimental officers’ receipts for, together with the numbers that there are in store at Weedon, there can be no collusion whatever, and they must be right.

1118. Did you hear during your investigation at Weedon, or in any other way, of anything approaching to bribery or anything of that sort?—No.

1119. There is that recorded case of Mr. Adair, in Ireland, having offered somebody a bribe?—I never heard of it.

1120. That was to a viewer or an inspector for the purpose of passing goods?—No, I heard nothing of it.

1121. (*Mr. Turner.*) You would scarcely expect, if you asked the question, that those people would answer it very correctly?—I strove to make out of doors inquiries of different individuals.

1122. Taking human nature as it is, as a general principle is it not rather dangerous to entrust a man upon a very small scale of salary with the inspection of property of great value?—It is putting a man into temptation. We are all in temptation, whether we are high or low.

1123. (*Colonel French.*) How are the officials paid at Weedon?—Quarterly, with power to the storekeeper to advance monthly, or a certain proportion of their salary.

1124. How are the labourers paid?—They are paid weekly. The clerks and other officers once a quarter, with power to the storekeeper to make advances of a certain proportion during the period, but not to the amount they are entitled to.

1125. Was it necessary that Mr. Elliott should have money in hand for the amount of the officials’ pay before the time that it was due?—The imprests were always made for a month in advance; for instance, the imprest which was made upon the 1st of June, would be to pay expenses up till the end of June; and the consequence is, Mr. Elliott would get the money for the salaries on the 1st of June, when he had not to pay them till the 30th of June. He might have made advances to the clerks on account of their salaries, and we always consider that the storekeepers ought to have the means of making those advances.

1126. (*Chairman.*) We should like to know what that monthly advance was, because it bears upon the question, as to whether there was any want of care in advancing him too much?—The monthly advance was between 1,000*l.* and 2,000*l.*

1127. (*Colonel French.*) Can the paymaster of a regiment draw more money than he actually requires for the week?—I do not know what the course is with the regiments; that is done in quite a different division to mine; mine is only the civil department. As I said before, I only took over in the beginning of the present year the matter of granting home moneys.

1128. (*Chairman.*) Have Mr. Baker and Mr. Milton, who were your coadjutors in the inquiry at Weedon, any further information to give than you can give?—I do not think they have, but they are both accessible.

1129. Are they both in the same office?—One is at the Tower, and one is at the clothing branch office. Mr. Milton is not in my particular branch.

1130. Can you state when that examination and posting up of the ledger will be completed?—No, I cannot.

1131. The ledger for 1856–57 is now in your office, is it not?—Yes, up to the 31st of March; it is in the store office.

1132. By whom is it inspected or examined?—It is examined by the officers of the store department.

1133. Is it now being examined?—They are examining it now.

1134. How long will the examination take?—I cannot tell.

1135. Have you ever had anything to do with the examination of the ledgers yourself?—Never.

1136. Who does it?—It is done in the store office; mine is the cash department.

1137. Are there not a good many ledgers to examine from various parts of the kingdom?—Yes; I never examined a store ledger in my life; it is done by the officers at the store department.

1138. Had you never sufficient curiosity to ascertain how long it takes to examine such a store ledger as that?—I could not tell at all; it depends upon the number of vouchers and the number of receipts and issues.

1139. Are all the vouchers sent up?—Yes; both for receipts and issues.

1140. So that the store ledger is subjected to a real *bond fide* examination?—Yes, to the best of my belief it is a most rigid examination; I think the store ledger is examined as minutely as the cash books are.

1141. Can you tell us whether the vouchers for the store ledger for 1856–57 are complete or not?—I cannot tell.

1142. Who can?—Mr. Bonneau; he is or was the head of the ledger branch.

1143. The examination, of course, would be of no use, excepting as showing deficiency or surplus?—Yes.

1144. And that would be only on paper?—Nothing else. You cannot prove the other until you get the store ledger finished up to the day of the remain.

1145. Did you inquire into Mr. Elliott’s absences from Weedon?—We did.

1146. Who is the person who can give us the best information upon that subject; his immediate deputy,

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Mr. Tatum, is gone?—Yes; I think that Mr. Green was the second officer there; but I do not think any of them knew. They all believed that Mr. Elliott was either at Mark Lane or else at the War Office, and I do not think they can give you any information; that was their impression.

1147. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was not Mr. Elliott absent about one-third of his time?—About two days a week; they say; about one-third of his time.

1148. (*Colonel French.*) Did he not always come down in the evening?—No. I think he was out sometimes at night.

1149. (*Chairman.*) How do you, as an individual, reconcile Mr. Elliott's perpetual requests for further assistance with any intention to defraud; was not he inviting by every additional man who was put upon the ledger the means of detection?—Yes, by every change of men, of course he was. I think he was not sufficiently manned, as far as clerical assistance was concerned. I do not think he had enough.

1150. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would not Mr. Elliott have more occasion to fear the vigilance of extra inspectors and storekeepers than mere clerks? I apprehend the clerks would not have much knowledge of whether things were correct or not; they would post from vouchers, and take it for granted that they were right; therefore they would not be much of a check upon him?—No, except there was anything wrong; in making out the certificates, in all probability they would be detected.

1151. The ledgers are always considerably in arrear; and even supposing a man does his duty, it is some time before you have a complete examination of the ledger, is it not?—I think the store ledgers are rendered once a year; the cash accounts are all quarterly at home and abroad. I believe the stores are annual.

1152. Did not Mr. Elliott actually put men who were sent down for the purpose of being employed as inspection and store officers to do merely clerical work?—He did do so; that was almost the last step that he took before he came away, when the new officer was appointed.

1153. (*Chairman.*) Is there not an unusually long time allowed even for a ledger of this magnitude to be inspected; it is made up to March, and is not due till August, and then it takes, as we have heard, some two months to overhaul here?—I do not think we could well get the ledger up for such a station as Weedon in less than three months at the station; you cannot have aid expressly for that, and you must keep the current duties of the department up; therefore you cannot get these things made up so rapidly as if you could put a great number of men upon them.

1154. (*Mr. Turner.*) In a large banking establishment or mercantile concern, have they the same difficulty in making up their accounts accurately to the satisfaction of their principals?—I never saw a merchant's store ledger in my life; but I am persuaded, when you come to see Weedon, you will agree that it is a very voluminous document. I suppose only one man can work at it in ordinary cases, unless you were to cut the document in two.

1155. If a fire took place in my establishment, and all was burnt to the ground, I could tell the quantity of each article that had been consumed by an accurate survey and counting of every article, which takes place every week. Why should not something like that be done in an establishment like Weedon?—I once took a remain at Woolwich, and I know it took me four months and a half to tell out the various articles.

1156. I understand when you profess to take a "remain," you actually count every individual article?—We count every article in store, in order to ascertain the actual quantity which is in store, and then comes the ledger afterwards, and the balance in that ledger should agree with the actual store. We do

not regard the ledger in taking the "remain," but we go into this room, or that, and then we have to ascertain whether the things agree or disagree with the ledger.

1157. Cannot you, by a method of storing the goods, count them over in each department, so as to ascertain without this very minute counting, whether you have really so many things stored?—I have no doubt that every good storekeeper does periodically satisfy himself to that effect. I know, when I was at Woolwich, before I went into the room, where I had to take the things one by one, the storekeeper said, "you will find so and so."

1158. Taking the vast variety of 14,000 articles, or whatever the number is, do not you think they might be piled or placed in such a way, with proper vouchers upon them, signed by the parties who have charge of them, that the stock-taker or surveyor could go round, and, without any great difficulty, ascertain that there are so many things there?—They are done up in piles, with every pile labelled, at every good station; every article is piled up, and its contents labelled; and the storeholders and intermediate men take "remains" every few weeks, as far as their own charge goes; and the storekeeper satisfies himself that they are right.

1159. Surely there should be the means of arriving at something like an agreement with the books, by the actual existence of the articles which the books represent; is it not your difficulty to ascertain that at Weedon?—Yes, because the books are not made up yet at Weedon; that is the difficulty; if the ledgers had happened to have been made up to the time, we should have had no difficulty whatever in comparing the "remain" with the store ledger.

1160. Can you give me any idea of the number of postings that would be required per diem in your establishment at Weedon to make up the books?—No, I cannot; many hundreds.

1161. If the ledgers are in arrear at the start, they would most likely continue to be in arrear; but if it were insisted that they should be posted daily or weekly, would there be any very great difficulty in accomplishing that?—I do not think there would; I think the work might be made up every day.

1162. Might not an absolute rule be laid down for its being done?—I believe you will find, when you go down to Weedon, that Captain Gordon does every day's work every day.

1163. In your opinion is not that the only satisfactory way?—Yes; and every good storekeeper would see it done; he would have all his transactions posted up at night, and his gentlemen would not be liberated till it was done. I know that Captain Gordon is at his office at six o'clock in the morning, seeing that it is done, and if not, the clerks are had before him to explain why it is not done.

1164. (*Chairman.*) So far as you know, is there as much to do at Weedon as there used to be?—I do not think there is as much to do as there used to be.

1165. Is the staff larger or smaller?—Larger.

1166. May not that to some extent account for Mr. Elliott's arrears?—There is no doubt that Mr. Elliott, even if he had given proper diligence to his duties, had not sufficient strength to carry out the establishment in the way that it ought to have been carried out.

1167. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are we not to infer that the blame after all does not altogether rest with Mr. Elliott, but that a considerable portion of it must be shared at head quarters?—Mr. Elliott ought to have made his wants known.

1168. He did?—Perhaps he did not make them known in the proper way. I had never been down to Weedon until I was ordered upon this investigation, and I was quite persuaded from what I saw that there was more work than he could keep up with the strength he had. He was a very clever man, but he was not a man of detail.

1169. (*Chairman.*) Did you know Mr. Elliott?—I cannot say that I did not know him; I never saw him but once, and that was not for more than two minutes, between the time that I took charge of this new business and the time that he left.

1170. You were not on terms of personal intimacy with him?—No; I knew nothing of him privately.

Mr. JAMES CHARLES GRAY examined.

1173. (*Chairman.*) What was your office at Weedon?—I was inspector of miscellaneous stores.

1174. Inspector or sub-inspector?—I was inspector. I had an inspector over me.

1175. Who was the inspector over you?—There was only one chief inspector, Mr. Hoile.

1176. Was he the inspector for the whole establishment?—He was the chief inspector in the department.

1177. For all the stores?—Yes, excepting saddlery.

1178. Was Captain Smith inspector of saddlery;—Yes.

1179. How many inspectors were there?—There were two inspectors of cloth, two inspectors of boots, one inspector of saddlery, Mr. Hoile, the head inspector, and then I had the whole of the miscellaneous goods to inspect.

1180. Did you join the establishment at Weedon at its first creation?—Yes, I went in as a clerk first of all.

1181. I think you had previously been a farmer?—I had.

1182. Where?—In the neighbourhood of Southampton.

1183. What was your age when you became an inspector at Weedon?—Twenty-eight, I think.

1184. Who appointed you?—I was appointed by the Secretary-at-War.

1185. How did you get your appointment?—Mr. Elliott, the storekeeper at Weedon, recommended me very strongly.

1186. Where had you known Mr. Elliott?—Only from my being at Weedon.

1187. What took you to Weedon?—First of all I applied for some appointment.

1188. To whom?—To the Director of Army Clothing, Sir Thomas Troubridge, and he sent me down as a clerk, telling me at the time that there was to be no examination whatever.

1189. Not as an inspector?—No.

1190. Did you commence your duties as clerk?—Yes.

1191. In which department?—In Mr. Elliott's department, as one of the temporary clerks.

1192. Perhaps the establishment was not organized then. I believe there were several divisions?—No, there were only four of us; there was no division.

1193. You say that you had not known Mr. Elliott previously?—No.

1194. How long were you at Weedon as a clerk before he recommended you to be an inspector?—I went to Weedon on the 8th of December 1855, and I was ordered by the Civil Service Commission to come up for an examination.

1195. Where?—At Westminster, and I was plucked upon it.

1196. That was an examination in what?—Writing, arithmetic, dictation, and different things.

1197. That was an examination as clerk?—Yes, the usual examination for a clerk.

1198. Not as inspector?—No.

1199. You say that you failed in that examination?—Yes. Then I went back to Weedon. I went to the stores, and I was there between three and four months.

1200. Who put you there?—Mr. Elliott.

1201. Had he power to employ subordinates?—He did do so. I was not paid anything for that, and then

1171. Is Mr. Bonneau available now, do you know?—I believe he is.

1172. (*Mr. Turner.*) Has any abstract of Mr. Elliott's cash account at Weedon been returned from your department to the Contracts' Committee?—No; it has not.

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Esq.

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I applied for some employment besides, then they put me on as a temporary inspector to begin with.

1202. Who put you on?—I was appointed by the Secretary of State.

1203. Can you tell us how you got the appointment? Was it by Mr. Elliott's recommendation?—It was. I have not the letters with me. I can produce the whole of the correspondence. He recommended me very strongly, and I was put on as a temporary inspector.

1204. As general inspector?—No. I had only to inspect pensioners' caps and shakos, generally speaking, and busbies.

1205. Who gave you instruction to qualify you for those duties?—I had one viewer under me.

1206. Who instructed you to fit you to be an inspector of shakos?—I did not consider that it was requisite to have much instruction in that; I had a sealed pattern by me.

1207. (*Colonel French.*) Did Mr. Elliott require any *douceur*—any present—upon recommending you?—No.

1208. (*Chairman.*) I believe you failed as a farmer?—Yes.

1209. Probably you were not in a position to have much spare money at that time?—That was not it. I do not think anything of that sort was ever done. I do not think for a minute that there were any *douceurs* given for situations. Although Mr. Elliott recommended me very strongly, it was not Mr. Elliott that appointed me; it was the director of stores that recommended me most strongly.

1210. Captain Caffin or Sir Thomas Troubridge?—Sir Thomas Troubridge.

1211. He had known something of your family, I think?—Yes.

1212. May I take it that he recommended you from general opinion of your intelligence, and so on, rather than from any peculiar qualifications you possessed as an inspector of shakos or other articles?—Yes; it was from my general character and the way I had been working in the stores for nothing for some time.

1213. Had Mr. Ramsay anything to do with your appointment?—Nothing. I did not know Mr. Ramsay: I had never seen him, and he knew nothing of me. He signed officially the letter informing me that I had been appointed by the Secretary-at-War.

1214. How long had you been working in the stores before you were appointed as inspector?—I have not my papers with me, but I think it was about the 15th or the 20th of May 1856 that I was appointed a temporary inspector.

1215. (*Mr. Turner.*) Without a salary?—No; I was appointed at a salary of 100*l.* a year.

1216. (*Chairman.*) You had viewers under you, you say?—I had only one viewer.

1217. Was the work light and easy at that time?—Oh, very; it was only caps; we began with caps and shakos.

1218. Where had you acquired your knowledge? I presume it must require some knowledge to inspect shakos?—I was in the store two or three months, getting a good deal of intelligence.

1219. (*Mr. Turner.*) Had the viewer a good knowledge of those things?—Yes; he had been fourteen years at the Tower.

1220. And I suppose he really did the important part of the business?—Yes.

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1221. (*Chairman.*) What was his name?—Elmer.

1222. The same man who has been examined?—He was examined at Weedon, I think.

1223. (*Mr. Turner.*) Could you have fulfilled the duties without that man?—I think I could very well for those things. You must allow me to remark that, at the same time, I had a great deal of writing to do. The inspectors did the whole of the writing; and it took up half of my time writing and answering different things.

1224. (*Chairman.*) Did you receive inspection notes, as they were called?—Yes.

1225. Who gave them to you?—When the goods came in from the contractors they sent down inspection notes to the office, and they were registered at the office.

1226. The contractors sent them down?—Yes. When the contractors sent goods down they sent in inspection notes with them.

1227. Prepared by themselves?—Yes.

1228. Were they printed forms?—Yes.

1229. Obtained from the office, I suppose?—I believed they obtained them from the Government. I cannot answer all these questions, but I believe myself that the inspection notes are just filled in. If they are socks, or anything, there is the name of the contractor on the head of the note, Mr. Hammond, or Messrs. Isaac, and different parties, so many socks, perhaps 2,000 pairs or 4,000 pairs. Then there is, "Inspected," "Approved," and "Rejected." You fill it up, and sign your name at the bottom.

1230. The viewer looked at them first?—Yes.

1231. Did you examine goods from the commencement of holding that office?—Yes, with the viewer.

1232. You say that at that time it was light and easy work?—Very.

1233. There was no occasion for any arrear in those days, I suppose?—No; it was just at the beginning of the establishment. There was a great number of shakos and caps in hand when I began, because there was no one appointed to them till, I think, I was, on the 20th of May.

1234. Mr. Elliott had been there from the previous December, had he not?—Yes.

1235. Had you anything to do with the books after you became inspector?—Yes, I had to make up all the books belonging to my store.

1236. What books?—The inspection books of the issues from my store.

1237. Where to?—Everything I issued I had to put down in the book.

1238. You were the receiver and the issuer?—Yes.

1239. Were there any issuers as distinct from the inspector from the beginning, or were all the inspectors who received goods also the same persons as issued them?—I think, in the boot store and the cloth store, after a certain time, they had proper people to issue them; but I always had the issuing with the inspection in my store.

1240. Who was the storeholder having charge of the goods after inspection and before issue?—I had the whole of it to do.

1241. Was that because the staff was slight, and there was little to do?—No; we wanted extra strength; we applied for storeholders.

1242. I am speaking with reference to the commencement of the establishment, when you said that the work was light?—It was light when it began, but it very soon increased.

1243. (*Colonel French.*) Were you in arrears in your entries of stock when you left?—Yes; I could not keep them up at the last.

1244. (*Chairman.*) In what books did you make entries?—I had an inspection book and an issue book. I was obliged to keep up the issue book to tell what there was in store. I could not keep up the inspection book the last four months.

1245. It was made up from the inspection notes?—It ought to have been.

1246. What did you do with the inspection notes which were not entered in the book?—They were left in the store when I left.

1247. Were they filed?—They were in a drawer there.

1248. Were they numbered?—They were numbered at the office; they were not numbered by me; in fact there was so much business then at the latter part of the time that I could not do it, that I could not keep up any inspection notes or the inspection book at all.

1249. When did you leave Weedon?—In January 1858.

1250. You were there from May 1856 to January 1858?—I was there in December 1855 to begin with; as an inspector I was there from May. I was appointed temporary inspector in May, and then appointed inspector on the establishment on the 12th of October 1856, when the establishment was what was called formed, and I remained there till the 2nd of January 1858.

1251. Had you a larger salary when you were put on permanently?—No.

1252. You had only 100*l.* a year during the whole time you were there?—No; and we had to pay income tax and superannuation out of it.

1253. Are you a married man?—No.

1254. Had you any private means besides your salary?—I had certainly a little; my father allowed me something at times; in fact I could not have lived without.

1255. Did you live at Weedon?—I had quarters. I had one room.

1256. In addition to the 100*l.* a year?—Yes.

1257. Had you coals?—No; nothing else but the room.

1258. Was it furnished?—I furnished it myself.

1259. When did Hoile come to Weedon?—He came in December 1855.

1260. At the same time as you did?—Yes.

1261. He was your superior?—He was appointed head inspector from the commencement.

1262. Generally speaking, were you on good terms with Hoile?—Yes; I was very intimate with him.

1263. All the time that you were at Weedon were you on friendly terms with Hoile?—Very; the whole time. I do not think we had a word the whole time I was there.

1264. And with Green?—I was not very intimate with Green. Green was appointed first of all as a temporary clerk, I think, about May 1856, and in two or three months after that he was appointed very suddenly as assistant storekeeper at 290*l.* a year.

1265. (*Colonel French.*) Through whose influence did he get that appointment?—Mr. Elliott's; he was distantly related in some way.

1266. (*Chairman.*) Was not Green's wife a connexion of Mrs. Elliott's?—Mrs. Green I believe is Mrs. Elliott's niece.

1267. Were not you examined two or three times before the Contracts' Committee?—I was examined five or six times, I think.

1268. Do you adhere to the evidence which you gave before the Contracts' Committee?—Yes; the whole of the last evidence especially.

1269. Were there some discrepancies between the last evidence that you gave and your former evidence?—A few; very slight.

1270. Was there any intentional omission in the evidence that you first gave?—Yes; I was then under a coercion from Mr. Elliott.

1271. The first examination was while Mr. Elliott was still at Weedon?—It was, and soon after I left.

1272. You were examined subsequently after Mr. Elliott had left Weedon?—Yes; I came up of my own accord.

1273. At that time had you left the establishment?—Both the times I have given my evidence after I left the establishment.

1274. You have only been examined this year?—No.

1275. What are the particular points upon which you are desirous of being now examined?—It refers solely to the kits.

1276. To the rejection of the kits?—Yes; I have not my papers with me, and perhaps the Commissioners would allow me to be examined at Weedon.

1277. Will your statement to some extent inculpate other people?—I think not.

1278. After reading your evidence and Hoiles', I find that they are to some extent contradictory?—Yes.

1279. Is not this the question, which of you, or whether both of you concurred in a hurried and improper passing of Messrs. Isaac's kits?—Yes.

1280. Hoile says that you did it and he only counter-signed your statement, and you say that it was done under his orders?—So it was.

1281. You are at variance upon that subject?—Yes.

1282. I do not see, under those circumstances, any reason why you should not tell us your story here?—I have no objection at all. I might save you trouble if I say that the whole of the evidence which I gave on the 1st of June, I wish to confirm now.

1283. Your first examination was on the 16th of April?—Yes.

1284. You have stated that you have heard at Weedon that parties in the establishment have received bribes?—I have heard that parties have received bribes, but not any particular persons; it is generally the impression that in every Government place there is some bribery carried on; I believe I was asked the question.

1285. General impressions are worth nothing at all; I want to get at the grounds for them. You were asked, "Did you ever hear of parties in the establishment receiving bribes?" you say, "Yes, I have heard of such things."—I have heard of such things; but I have not heard of any particular party.

1286. Was it merely a general loose observation that there was bribery?—Yes, that is rumoured in every Government establishment, and it is generally considered that in every Government establishment there is bribery carried on.

1287. I am not asking about general rumours, which are worth less than nothing; did you ever hear of anybody who was said to have received a bribe?—I heard of one man.

1288. Who was that?—A man of the name of Grove, who was a boot viewer.

1289. At Weedon?—Yes. Mr. Elliott, from Weedon, was asked the question when he was examined, and he contradicted it. He said that he had never heard of such a thing, but it certainly was rumoured about, and the man was suspended for some time on that account. I believe this was about May, 1856.

1290. Do you know from whom it was said that he had received a bribe?—I do not.

1291. Those were Messrs. Isaac's kits that you examined?—Yes.

1292. You were asked in April whether you thought that Messrs. Isaac's goods had been rejected more than other persons?—Yes.

1293. You say, "I should say, so far from their being favoured, I think their goods were rejected more than any others," is that so?—Yes.

1294. Do you think so still?—Yes.

1295. "There never was anything special with regard to Mr. Isaac," you said, "nothing at all;" had you then in your mind the question which was afterwards raised about these kits?—I had no special orders referring to Messrs. Isaac, except on one occasion Mr. Elliott told me to be rather sharp with that firm.

1296. Have you any reason to suppose that Mr. Elliott favoured them?—They certainly were rather favoured.

1297. At one time Mr. Elliott told you to be rather sharp with them?—He told me that at the commencement, when I began the inspection; since then

Mr. Isaac certainly was favoured more than another contractor.

1298. In what way?—I think he was allowed to come into the store more.

1299. As to the passing of his things do you think his things were more favourably dealt with than anybody else's?—I think not, with one exception, that was about some button brushes; I have given my evidence about that before.

1300. That was the article in regard to which the question about the patterns arose?—Yes.

1301. Do you adhere to your statement, that Mr. Isaac brought two pattern brushes?—Yes.

1302. Was the original pattern there or not?—No, the original pattern was taken away.

1303. It had been sent for to London?—Yes.

1304. Then Mr. Isaac brought down two pattern brushes, and, I think you have stated in your evidence, that you examined the brushes which he supplied by those patterns which he brought down?—He did after my complaining to the superintendent and to Mr. Hoile about it.

1305. Had you previously rejected any of those brushes before Mr. Isaac brought two new brushes down?—We had rejected the whole.

1306. How many?—9,000.

1307. Had you examined them by the sealed pattern which had come down from London?—Yes.

1308. After that rejection the sealed pattern was sent for?—After that the sealed pattern was sent for.

1309. Who gave you the two button-brushes that Mr. Isaac brought down?—He gave them me himself; the contractor did,—Mr. Samuel Isaac.

1310. Are you sure?—Perfectly certain.

1311. I have your answer "They were given me through the head inspector at Weedon, Mr. Hoile"?—So they were. They were given to me by Mr. Isaac; but first of all, when Mr. Isaac brought them into the store, I appealed to Mr. Hoile whether I should take them, and he said "Certainly, I will ask Mr. Elliott upon the subject."

1312. They were sealed patterns?—Those were the sealed patterns.

1313. They were not the original sealed patterns by which you had rejected the 9,000 brushes?—No, they were taken away.

1314. The two brushes that Mr. Isaac brought and gave you in Hoile's presence, were sealed patterns?—They had the Adjutant-General's seal upon them.

1315. Did you inspect the brushes, and compare them with those two new sealed patterns?—Yes.

1316. Did you pass the brushes?—We passed the whole.

1317. Was that of your own will, or under direction from anybody else?—Under the direction of Mr. Elliott and Mr. Hoile, that they were to be taken as sealed patterns, and I told the brush viewer, who was there at the time, a man from the Tower, that those were the patterns we were to go by.

1318. (*Colonel French.*) Were they equal to the former patterns?—No.

1319. (*Chairman.*) What was the difference?—I should say myself, if the original pattern brush was worth 6d., that what I call the inferior patterns were not worth more than 3d.

1320. Can you make intelligible to me, not being acquainted with brushes, the actual difference?—First, they were very inferior in hair, and besides that there was a difference of 21 knots. When a brush is made, the hair is put in a wire, each is a knot, and there was a difference of 21 knots in each brush to what there was in the sealed pattern.

1321. The knots were fewer?—Yes.

1322. The brush was not so full of bristles?—No.

1323. Was there a manifest and visible difference?—Yes; no one could mistake it for a minute; in fact, they were inferior to the 9,000 we had rejected.

1324. And you then passed the whole of them?—Yes.

LONDON.

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1325. How long did it take you to examine those 9,000 brushes when you passed them?—I do not suppose it took three minutes.

1326. How could you examine 9,000 brushes in three minutes?—We saw that they were inferior to the others that we had rejected, and we passed the lot at once; we had no alternative.

1327. Were the 9,000 identical in quality?—Some were better and some worse, but all were better than the pattern.

1328. How could you tell that unless you looked at them for the purpose?—We knew all along what the 9,000 brushes that we rejected were, and when those pattern brushes came down we saw that the patterns were inferior to the stock of 9,000.

1329. To inspect 9,000 brushes in three minutes is rather sharp work, is it not?—We found that the patterns were inferior to the supply that we had rejected, and we were obliged to take the lot.

1330. Had you a sufficient memory of each of the 9,000 brushes to be able to say that each of those 9,000 was as good as the two pattern brushes that Mr. Isaac brought down?—The brush viewer had; the brush viewer passed them all directly.

1331. Was that Elmer?—That was a man of the name of Nightingale from the Tower.

1332. Have you seen Nightingale recently?—I saw him for one minute in the street.

1333. Had you any conversation with him?—He asked me whether I thought he would be examined, and I said "I should wish you to be down at Weedon if the Commission sits there," that is all.

1334. (*Colonel French.*) Were any of those brushes issued to the troops?—They were all issued.

1335. Were they approved by the regiments?—I believe only 66 were sent back; I believe that was the number.

1336. (*Chairman*) They were sufficiently good, they thought?—Yes, I believe only 66 were sent back out of the whole supply, and there was besides that number, I think, 24,000 or 25,000 kits issued altogether.

1337. Were those brushes a portion of the kits?—Yes; if I am to be examined I will bring a statement of the whole of the kit to-morrow.

1338. You are referring to a different occasion to that upon which the 2,000 kits are said to have been passed by you?—Yes; that is a different case altogether.

1339. Did Hoile say anything to you about passing the brushes?—He said Mr. Elliott had given orders that they were to be passed by that pattern.

1340. Did you hear Mr. Isaac ask Mr. Elliott to pass his brushes by that pattern?—No, I do not think I did; I think not.

1341. Did you hear Hoile remonstrate with Mr. Elliott about passing the brushes by that pattern?—No; he asked Mr. Elliott the question, and Mr. Elliott said they were sealed with the Adjutant-General's seal, and they were to be taken; Hoile remonstrated as well as myself upon the question about taking the brushes.

1342. (*Colonel French.*) Had you any suspicion of the authenticity of that seal?—I had; I thought it was a very strange thing that a contractor should be able to get two brushes sealed like that which were so very inferior to the original pattern.

1343. (*Chairman.*) Do you know what became of the brushes?—I believe the brushes are now at Pall Mall.

1344. What did you do with them?—I left them in the store when I was discharged.

1345. You do not know where they are?—I believe they were in the committee-room the other day.

1346. You say that both you and Hoile remonstrated with Mr. Elliott that the brushes were not good?—We did.

1347. Do you remember the date of those inspections, first when you rejected, and afterwards when you passed the brushes?—I do not; but I think the day when Mr. Isaac brought the patterns down was about the 30th or 31st of December 1857. I think I have given the date in my evidence before the Committee.

1348. The first rejection of the button brushes is said to have been on the 4th of November, is that so?—I could not say.

1349. Is there anything more that you wish to add with regard to the question of the brushes?—No.

1350. What is the point with respect to the brushes that you desire to contradict in the evidence that has been given, if any; I understood your desire to be examined arose from the fact that some statements had been made that you denied: what are the statements that you deny?—I should be obliged to the Commissioners if they would allow me to be examined to-morrow, for I have not got my papers with me; I did not expect to be examined now.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

LONDON.

Wednesday, 28th July 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Capt. HENRY WILLIAM GORDON examined.

LONDON.

Capt. H. W.
Gordon.

28 July 1858.

1351. (*Chairman.*) You have already been examined at considerable length before the Committee on Contracts?—I have.

1352. As we have had an opportunity of reading that evidence, we do not desire to make you repeat in detail all that you there said. May I take it generally that the evidence you have given is correct, and that you adhere to it?—Perfectly, with only one exception: I stated that Mr. Elliott was not at Weedon on the 14th of May; I have since had reason to believe that he was at Weedon on the 14th of May. Mr.

Ramsay said that he would inform the Committee to that effect. That is the only part of the evidence that I wish to refer to.

1353. You have been for some time in the War Department, I think?—Only about three years.

1354. In what capacity were you in the Crimea?—First on half pay, superintending the collection of stores not required by the army; and, secondly, as ordnance storekeeper to that army.

1355. In the latter capacity you acted for the whole army?—Yes, at the close of the war.

1356. I believe you afterwards became storekeeper at Dublin?—Yes, and I was subsequently removed to Weedon.

1357. When did you receive an intimation that you were to be removed to Weedon?—At the beginning of September last year, privately.

1358. Had you ever been at Weedon before you were sent as the head of the depôt?—Never.

1359. When did you go to Weedon?—I went to Weedon first in February.

1360. Had you then an opportunity of looking at the system which was pursued there?—I saw within the first twenty-four hours what the system pursued there was.

1361. Did you satisfy yourself within twenty-four hours that the system was imperfect or imperfectly pursued?—I quite satisfied myself that it was imperfectly pursued.

1362. In your judgment, would any officer accustomed to the Ordnance regulations, who had paid a visit of twenty-four hours to Weedon, have had the same means that you had of ascertaining that the system pursued there was unsatisfactory?—He could have had no difficulty whatever in doing so; that is to say, if he had the same opportunities that I had for going round the stores.

1363. For instance, if Mr. Elliott's superior officer had gone down to Weedon in February, he would have had the same means of observation that you had?—Certainly he would.

1364. And you think any one applying his intelligence to the subject-matter that he went to investigate, might have discovered in twenty-four hours that there was something irregular?—He would certainly have discovered, for example, that the receipt and issue of stores was conducted by the same party.

1365. Are you aware that Major Marvin went down to Weedon in February, and did not make that discovery?—Major Marvin is not a store officer, nor does he, I believe, know anything about store accounts.

1366. Upon finding that there were defects at Weedon, did you communicate with the War Office?—I came up to London, and I represented to Captain Caffin that I could not think of taking over the depôt until the receipt was divided from the issue.

1367. Does that appear in your previous evidence?—It does not, because I was not asked the question.

1368. When did you first see Captain Caffin after your discovery at Weedon?—I cannot say the exact date; I think it was within four days after I arrived at Weedon I came up to town with Mr. Elliott; and I represented to Captain Caffin that the receipt must be separated from the issue before I could possibly take charge at Weedon.

1369. It is of some importance that we should have the exact date. Can you tell us whether it was before or after Major Marvin was sent down to Weedon?—I have reason to believe that Major Marvin was sent down to Weedon in consequence of my statement. I should imagine so. I do not know whether he received any orders respecting the statement that I made.

1370. Your present belief is, that Major Marvin was sent down to Weedon in consequence of your representation?—I have every reason to believe so.

1371. One portion of your representation being, that the receipt and issue were not distinct?—That was the entire matter that I brought to the notice of Captain Caffin.

1372. Major Marvin reports that the receipt and issue are quite distinct, I think?—He does so erroneously.

1373. Was Major Marvin's report communicated to you?—No.

1374. You were not aware, for instance, that he reported upon that particular point, that, in his judgment, the issues and receipts were quite distinct?—I had no idea of that whatever until very recently. I think it was not until Mr. Elliott's leaving Weedon, at any rate close before. I have stated in my evidence about the time Captain Marvin's report first

came to my knowledge. I cannot call to my recollection now the date, although it was fresh in my memory then. I do not remember the time when I first saw the report, but it was through accident.

1375. You having communicated to Captain Caffin your objections to the system pursued at Weedon, and an officer having been sent down to investigate the matter; and he having reported, as we understand, an opinion directly contrary to yours in February, was no communication made to you of the result of his investigation?—None whatever.

1376. You proceeded at Weedon to have a "remain" taken?—Not at that time. I declined to take the remain at Weedon until a certain number of men were appointed who would take charge of the stores quite distinct from the inspection, and until a quantity of stores that were lying useless at Weedon were removed with a view of allowing room for that arrangement. I returned to Dublin for the purpose of giving over my charge at Dublin to Mr. Elliott, and having done so, I then returned to Weedon; the parties having been appointed previously by the War Office, were employed gradually taking charge of the stores from the inspection branch. About the 8th or 9th of April I returned to Weedon, and began the remain, which we completed on the 13th of May; and very uphill work it was, for I had to take the whole thing in hand in the presence of my senior officer, Mr. Elliott. I put these different parties in charge of the stores, and when I was satisfied that they had the stores that I should be held responsible for, I went through them myself, and made myself acquainted with what stores I had. I saw that everything was taken in charge by some person; then the remain was completed. Mr. Elliott had not signed the remain when he went away, but it was signed by another officer for him whom he deputed to sign it. By "remain" I mean the state and quantity of the stores that were at Weedon.

1377. (*Mr. Turner.*) The actual state of the stock in hand?—Yes.

1378. (*Chairman.*) Are the persons whom you obtained as storekeepers still in the establishment at Weedon?—They are.

1379. They were not there previously?—They were appointed when I came up to London, and represented to Captain Caffin that the receipt was still mixed up with issue, namely, that the inspector received the goods, that he inspected them, and brought them to charge in his own books, and that he issued them himself. I said that there was no check, and that every transaction might be represented as a paper transaction. There was no proof of the stores that were represented to have been received and paid for ever coming into store at all. I represented that it was absolutely necessary that the inspector on finishing his inspection should transfer the stores so inspected over to a perfectly separate party, an officer of my own, who would take charge of those stores for me, and would issue them as I ordered from time to time.

1380. Are those officers called storeholders?—No, not at Weedon. They do not get the same pay; they are called foremen of stores.

1381. Were those foremen of stores new officers who were appointed, or were they officers who were on the then existing staff?—There were fresh officers appointed in consequence of my report; some of them had arrived at Weedon prior to Major Marvin coming down, and had begun to perform the duties for which they were appointed; but the system was not in operation.

1382. Was the defect to which you are now adverting, occasioned by the smallness of the staff, or by deliberate disregard of the Ordnance regulations?—It was certainly entirely to be attributed to the deficiency in the staff. I should imagine so, and I should hope so. I do not think it could have been otherwise.

1383. (*Mr. Turner.*) You very properly explained your difficulty in taking charge of any stock at Weedon without a certain knowledge of its existence.

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Of course you accurately, as far as you are aware, took an account of the stock actually remaining on the 14th of May before you put yourself in charge of that stock?—I made myself acquainted with the stores which were represented to be at Weedon at that time.

1384. I presume your account of the remain existing at that time simply shows what stores really were in the place, and not what ought to be there according to the books?—The stores received by me were those actually at Weedon, without any reference to books.

1385. We understand that the ledger which is now in process of being posted up may be expected to be complete in a few weeks. As you shake your head, is there a doubt upon that subject?—I think it will be about six months before it is posted up so as to be compared with the stock taken over by me.

1386. You think it will not be less than six months from the present time before the ledger will be posted up at Weedon?—I do not think it will be possible for the present ledger to be finished at Weedon up to the time that Mr. Elliott's charge ceased, certainly under six months from this time.

1387. Can you be at all satisfied, or can any of the officials at the War Office, or the public, who are now very much interested in this question, be satisfied, that the balances of that ledger will at all correspond with the actual "remain" of which you took charge?—No person can tell whether it will ever balance.

1388. (*Chairman.*) Do not you think the store ledger can be made up, at whatever distance of time, so as to verify or to disagree with the "remain"?—Of course it can; but I do not consider that the ledger can ever be made up to be a correct statement of what the transactions were at Weedon.

1389. Why not?—From the absence of the documents from which the ledger can be prepared.

1390. The absence of what documents?—The ledger is posted from loose documents, and you do not know that those documents are all there.

1391. Assuming that there ought to have been a day book, and that there are only loose vouchers to post the ledger from, if those loose vouchers, though in great disorder, are all found numbered consecutively, are put in order, and are further verified as far as can be by receipts from regiments, and so on, why cannot you, though the trouble may be great, make up the ledger from those vouchers?—The ledger can be made up, but, as I said before, it will not show the transactions that actually occurred at Weedon, because the vouchers will, in all probability, not all be there.

1392. Why do you say that the vouchers will not all be there?—Because even at this day vouchers are coming back with respect to Mr. Elliott's accounts, which are not missed and never have been missed; it depends upon whether the parties choose to return the vouchers for the stores that have been issued to them.

1393. The War Office is, we understand, in process of sending round a circular to the different regiments, for returns of the issues which were made to those regiments; there may be no vouchers of issue at present in the establishment at Weedon, but when the regiments make that return, assuming them to be made accurately, will not that supply, at least as far as the regiments are concerned, vouchers for the issues which have been made to them?—It will as far as the regiments are concerned certainly, if the regiments send in those returns. If regiments which are in India have kept proper accounts of everything, you will get them; but it will require a correspondence with all the different out stations in India and other places.

1394. Your opinion is much at variance with that of other witnesses who have been examined. Take the case of boots. Supposing that the documents show that 800,000 pairs of boots have been sent to Weedon, and your remain showed 200,000, or what-

ever the number might be left in store, and that the various vouchers showed the issue of 600,000, the exact balance, would not you think in that respect the ledger when made up would verify your remain?—Certainly, if it comes out in that way it would.

1395. Upon that very point we are already assured, that a sufficient examination in the matter of the books has been made to prove that the ledger when completed according to the vouchers, will verify the remain taken on the 14th of May last. Are you surprised at that?—Very much surprised.

1396. You have been assuming that the vouchers are lost. Suppose they are not lost, to begin with?—Then of course the ledger will show a correct statement.

1397. How do you arrive at a conclusion that the vouchers are lost?—From the fact of vouchers coming back to this day for issues made in 1856.

1398. Has not the ledger for 1856–57 been made up?—Yes; up to the 31st of March 1857.

1399. Is not that ledger now in course of examination?—It is in course of examination, I believe.

1400. When you say that vouchers are coming back, from where are they coming?—From the regiments, from contractors, and from other parties who have been supplied with stores in Mr. Elliott's time.

1401. Are any of those duplicates?—Some of them may be duplicates, but it would be very difficult to distinguish them as duplicates.

1402. You are now speaking of issues?—Yes.

1403. Supposing that the vouchers for issues are missing; would not the balance be larger in favour of Mr. Elliott?—It would be against Mr. Elliott if the issues were not all properly recorded; it would be to Mr. Elliott's loss.

1404. But would it not be in his favour in one sense, that if he made issues, in fact, for which there are no vouchers, it would negative fraudulent defalcation?—It would tend to increase the defalcation. For instance, if an issue had been made of 1,000 pairs of boots to a regiment, and he had not posted that 1,000 pairs of boots into the ledger from want of the voucher, that 1,000 pairs of boots would still appear as if they were in store, although they would have been actually issued.

1405. (*Mr. Turner.*) To revert to the question which I put to you, until the store ledger is properly posted up and examined, and the results compared with the actual remain of every article of which you took charge, will there be any proof whatever as to the correctness of the books as compared with the remain?—None.

1406. Supposing you find a very great discrepancy in any one article, shall you assume that there has been fraud, or that the vouchers have been missing on the one side or the other, and that the absence of such vouchers prevents the books from being properly made up?—It is a matter merely of opinion; but I would say, the absence of vouchers rather than fraud. I do not myself think that fraud has been committed.

1407. Your opinion is from your observation of the defective system which has been pursued at Weedon, that in every probability when this present ledger is balanced, it will prove very different from the actual state of the stock?—I should say that it will prove very different. It is just as likely to show a surplus of any article as a deficiency.

1408. In your judgment there has been no system of correct book-keeping pursued at Weedon?—None whatever.

1409. And that no good system of book-keeping having been pursued, and there being a very insufficient staff for carrying on the business, there has been the opportunity for fraud to almost any amount?—There has.

1410. Then you rely rather upon the honesty of the people, than upon any system which has been pursued at Weedon?—I do.

1411. Pursuing the idea that there may be a very great discrepancy in the state of the ledger as compared with the actual state of the stock, cannot you obtain something like correctness on the debit side of the ledger by ascertaining through contractors, and through the payments which have been made to them at the War Office, at all events, what ought to be charged on the debit side of that ledger?—You can undoubtedly, so far as the stores have been paid for, but the War Office would have nothing whatever to show or to prove that you had debited the account with the stores returned from regiments, from the militia, and other parties who would not be paid for stores if they had delivered any in.

1412. One set of items on the debit side with respect to every article would be what had been delivered under contract, and another would be what had been returned from regiments or removed from other establishments to Weedon?—Yes.

1413. Although it would be a tedious process, could not the quantities of goods which have been so transferred be ascertained. Have they no trace at the War Office of their having ordered the articles either to be removed from other establishments, or returned from regiments?—They might, and they might not; I could not say whether they have or not. The storekeeper may have issued to a contractor, say, some 10,000 yards of cloth, and the contractor sends a receipt for it, and he subsequently finds that he does not want it, or there may have been some mistake, and he may have returned it to Weedon again.

1414. Do you suppose that that issue or re-delivery has not been properly recorded?—I say that the issue very probably has been recorded, but there would be no proof of the re-delivery into store having been recorded.

1415. Then in point of fact these books, however accurately they are balanced according to the documents which have been posted, will afford us really no information on which we can implicitly rely?—I do not consider that they will furnish you with information on which you can rely.

1416. (*Chairman.*) Supposing that there is no material discrepancy, shall you conceive that to be merely a happy accident?—I should consider it a most happy accident.

1417. Do you think that there is as likely to be a surplus as a deficiency?—I do.

1418. I presume that is a mode of expressing your opinion, that there has been no fraud?—I have no idea of there having been any fraud; but a surplus of course would arise from the fact that returned stores from regiments or from contractors, or from other departments, had not been taken on charge.

1419. In the case which you put just now, in answer to Mr. Turner, of a contractor sending back a quantity of cloth, Mr. Elliott might not have debited himself, you think, in such a case as that?—He might not.

1420. Did you ever hear, in your experience, of the case of a contractor, who had a certain quantity of cloth sent to him, not taking an acknowledgment if he returned a portion of it?—The contractor of course would take an acknowledgment; the storekeeper may have given him a receipt for it.

1421. (*Mr. Turner.*) That voucher will not be at Weedon, but will be in the possession of the man who received it?—Yes.

1422. (*Chairman.*) Do you know of any case at Weedon in which a contractor has sent back a portion of cloth which had been entrusted to him to make up?—Since I have been at Weedon some cases have occurred. Issues had been made by Mr. Elliott in which there was some mistake, and the contractor has sent the cloth back to Weedon. In those cases I have taken orders of the War Office for authority to receive those stores.

1423. Will not those cases rather tend to show a surplus than a deficiency when the remain comes to be balanced against the books?—If the issues were not recorded, then of course it would be to the dis-

advantage of Mr. Elliott; if the receipts were not recorded it would be to his advantage.

1424. Then the result would be that the remain may show a larger quantity than the books will show?—In case of his not debiting himself with the stores returned by contractors of course his balance will show a less quantity than there would have been if he had so debited himself.

1425. You were examined before the Committee at considerable length as to what you conceived was your responsibility with regard to the quantity of goods that you took over as the remain. I do not propose to ask you all those questions over again; but did you satisfy yourself as to the quantity of goods in the same way as if you had been making a private contract with a respectable tradesman?—In my evidence you will find that I did say so, and I adhere to that statement.

1426. You were pressed very much upon the point of whether you would be responsible if afterwards there was a deficiency. Are you quite satisfied that there is no deficiency in the quantity which the remain showed?—I believe myself that the stock taken by me is correct. I have no reason to suppose that there is any deficiency.

1427. Is that remain a very lengthy document?—It is. I suppose there are about a thousand different headings; but nothing equal to either the Tower or the Woolwich ledger.

1428. Would it be practicable to give us in anything like a short compact form the heads of that remain, or do you think it would be of any use to us?—When you subsequently receive Mr. Elliott's ledger, then it will of course be necessary to check mine against it.

1429. For our information generally, could you give us a short abstract of that remain?—It would have to be the whole remain, it cannot be abstracted.

1430. (*Mr. Turner.*) I suppose a statement of that kind is perfectly incapable of condensation?—Quite incapable.

1431. I observe you were asked a great many questions before the Committee with regard to feeling yourself responsible for the number of yards in each bale, and so forth. Would it not have been an operation occupying some months to have actually measured every piece of cloth to ascertain that every yard was there, as well as the quantity in bulk that was packed in the bale?—It would have been impossible to re-measure all the cloth. It was taken from the marks upon the bales. In issuing it, I have seldom, if ever, heard a complaint from the contractor who has received the cloth for making up into garments that he has found it short from what was stated on the bales. It may have been the case in one or two instances, but since that evidence was given I have taken another precaution, which I think perhaps is going almost too far, which is, even after the cloth has been measured by the inspectors, and had the lead seal put on it with the length of the cloth, I have it re-measured before it is packed in the presence of an officer, to see if the lead seals are correctly marked.

1432. The contents of the bale, I infer from what you have said now, are stated by the inspector, and then upon your system also by the packer?—By the previous system by the packer also, but the packer did not re-measure the cloth. He packed each bale with a certain number of pieces, and took the number of yards as shown on the lead seal on each piece of cloth; these he added together and put the total quantities outside the bale.

1433. Were the men who actually made up the bales connected with the inspection in any way?—They were not.

1434. They were mere labourers, I suppose?—Labourers employed as packers.

1435. Having vast numbers of bales to pack in my own establishment, I want to know the system pursued at Weedon. Somebody or other lays out a certain quantity of cloth to be packed into a bale, and the packer receives his instructions?—The packer

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receives the cloth from the inspector with the lead seal attached to it, showing the number of yards.

1436. Does the packer before he packs the cloth check the quantity in any way?—No.

1437. He takes it for granted?—He takes it for granted; the lead seal shows the number of yards each piece is said to contain. As I stated before, no complaint having arisen in consequence of the deficiency of the length of the cloth or the improper marking of the lead seals, the inference I drew was, that it was as correct as possibly could be. However, since the Contracts' Committee sat I have had the cloth remeasured.

1438. As an additional check?—Yes.

1439. Does the packer sign a document or ticket that is attached to the bale?—He receives a number of pieces of cloth upon a transit note, and he packs that cloth into bales, and shows the same number of yards on the outsides of the bales, as he has received on the transit note, and afterwards the quantity is passed into store in packed bales. If fraud had been previously intended, there would have been no necessity to have done it by improper measuring of the cloth, or improper marking of the bales, because there would have been no difficulty whatever if the inspector had been a dishonest man, in collusion with the contractor, to represent that he had received 10,000 yards of cloth which he had not received at all.

1440. You think that there was no particular inducement to falsify the packing of the bale as long as the inspector was also the storeholder, as I believe was the case at Weedon. He had very great power, had he not, of passing a voucher to indicate that there was a larger number of yards in the bale, which he as also storekeeper there could afterwards pass on?—There was no necessity to falsify the packing, as, in the absence of the storeholder, he could assert he had received a quantity of cloth that he had not.

1441. If you had a separate officer in each department, and the inspection was entirely separated from the storekeeping, would not there be an end to the possibility of such a fraud?—Yes.

1442. In the system which you have now adopted, the inspection is distinct from the storekeeping?—It is quite distinct.

1443. Do not you conceive that the system of the inspectors being also the storekeepers and issuers was a thoroughly vicious system?—Certainly it was.

1444. (*Chairman.*) You gave at considerable length, and very clearly, in your evidence a statement of the system acted upon under the Ordnance regulations?—I did.

1445. Does that statement fully and completely explain the system pursued under the Ordnance regulations?—It does, and it does not. The Ordnance regulations are the basis of it. It is only at certain stations, such as Woolwich, the Tower, Weedon and Dublin, perhaps, that you enter into contract for stores, therefore the matter of contract is not so much gone into in the Ordnance regulations as the other matters connected with the custody of stores.

1446. You have nothing to do with contracts at Weedon itself. I am speaking of the Ordnance regulations with regard to the receipt, inspection, custody, and issue of stores?—The receipt from contractors of goods delivered under contract and the inspection branch are not gone into by the Ordnance regulations; but the other parts, namely, the custody and the issue and receipt of stores from regiments are fully gone into in them.

1447. We want to know in what respects the practice at Weedon deviated from the Ordnance system so far as that Ordnance system is applicable to Weedon. What did Mr. Elliott omit to do which he ought to have done according to the Ordnance regulations?—He kept no day-books of receipts and issues, which day-books, however, although they are not specified in the Ordnance regulations, are invariably kept at all Ordnance stations.

1448. That was the distinction which Major Marvin made; he said that he found no requirement in the Ordnance regulations to keep a day-book of receipts. Probably his experience did not enable him to know that the practice was that they should be so kept, as there is nothing in the Ordnance regulations about them?—There is nothing in the Ordnance regulations showing that day-books should be kept; but it is the universal practice that they are kept.

1449. Mr. Elliott, as an Ordnance storekeeper, must have known that?—Yes; he must have known it, but it is very difficult for me to say what Mr. Elliott did not do, because his books were so complicated and so numerous to what there was any necessity for them to be, that I really do not know how he did record any orders that he received.

1450. My question did not relate merely to the books, but to the actual custody of stores. For instance, the point which has been alluded to of not having two distinct persons for inspector and foreman of stores?—In addition to having no day-books, he also had his inspection and issue branches under the same persons. The inspectors who received the stores issued them, and were the only accounting officers to the storekeeper for the custody of the stores. The ledgers were posted from loose documents.

1451. (*Mr. Turner.*) That, I suppose, was a matter of necessity, if no day-book was kept?—It was.

1452. (*Colonel French.*) Was a sufficient staff afforded to Mr. Elliott to enable him to keep the books according to the Ordnance regulations, and in fact to conduct the system according to the Ordnance regulations?—It would be impossible for me to tell whether he had a sufficient staff or not. I am quite aware that the whole of the officers at Weedon were considerably overworked; and if Mr. Elliott had insisted upon keeping a record of all the issues that he made, as well as receipts, the work, with the staff he had, could not have been done at Weedon; they must have given him additional assistance, or he ought to have stopped the issues of stores. If I had been in the same position as Mr. Elliott, and found that I could not keep a record of my transactions so that I could secure myself against loss, I would only have issued the stores of which I could have kept a correct account.

1453. (*Chairman.*) Assuming that there was no dishonesty as regards the stores, do you think Mr. Elliott's anxiety to supply the public needs and the requirements of the department may have been one of the causes of the irregularity in his store accounts?—I certainly think so. He was most anxious, from what little I saw of him, to hurry the issues on, without respect to keeping a true record of them.

1454. Mr. Ramsay has told us, or he has told the Contracts' Committee, that there was never a single instance of delay in the issue of clothing to the armies that went to China or the East, as regards the Weedon depot. Assuming that to be so, do you think that the amount of work which that would throw upon the staff at Weedon in actual issue is an explanation and extenuation of the fact that the books were not kept properly?—I cannot think that anything can be an extenuation for not keeping a proper record of what was issued.

1455. Supposing Mr. Elliott had not sufficient staff to do both, and that one duty must be neglected, would not the public service, on the whole, be better promoted by his not keeping the books than by stopping the issues?—I do not think the public interests would be benefited by his adopting such a course.

1456. It is a question of degree, is not it? If the staff at Weedon had to do certain work, which was more than it could do, and it could only do a part of that work, was not the issue of clothing of even greater consequence than the particularity of the accounts respecting the issues?—I cannot think so, because there would be no record of the transactions; you would not be able to tell what regiments had received when they had gone abroad, and you could

not, in consequence, tell what they would require; you would have no basis to go upon, and such being the case it would have been far better to have delayed the issue.

1457. What would you have done in a similar case?—They would have given me more assistance.

1458. What would you have done in a similar case?—I would not have issued more than I could have recorded. I would have written and said, “I cannot issue, as I have not a sufficient staff.”

1459. (*Colonel French.*) Might not your doing so have prevented an expedition going out?—I think the assistance would have been given; it would have brought about its own cure.

1460. (*Chairman.*) You think that Mr. Elliott should have been more peremptory in requiring additional staff?—Certainly.

1461. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was not it the duty of Mr. Elliott to write up and say, “I cannot do my duty here. I have written repeatedly for further assistance; that assistance has not been granted, and I cannot go on.” If Mr. Elliott had taken that course, do not you think it very probable, in the exigencies of the service at that time, that immediate steps would have been taken to put him in a proper position with respect to staff?—I think if Mr. Elliott had represented the impossibility of carrying on the duty with which he was entrusted at Weedon without further assistance, the War Office would have given him that assistance at once.

1462. Perhaps you are aware that Mr. Elliott was repeatedly asking for assistance by letter. Mr. Ramsay stated that he went down occasionally to Weedon for a single day to look over the establishment, ought he not, in your opinion, to have found that there was great need of this assistance, for which application was continually made by Mr. Elliott?—I do not think Mr. Elliott represented strongly enough the necessity for assistance. For instance, if I were called upon to issue to an army embarking a quantity of clothing, or to meet any emergency, nothing whatever would prevent me from keeping a due record of that transaction. I would not have issued more stores than I could have kept account of.

1463. (*Chairman.*) Do not you think it might have been said, “This is red-tapeism; the troops are not sent out with their equipments, because this store-keeper has not got his entries made in a certain book.” It might be an unreasonable observation; but do not you think it might probably have been said, “Look to the substance; send your equipments or your clothing, and make up the accounts afterwards”?—I could have had no difficulty in doing both. I would have called in additional assistance on my own responsibility. I would have taken viewers, and made them do clerical work.

1464. I am assuming the fact that the work could not be done with any staff at Mr. Elliott’s command. Would you still maintain that it would have been his duty to have said “I will not issue if I have not staff properly to record the issues”?—My course would have been this: I would have telegraphed to the War Office, “Your orders cannot be obeyed unless you hold me perfectly free from all responsibility as to the consequences of making this issue without properly recording it.” There would have been no difficulty in getting the sanction of the War Office to procuring assistance.

1465. If Mr. Elliott had said “I cannot do it; if I do you must allow my books to get into arrear,”—you think he would then have received assistance?—There would have been no difficulty in obtaining sanction to get assistance from the authorities in London. They would have been responsible if the army was delayed. In the army in the East my ledgers were posted up to the very hour. I had a receipt for every single thing issued. The regiments which were in front came down, and in many cases they did not like giving receipts; but I got all the receipts from the best person I could, and there was a regular record kept without any difficulty.

1466. Do you say that vouchers for issues do not exist at Weedon?—I cannot tell you how many there are absent, nor can I say that there are any absent; but any number may be missing, and no person will be able to tell whether they are or not.

1467. Supposing them to have been filed in consecutive order?—If they had been filed in consecutive order, of course they would be there.

1468. Major Marvin has told us that he looked at them, and saw that they were filed in consecutive order. He may be right or wrong. Have you looked to see if they are filed?—They are not.

1469. Have you looked at them?—I have looked at them.

1470. And you have found that they are not?—I have; they do not show the transactions at Mark Lane.

1471. What are the transactions at Mark Lane that you refer to?—The daily issues at Weedon, mentioned by Major Marvin, do not show those that are made at Mark Lane, which issues, during Mr. Elliott’s time, were very considerable.

1472. Do you make issues from Weedon to Mark Lane?—No. The whole of the army clothing last year was delivered at Mark Lane. It was inspected there, and issued by Messrs. Hayter and Howell from Mark Lane, without any reference to Weedon at all, except that it would be shown upon the Weedon books.

1473. Issues from Weedon to Mark Lane would appear, but issues by Messrs. Hayter and Howell would not appear upon the Weedon books, would they?—The stores did not pass from Weedon to Mark Lane, but from the contractors to Mark Lane. They are received there by an officer of the store branch, where they are inspected; and they go to Messrs. Hayter and Howell, and ought to be recorded in the books at Weedon, the same as the daily transactions at Weedon. For instance, the clothing issued to day at Mark Lane appears on my books at Weedon as having been issued on that day with my other stores at Weedon.

1474. Issued from where?—Issued from my charge.

1475. At Weedon?—Yes, from my charge at Weedon. The stores received at Mark Lane from the contractor, and issued to Messrs. Hayter and Howell, will appear in my store-ledger as issued off my account.

1476. Issued from you to whom?—From me to Messrs. Hayter and Howell.

1477. Do you send them to Mark Lane?—The contractors deliver them at Mark Lane, and then they are issued by my officer at Mark Lane to Messrs. Hayter and Howell for packing and transmission.

1478. (*Mr. Turner.*) You mean to say that the articles ought to be placed on your charge from the contractors, in order to keep the account properly with the contractor?—They are so placed now.

1479. You are pursuing the system that you approve of, and you consider that in all cases where Mr. Elliott had similar transactions with Mark Lane, they ought to have appeared on the debit side of the books at Weedon, in order to account for the delivery of contracts; the contractors not being required to deliver them at Weedon, but to be packed at Mark Lane, by Hayter and Howell, they are debited in your books as coming from the contractor, in the same way as if they had been delivered at Weedon?—They are.

1480. You never had charge of the goods you take credit for, they being delivered to Messrs. Hayter and Howell to be packed for the use of the army?—We have charge of the goods; there is a store officer at Mark Lane.

1481. He is your representative?—He is my representative at Mark Lane, he receives goods from the inspection branch, and passes them on to Messrs. Hayter and Howell for packing. When they are sent, Hayter and Howell give a receipt for the stores

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so issued, and they ought to be posted to Mr. Elliott's credit in his ledger.

1482. The establishment in Mark Lane is, to a certain extent, a branch of Weedon; your establishment was represented at Mark Lane; you were debited or ought to have been debited with the articles delivered there from contractors, just in the same way as if they had been delivered at headquarters at Weedon, and you took credit for them in like manner when they were packed, and the business done at that branch establishment as if it were done at Weedon. I presume that was to save time, and to get the goods off to their destination; but they formed part of your transactions just as much as if they had taken place at Weedon?—Exactly the same.

1483. (*Chairman.*) Have those articles of which you speak ever been at Weedon bodily?—In some instances they have; for instance, in the case of the made up clothing which was delivered at Mark Lane for inspection, the cloth had been previously issued to the contractor from Weedon, out of which cloth he was to make up so many garments, and deliver them for inspection at Mark Lane. After they had been inspected they were handed into my charge, or, I should say, into Mr. Elliott's charge, through the officer who is at Mark Lane, and he issued them off his charge to Hayter and Howell for packing.

1484. In that case, as Mr. Turner says, Mark Lane was for that purpose a branch of Weedon?—It was. The daily issues that you mentioned just now, with respect to their being recorded, should have appeared upon that file at Weedon; and the issues at Mark Lane should also have appeared upon that same file in consecutive order.

1485. Who was there to see that the daily issues from Mark Lane were properly entered?—The same staff as there is now. When I receive stores from any contractor at Mark Lane, I take very good care to see that they have been issued to Hayter and Howell; both transactions are shown in my daily journals.

1486. How often are you at Mark Lane?—I have been there once. My security is this, that when my officer at Mark Lane receives the stores from inspection he sends down to me the next morning the document upon which the contractor is paid, and attached to it is a report of issue to Hayter and Howell of that very store, so that actually I have no store at Mark Lane, because it is a daily transaction. The stores received are passed on to Messrs. Hayter and Howell, whose receipt I take. Therefore, in debiting myself with the store, I have Hayter and Howell's acquittance on the other side of my ledger as a discharge.

1487. Did all the clothing or stores sent to Mark Lane in the way you describe merely go in transit to be sent to Hayter and Howell?—They all went to the inspection branch in Mark Lane, and were issued only to Hayter and Howell.

1488. Did Hayter and Howell always give receipts for the goods so sent?—I imagine they did.

1489. To whom?—To the officer at Mark Lane.

1490. Would not Hayter and Howell have the power of furnishing duplicate receipts, to show every bale of goods, or every tunic, or pair of boots that they have received from the branch in Mark Lane?—I think all the issues to Messrs. Hayter and Howell could be traced. It would be a matter of time, but the issues could be traced at Mark Lane. I imagine that Messrs. Hayter and Howell could give an account of every store they have received and shipped without any difficulty.

1491. Have you formed an opinion as to the expediency of ever having had Weedon as a dépôt for clothing at all? We are told that it is to be done away with and transferred to some spot in London; do you think that that will be an improvement, among other reasons, as affording greater facility for shipment?—I think the clothing for the army there can be managed with greater facility than the con-

ducting of any of the other duties which we have to perform.

1492. My question is with reference to the choice of the place for a dépôt. Do you think there should be a dépôt of clothing at all?—There must be.

1493. Under the present system there must be?—Yes.

1494. Assuming that there must be a dépôt for clothing, do you think that Weedon or London would be the best place?—I think London would be the best place if you had storehouse accommodation. You would then ship the stores yourself, instead of going to Messrs. Hayter and Howell to ship them.

1495. You think it would be expedient to form a dépôt in London?—Provided that the storehouse accommodation is sufficiently extensive.

1496. Do you concur in the opinion that Weedon was chosen because there were large storehouses already existing there, and that the Government would have been put to a considerable expense in erecting new storehouses in London?—I imagine that that was the reason for the selection of Weedon.

1497. Have you the same inspectors and viewers at Weedon as were there in Mr. Elliott's time?—The same.

1498. There have been one or two changes, I believe; for instance, in the case of Mr. Gray?—He was not there when I went. I am speaking now of the time when I took charge. I do not know anything about the parties employed by Mr. Elliott previously.

1499. You have the same men?—The same staff that Mr. Elliott had when he gave the charge over to me.

1500. It is perhaps a delicate question, but are you satisfied, as far as you can judge, with the efficiency of the men?—Yes.

1501. And with their honesty?—I have no reason to doubt it.

1502. I presume if you had thought otherwise you would have reported them?—I most certainly should.

1503. Have you had any additional staff since Mr. Elliott left?—One foreman of stores.

1504. Is the work, apart from this laborious process of making up the accounts and taking the remain at Weedon, increased or diminished?—I should say very much increased, as far as the actual work done is concerned.

1505. Are the demands upon Weedon now greater or less than in Mr. Elliott's time?—The receipts and issues of stores have become much greater than they ever were in Mr. Elliott's time.

1506. How do you account for that?—The pressure being so great. It is a matter susceptible of proof at once, for if you take the number of receipts and issues, now and compare them with those transactions in Mr. Elliott's time, you will find mine far more numerous.

1507. You only know that it is so, and you are not concerned to explain how or why it is so?—No; the demands of the army are all met as soon as they can be; and there is no difficulty in answering any question. If you put a question whether such and such a store has been issued to such and such a regiment, I could tell you at once; whereas, if you called upon me to say whether a store had been issued in January I could tell you nothing about it; perhaps it would take me an hour to find the information.

1508. Are you pretty hard worked?—I go to my office at half-past six in the morning, and I seldom get away till five or half-past in the evening. I am only away for three quarters of an hour for breakfast out of that time.

1509. You find that attendance necessary?—I do; I have to be there to open the letters, so that the current work of the day may be carried on. Those letters vary from 100 to 180 every morning.

1510. Must not Mr. Elliott's absences for a day or two have been necessarily very detrimental to the

duties that he had to perform?—They must have been seriously detrimental.

1511. Quite apart from any question of dishonesty or any other irregularities, you think that his presence at Weedon was necessary?—His presence on the spot always was absolutely necessary.

1512. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do not you consider that it is obviously necessary for every man who has charge of a large establishment and has a great many persons working under him to be constantly at his post if he is to be the head of the whole and to direct the whole, and that upon his assiduity and constant vigilance depend the success or the failure of almost any establishment, mercantile or otherwise?—Most certainly it does. The charge of a large depôt such as Weedon, Woolwich, or the Tower involves a responsibility beyond describing. It is impossible to record every transaction yourself, and every error or wrong posting in a book puts you out very considerably; the wrong posting of a store under an improper heading, or anything of that kind, would throw everything out.

1513. How often are the books posted up now?—The issues of yesterday are posted invariably to-day.

1514. (*Chairman.*) In the ledger?—Yes.

1515. (*Mr. Turner.*) Both deliveries and receipts?—Yes, both, including Mark Lane.

1516. What clerical assistance have you which Mr. Elliott had not?—Mr. Elliott had an increase to his clerical assistance in February. Just before Major Marvin came down, they were sanctioned, and on Major Marvin coming down they were appointed; I mean to say that they had been previously sanctioned, and they were being appointed by my representations in February to carry on the duties in the way in which they were carried on formerly. To keep up the books that had been introduced at Weedon, a great many of which were perfectly unnecessary, I considered that instead of an increase of ten clerks there should have been an increase of twenty-three; that was the lowest calculation we agreed upon as being necessary.

1517. (*Chairman.*) Who do you mean by “we”?—Mr. Bontien came down from the War Office to take the remain in February, and we found we could not take it, then we went into the question of what clerical assistance was required. We came up to town, and we drew up a minute to Captain Caffin, representing the additional assistance necessary.

1518. Do you think it desirable to take remains more frequently than quinquennially, as provided for in the Ordnance regulations?—You must place some confidence in the parties who are appointed storekeepers in charge of Government stores, but it would be very desirable occasionally, if you are not satisfied with what is going on at a station, that you should ascertain that by way of remains; you could take any particular stores and have them counted in your presence; occasionally, little inquiries of that kind might do a great deal of good, in the same way as in the barrack service.

1519. You are assuming that some dissatisfaction suggests that course; do not you think, as a general rule, without any previous grounds for dissatisfaction in a particular case, it would be desirable to have remains taken more frequently?—At small out-stations it might be attended with advantage; at a large station, like Woolwich or the Tower, it would be impossible to take a remain more frequently than once in five years, if then, the transactions are so very large. In taking a remain it is necessary to suspend the receipt and issues during the time you are taking the remain.

1520. (*Mr. Turner.*) How long does it take in any one of those large establishments, Woolwich or the Tower, for instance, to take stock?—According to the old rule it would have taken a very long time to take a remain; by the new plan, introducing storeholders or storemen, a great deal of difficulty is put an end to, because, according to the old system, the storekeeper was responsible for all the stores, and is so now in

fact, but he had no persons under him who had separate charge of the stores and were responsible to the storekeeper for their receipt and issue. The whole of the stores of the depôt are divided amongst so many storeholders, who keep their regular ledgers, and show the transactions upon them, in the same way that they are shown upon the storekeeper's own ledger; and if you wish to take the remain of any particular store it can be done at once, by making the storeholder strike the balance in his ledger and counting his stores. The time taken is a question of how long you would take to go through the different rooms. I am about to take the remain at Woolwich, and I should not be surprised if it took me three or four months.

1521. To count every article?—Not to count every article. Those goods that are packed in bales I should take for granted; I might open some and count them; but I should think taking the remain at Woolwich will occupy three or four months.

1522. (*Chairman.*) With what staff?—The staff you put to that work; the storekeeper is responsible for the transactions recorded by that staff; he has to account for what they show. He does not see the stores himself; but I myself, in taking the remain at Weedon, saw a part of the stores, and the deputy storekeeper under me went round and satisfied himself on my part respecting the other stores. I do not think that putting on a number of hands tends to secure the storekeeper against loss in counting or recording.

1523. Is that stock-taking done by the regular staff, or is it done by special officers who come in from without to do it?—If a remain had been taken a year before you transferred a storekeeper, in all probability you would find the stores very correct, according to the ledger. You would merely have to strike a remain in the station ledger. In a small store you might go through it in a week or a fortnight, without the presence of another officer. In the event of a storekeeper giving up charge after three or four years, the War Office would probably appoint an officer to be present when the remain is taken.

1524. As a protection to the public, or to the War Office, representing the public,—supposing the storekeeper not changed,—is not stock-taking an operation in which there is an opportunity of collusion just as much as in the issue of articles if it is done by the storekeeper himself?—The storekeeper would not take the stock himself. In those periodical inspections different officers from the War Office would attend to see whether the stores were properly kept in the same way. I believe every year the barrack-masters' stores are checked by an officer from the War Office on account of the Inspector General of Fortifications; he goes round and inspects the stores to see if they are all correct.

1525. Colonel French suggests whether it might or might not be expedient to change the storekeeper periodically; would not the change of the storekeepers always involve taking a remain?—It would involve taking a remain, but at the same time if you change storekeepers, though it might do good, you would lose a great deal of the local experience that is required. For instance, if you change the storekeeper at the Tower, you would find that you had got a person who would not be able to say where you should go to contract for certain things; and at Woolwich, in the same way. You may want information respecting Ireland. I have been myself at Dublin, and I knew where every store was throughout the country. I could put my hand at a moment's notice upon contractors, and I knew where the principal establishments and agents were likely to be. It is a point that requires a great deal of knowledge to ascertain, and it would be very inconvenient to lose officers with that knowledge.

1526. (*Colonel French.*) That would be only at the outstart; in the course of time all the principal storekeepers would understand what was required at each place, would they not?—Certainly they would;

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but then there would be a loss of time in removing the storekeepers. If you remove a storekeeper from Dublin to Malta, it would involve the stoppage of the work at Dublin when the stores were delivered over, and you would have a stock-taking at Malta when that officer was going somewhere else; it would take a long time to go through those transactions.

1527. I suppose so far as honesty is concerned, a frequent change of storekeepers might be advantageous?—Certainly; but it would be attended with disadvantage to the public service at the same time.

1528. (*Mr. Turner.*) Whoever came to change his station, in the same way that you have lately changed your station from Dublin to Weedon, would for his own protection insist upon actually ascertaining that he had the articles in charge which were represented by the books?—Clearly.

1529. And that would involve an immense labour at every change?—Yes; that would be done of course; if you change the officers the storekeeper coming in as well as the storekeeper going out, will take care that a proper remain is taken of the stores.

1530. That would be absolutely necessary, and would involve a great deal of labour?—Yes; it would involve a great deal of labour, and it would involve the necessity of the War Office increasing their establishment so as to be able to detach officers for that particular purpose.

1531. (*Colonel French.*) On foreign stations it is the practice, when the commissariat treasury is to be given over, that it is done by three field officers; would not the same practice be advantageous in delivering over the stores from one storekeeper to another?—The matter of delivering over a treasury is a small transaction in comparison with the delivering over of military stores; it would take a very considerable time to go through the stores to record them with any degree of accuracy. The "respective officers" of the Ordnance were responsible for the stores, and they made a survey every six months; the officer commanding artillery, the commanding Royal Engineer, and the storekeepers under the Board of Ordnance were bound to see that the storekeeper kept his stores in proper order, and that everything was going on correctly, and they certified to that effect every half-year; that is not the case now.

1532. (*Chairman.*) Did that inspection by the respective officers refer to quantity as well as quality?—It referred principally to quality, but from what I recollect the respective officers were also responsible for quantity, though not perhaps held to it strictly; but if they thought any deficiency would be found it would be their duty to inquire into it. They had the power of seeing everything that the storekeeper had in charge.

1533. Mr. Ramsay has produced to us this statement as the report of a survey taken at Portsmouth (*handing a paper to the witness*). Are you acquainted with the process pursued in making such a survey?—I imagine that this is merely a survey for the purpose of ascertaining whether stores are serviceable or unserviceable. We had no transactions of that kind at Dublin, which is the only store station I have been at.

1534. In those cases in which there is a survey for the purposes of ascertaining whether the stores are serviceable, is not the report divided into columns headed "serviceable," "unserviceable"?—It is.

1535. There is no such division here; this appears to be a comparison of the actual stores with the ledger?—This is a copy of the storekeeper's ledger as regards quantity, with a certificate at the end.

1536. (*Mr. Turner.*) Mr. Ramsay produced that statement as a further answer to some questions which I asked him. I asked him whether, although the remains might not be actually ascertained more than once in five years, there were not surveys of the stock by persons going round, and I rather pressed him whether those surveys amounted to anything more than persons walking about without ascertaining that the actual quantities of any particular articles

agreed with the ledger account. In the first instance Mr. Ramsay simply gave the impression that the surveyors had the power which they might exercise of occasionally counting out some single article; for example, gun sponges, or anything else. On his second examination he put in this paper to show that it was actually done at Portsmouth; he said that there might be many thousands of articles surveyed, yet that particular articles were counted; for instance, those that are enumerated in this list, which amount to a very considerable number of articles, were not only surveyed, but counted; and if those were all correct, it might be inferred that the remainder were correct. The numbers of the articles taken casually in those instances were actually counted, and a comparison was made with the ledger; and wherever there was a difference it was notified in the margin what the ledger said; and what the actual count displayed?—Never having had a survey taken in that way in the short time I have been in the Ordnance, I cannot speak relative to that document; I do not know anything about it.

1537. Looking at that document with the explanation I have given, do you think that species of survey would be a very excellent check?—Certainly; I think it would be a very good check.

1538. Without the actual taking of a remain, which you say is a difficult and long operation, if you took casually some of the articles which you came to in the course of a survey, and you found that those pretty nearly corresponded with the entries in the ledger, might you not infer that the remainder of the stock was correct?—Yes; and I think it would be a very good check.

1539. (*Chairman.*) Are you aware that it is intended to have more frequent surveys, with a view of ascertaining quantity as well as quality?—I have heard so.

1540. (*Colonel French.*) You have stated that any person conversant with business would immediately have discovered the irregularities which existed at Weedon?—Yes.

1541. Did it not surprise you that those irregularities had not been earlier discovered at the War Office?—As I stated in evidence before the Contracts' Committee, the officers at Weedon, until October, were none of them conversant with what the Ordnance system was; they knew nothing about it; they were entirely novices in the transactions relating to public stores of every kind. The officers appointed under Mr. Elliott were not officers who knew anything about the regulations, and therefore they were not able to point out where the error lay. They fancied that Mr. Elliott was working upon the principle by which all other stores were kept, and therefore they did not represent it until October. Then it appears that two officers were appointed, who were fully conversant with store transactions, namely, Mr. Tatum and Mr. Munro. Mr. Munro did then represent, through Mr. Tatum, to Mr. Elliott, the absurdity of carrying on the system he was then pursuing; but Mr. Elliott took no notice of it, and still adhered to his original way of keeping his accounts. Those two officers, of course, were aware of everything that I subsequently ascertained; but they, according to the regulations, had performed their duty when they had represented to the head of their department the errors of his system.

1542. If an official inspector had been sent down to Weedon earlier, would not those errors have been discovered?—Yes, if that inspector had known what store transactions were. He must have been fully cognizant of what books ought to have been kept, and how.

1543. Of course the War Office would have sent down such a person as that, or else he would have been useless?—It is very difficult to find parties who are conversant with the way of keeping store transactions, except those parties who have been in the habit of keeping them themselves or checking them in London.

1544. (*Chairman.*) Is Mr. Munro still at Weedon?—Yes.

1545. He justifies not calling Major Marvin's attention to the defect, by saying that he ought to have discovered it from what he said or left unsaid?—Major Marvin's statement would be sufficient to me, to show that the ledger was not kept in the way that it ought to have been.

1546. Major Marvin is sent down to inquire into the supposed irregularities at Weedon, Mr. Munro is called before him, and Mr. Munro gives him verbal and written statements, but neither the one nor the other contain the substance of his previous remonstrance to Mr. Tatum, and through Mr. Tatum to Mr. Elliott; he leaves Major Marvin in reality in darkness. If we have an examination of Mr. Munro or anybody else at Weedon, we shall expect him to assume that we are ignorant and require to be enlightened?—When Major Marvin came down to Weedon, and even subsequently to that, when I remonstrated with Mr. Elliott,—(I did not exactly remonstrate, but I said that I thought that his system was a bad one.)—Mr. Elliott said, he was quite prepared to maintain it to be a good one,—and that he was prepared to work upon it. I think, if he had remained, he would have worked out his accounts himself; I think he might have been able to do it.

1547. How? I thought you said it was an impossibility?—For anybody else; he would have gone into the matter with all this immense mass of books; he introduced them, and he would understand them; but I do not think anybody else could.

1548. That being so, perhaps you can hardly give, in an intelligible form, Mr. Elliott's vindication of his system?—He said that the system which I at present pursue was morally impossible, that it could not be pursued at Weedon.

1549. Why?—Because it was not applicable to the station; he considered that the clothing of the army was quite different from every other store transaction of any kind, and the only way to carry it on was the way he was acting at Weedon.

1550. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have not you proved the contrary by your own experience?—Yes; I represented to the Committee on Contracts the difficulty in which I was placed, which was, that the very day that I took the "remain" at Weedon, I upset the whole of the existing arrangements with the exception of the contract branch, when Mr. Elliott was at Weedon; that, of course, was a very painful thing for me to do, but still I changed the system to that which he told me it was quite impossible to work out.

1551. (*Chairman.*) Will you state, as distinctly as possible, what the actual changes introduced by you were; what did you do that had not been done before?—I distinctly divided inspection from store, by the appointment of foremen of stores. The stores in the whole depôt were placed in the custody of different individuals. The stores that were required for expenditure and for use in the department, which are very considerable in a department like that, were placed in the hands of another individual, and all those parties who took charge of those stores had their ledgers. There were no ledgers of that description previously in the different storehouses, excepting, perhaps, in one or two, but they did not show the whole of the transactions in those parties' charge. There were no records kept of the stores expended or the stores converted to use; for instance, saddle-trees were made at Weedon, but there was no record kept of the quantity of wood that was expended for that purpose. At the close of every quarter the saddle-trees ought to have been brought on as having been manufactured from the expenditure of material; again, there was no record kept of the articles taken to use, such as the stores required in the different offices; for example, tables, which were required in the storehouses, ought to have been converted by the quarterly returns laid down by the regulations, as taken to use.

1552. You have expressed an opinion that Mr. Elliott might possibly, if he had devoted himself to it, and had sufficient staff, have worked out his accounts; how could he have done so upon such a point as that, never having brought to account, for instance, wood for saddle-trees or things expended in the establishment?—He would have been able perhaps to have found out the quantity of saddle-trees that he had made and the quantity of wood expended by preparing an expenditure return which could only be done by himself.

1553. Would not that have given him a great deal more trouble than adopting your system from the beginning?—Yes.

1554. Are there any other alterations which you have made at Weedon?—On receiving an order from the War Office to issue a store it is entered in a book called the Order Book to issue. There was no such book at Weedon; it was kept regimentally. There was a regimental account of the orders to issue to certain regiments. I enter them into books to which there are indices, and you can refer at once to any regiment and see what stores were ordered for it, and the entry in the margin would show whether those stores had been issued, and the day on which they were issued. To answer a question whether such and such stores had been issued to such and such a regiment, I should only have to look at the order book, and that would tell in the margin whether the stores had been issued or not. That book was introduced by me. I also introduced daily journals of receipts and issues, one of those journals showing the stores received during any one particular day, and another showing the stores issued on any particular day. I commenced my store ledger at once, and I post my store ledgers from those journals. Mr. Elliott's store ledger was in arrear so long that those transactions were not gone into.

1555. I do not quite understand how you reconcile the statement, in one case, that Mr. Elliott neglected a system which you think the best from want of staff, and so on, with the opinion he expressed to you, which you think was an honest one, that he deliberately preferred his system as the best?—He persuaded me that his system was good.

1556. He endeavoured to do so?—I am wrong in saying "persuaded," but he tried to make me believe that his system was perfect, and he may have believed it himself.

1557. A man may neglect to do a thing that he ought to do for two reasons, first from simple neglect of duty, knowing that he is neglecting his duty, and, secondly, from preferring another course which he thinks better. I do not quite understand which of the two you think was Mr. Elliott's motive in this case?—What his motive was I cannot say; but he did not give enough attention to his work, and neglected all the rules for check and everything else.

1558. Do you think he did not really prefer the system which you think faulty?—He said he did not. He said he liked his own system.

1559. At one time you say he is preferring one system, and deliberately adopting it because he prefers it; and at another time you say that he was not doing what he ought to have done, because he was attending to other things?—I do not believe he knew what his own books were; but still he would have persuaded you that he did know and had fully considered them, and considered them the best books that could be adopted for the service at Weedon.

1560. Do you think it was his opinion?—It is the opinion he gave; whether it was his real opinion or not, I cannot tell. It strikes me as a very absurd opinion for any person in his position to maintain, considering that he knew he had not his ledger posted, and, properly speaking, that he had nothing to post it from.

1561. (*Mr. Turner.*) Knowing that whatever his system was, it was not regularly carried out, and that he was liable to censure on various accounts, was not it almost natural for him to defend his own system,

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and to account for his proceedings by saying that he was pursuing a system which he himself thought was a good one?—He would naturally do so.

1562. Whatever Mr. Elliott's opinion was, any man experienced in book-keeping or conducting business could not pronounce any other judgment, in your opinion, than that his system was a very bad one?—I do not think he could.

1563. (*Chairman.*) Have you had any complaints, since you took charge, of the quality of the goods issued from Weedon; have you had any things returned?—I have, mixed up with stores that were issued in Mr. Elliott's time. I mean by that, that I cannot exactly say whether the stores had been issued in my time; but there have been complaints from regiments of the stores that have been issued to them; but invariably, I may say in almost every instance, when the stores have been sent to Weedon, I considered the stores were quite equal to the sealed pattern, and far superior to the necessities and other stores which the army had previously received. That was very often caused in consequence of the regiments having a different pattern from the pattern upon which the stores had been passed; I mean pattern as to quality, not shape.

1564. Have you any large quantities of obsolete or unserviceable goods, so far as you know, at Weedon?—No, because they were principally removed from Weedon prior to my taking the remain, for the purpose of allowing the inspection branch to be kept separate from the stores.

1565. Where were they sent?—They were sent to Woolwich and the Tower.

1566. By whom had those articles been surveyed and pronounced unserviceable?—They were far from unserviceable, but they were sent from Weedon to make room for the other arrangements that were found necessary to be carried out.

1567. Have you had any such complaints of inferior articles being issued from Weedon since you came there as to require any survey or reinspection?—None whatever. I maintain that the goods returned from the regiments are equal to the pattern which laid down the supply, and that the regiments had no reason to return them.

1568. Have the regiments a sealed pattern by which to compare the goods furnished to them?—The regiments have a sealed pattern generally speaking for almost everything as far as clothing and necessities are concerned.

1569. Had you any experience of that kind before you came to Weedon?—At Dublin, but not with respect to clothing.

1570. I mean with respect to clothing?—Yes, as a regimental officer only; not as a storekeeper.

1571. Is there any clothing dépôt at Dublin?—Only for great coats.

1572. The result, in your judgment, while you have been at Weedon is, that the complaints of the regiments are ill-founded?—Certainly.

1573. Have there been any well-founded complaints, in your judgment?—The complaints have not been numerous. When stores have been returned there always has been a reason, if they have not been found equal to the pattern it has been satisfactorily explained that the party who passed the stores was not to blame. Stores issued in January might have been delivered some time before to a different pattern from the one at present in use; and then the regiments would refuse to take them; and in that case they would be returned.

1574. That is as to a difference of pattern?—Yes, and quality.

1575. In your judgment are the inspectors at Weedon fully up to their work?—I think they are quite so.

1576. Not too lax on the one hand, nor too rigid on the other?—No.

1577. Having had some few complaints from regiments which you think ill-founded, have you had any complaints since you have been at Weedon from

contractors as to the improper rejection of their goods on inspection?—There have been some complaints, but nothing that I considered of any importance. The only stores at Weedon that I may say I cannot issue to the army in consequence of their not being equal to pattern, are some boots that were passed by a referee after they had been rejected by the Weedon inspectors.

1578. Do you mean Mr. Dowie's boots?—Yes, and those boots are quite unfit for issue. You will have an opportunity at Weedon of judging what very inferior articles they are.

1579. There was a complaint made that Mr. Dowie's boots were improperly rejected; a referee of the name of Taylor was appointed, and Mr. Taylor passed them, and said that they ought never to have been rejected?—The boots were passed upon the inspection of the referee; I do not know who he was, but those boots were unfit for issue, and would be condemned by any regiment to which they were issued.

1580. Did Mr. Davies and Mr. Burrows see those boots?—Mr. Davies came the other day from Gracechurch Street, to inspect some boots of Mr. East, which had been rejected, but Mr. East's boots had not arrived.

1581. How was it that Mr. Davies came down to inspect boots which were not there?—He came down by the order of the War Office to see those boots, as referee on the part of Mr. East or on the part of the War Office.

1582. By whom had they been rejected?—By our inspector; there were 139 pairs.

1583. Were they rejected by Mr. Watson or Mr. Folkherd?—I do not know who rejected the boots.

1584. Certain boots of Mr. East were rejected at Weedon since you became the head of the department, and Mr. Davies, of Gracechurch Street, came down to look at them?—Yes, the boots were ordered up to Pall Mall; in the interim, after the rejection, Mr. Davies came down, and as the boots had not been returned from Pall Mall, he could not examine them at Weedon. The boots were sent to him in London to report upon, but I have not heard what report he made. I took the opportunity of showing Mr. Dowie's boots to Mr. Davies, and he could give you a very good idea of what he thought of them. If the question had happened with me, respecting Mr. Dowie's boots, I should have issued them to the first regiment that required boots at home; I would not have thought of issuing them to a regiment abroad, and then we should have had a report of a regimental board upon them, which I think would have confirmed the present statement.

1585. Have any boots or other articles been condemned since you have been at Weedon?—None; some have been returned as obsolete in consequence of change of pattern.

1586. To revert to the subject of a large quantity of boots that were re-surveyed, I dare say you are cognizant generally that 20,000 pairs were sent to the Tower for sale, and a considerable number remain in store at Weedon; have you had any opportunity of forming a judgment upon those boots so remaining in store?—Only so far as looking through them. We have been issuing them lately.

1587. (*Mr. Turner.*) To the militia?—Yes.

1588. (*Chairman.*) Not to regiments of the line?—No.

1589. For what reason?—Because they are not equal to the standard pattern; the standard pattern is much improved to what it was, and is a higher price.

1590. Having been rejected under an inspection previous to the establishment of the present standard pattern, is not that so?—Yes; the boots are quite equal to the former supply to the army, but in consequence of the boots having been improved, and the value of the boots increased, that has rendered them obsolete, except for such purposes as those for which they have been made use of. They may be taken

into wear by the militia or given to regiments to whom we have to give compensation articles.

1591. (*Mr. Turner.*) There were 150,000 pairs taken into store at Weedon?—I do not know the number taken into store at Weedon; the number, when I went to Weedon, was 103,000 pairs.

1592. Those are in course of reduction?—They will be gradually issued.

1593. Have you had many complaints of them?—There have been none. We have issued them lately to some thirty regiments of the Irish militia. They have not made any complaints of them, but they have not had them long in use.

1594. (*Chairman.*) As you have had great experience, perhaps we may ask you generally your opinion as to the system which is now pursued at Weedon as a depôt for clothing; do you consider it to be a good one?—I do not consider it a good one, but I consider that it might be made a more perfect system for clothing the army than any that has been previously adopted.

1595. Is it in your province to volunteer suggestions for such improvements, and have you made any?—In August 1855, I think it was, I made a suggestion as to the clothing of the army; I considered, in the first place, in clothing an army, especially in the field, the trousers and boots being the same pattern throughout, with the exception of the rifle and Highland regiments, if you kept a depôt of 120,000 or 150,000 pairs of trousers and boots, there would be no necessity to enter into contracts for them, and you would supply the regiments as they required those articles. There would be no entering into contracts for 1,000 pairs of trousers when the rejection of ten of those trousers from one contract would cause you as much correspondence, perhaps, as clothing 10,000 men. I consider if you kept a depôt of those two items instead of going to contract for them, you could make your issue at once. You know that you require the store, and there would be no extra expense in keeping it up. The annual estimates show that you have to clothe, say 250,000 men, and you know that you will have to buy 250,000 pairs of trousers, and I think it is better to buy them in bulk rather than go to the contractors for ten pairs or fifty pairs, as they are required from time to time.

1596. That amounts to an opinion that you ought to keep a large reserve of the articles that you want?—Not more than the articles you would require to issue in a very short time.

1597. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would you suggest having a reserve of a year's stock?—I should be satisfied with six months' stock, taking into consideration that the issues would vary during that time. It is now time to begin to clothe the army in India for next year. You would expend your store for that purpose; and it would be quite sufficient if you could get in your store for the army at home in six months.

1598. (*Chairman.*) Has your suggestion been adopted?—Not at all. The course pursued has been, that on a regiment requiring clothing, a contract for that clothing from one particular contractor has been entered into.

1599. That is not the case with regard to great coats, is it?—I do not consider great coats clothing.

1600. Nor boots?—It used to be the principle; it is not now; boots are a general store. I allude to the tunics, to trousers, and to the shako. The rejection of one of those items causes unnecessary correspondence.

1601. I do not see how correspondence is to be avoided by having a larger stock. I presume you would still have an inspection?—Certainly.

1602. Therefore you would still have occasional rejection?—Yes; but that rejection would be out of a large supply intended for the whole army. At the present moment we will say, that you want to clothe a regiment, you would give a contractor an order to supply the shakos, the trousers, and the tunics at a

certain time; say that there are a thousand of each, and that you reject, say 10 shakos and 20 pairs of trousers, and the rest of the supply is passed and is sent to the regiment. The contractor delivers in the 20 pairs of trousers, and of those 20 pairs, 10 are rejected, and likewise one or two shakos are rejected again. That causes a correspondence, because we are called upon to explain how it is that those things are not issued. We have to state that they have not been received from the contractors and passed. The principle which I advocate is, you would have a depôt of 100,000 pairs of trousers which you had previously gone to contract for, as well as a quantity of shakos without plates, the latter being contracted for separately, and when you received an order you would issue them at once, and there would be then no further correspondence about it.

1603. Although the contracts might be larger, yet if you had the same inspection and the same power of rejection, might not the correspondence be just as extensive although the period would be shorter before the actual supply to the regiment?—Yes; but the service would not suffer, the regiment would have its clothing far more promptly.

1604. You would have a larger stock of boots?—I would, as well as of trousers; but according to the present system, if you require 20 pairs of trousers for supply anywhere you have to go to contract for them; whereas my opinion is that those trousers should be in store available for issue.

1605. The principle of the Ordnance regulations as regards other things, distinguished from clothing, is that the storekeeper is responsible for keeping up a certain reserve stock as a matter of course?—Certainly, the storekeeper is responsible for keeping up his store, so that he is prepared at all times to meet the requirements of the service, and I maintain that the same system could be pursued with clothing.

1606. That is one of the points upon which Sir Benjamin Hawes told us that the Ordnance regulations were supposed not to be applicable to a depôt for clothing?—It has been so stated.

1607. Where there is a depôt for stores the storekeeper is responsible to keep up a certain proportion, but as there is not a depôt for clothing, the Ordnance regulations are held not to be applicable in that respect, and you think that they should be applicable?—Yes; but I found them applicable with the army in the Crimea. I had enough trousers and boots in store to have clothed the army with respect to those items at any time.

1608. (*Mr. Turner.*) To carry your suggestion into effect of having a large store of clothing, as you have a store of other articles, would it not be necessary to apply for a considerable grant of money to establish that large store of clothing? Has not the real difficulty been the application to the Treasury?—I do not see where the difficulty can arise. You take the estimates, and Parliament votes so much money for the service of the army. A storekeeper, if he watched those estimates, and saw what he would have to meet, would say, "I must issue so many suits of clothing," and so forth. He would demand his stores, and keep up his stores according to what he knew he would have to issue. Instead of going to contract for individual regiments, he would go to contract in bulk. You will require to send out 50,000 pairs of trousers to the Indian army in July, and you go to contract for them now in detail to different contractors. It would be the same thing if instead of going to contract for individual regiments you went to contract for some number of pairs of trousers with the same contractors, without specifying the regiments. 5,000 from such a contractor, 5,000 from another contractor, and so on, so as to acquire a store of those articles from which you would issue.

1609. Do not you perceive that it would be necessary to have a large grant of money from Parliament to get up that store? You would have to get over the

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difficulty of purchasing more than the annual requirement?—The stock would be very trifling in comparison with what you would suppose. The War Office has entered into contracts for the annual clothing of the army for the next year for the 1st of April, and it is about to be shipped to India. All I say is, let the trousers for those regiments be delivered in by the contractors in bulk, and then we could select and apportion them to each regiment afterwards in the store.

1610. Admitting that the system which you desire to carry out is an important and wise system, your opinion is that it makes very little difference whether there is 100,000*l.* less in the exchequer, if you have it represented by a stock of articles which must be bought?—Yes; you have not a better basis for that than the army estimates. You know that the men must be clothed.

1611. (*Colonel French.*) How would you arrange the issue of those stores in regard to the size of the men? There are tall and short men?—They are contracted for at present by a size roll, and the contracts are delivered by the size roll. According to my plan, it would be the same thing if I had 100,000 pairs of trousers in store; I should have them packed in bales of sizes, and there would be no difficulty in making the issue as it is made now, and I think it would give more satisfaction to the army.

1612. (*Chairman.*) Do you think there would be any appreciable amount of deterioration in the clothing by being kept in store?—No; you would issue it almost as fast as you could get it in, but in a different way, and all the correspondence with a commanding officer, who said that he had not received perhaps twenty-four pairs of trousers, would cease; he would receive his supplies together, and the supplies need not wait for the purpose of getting articles in the place of others which had been rejected. Lately, the whole of the shakos for the 2nd battalion were rejected, because the ball-tufts had been rejected; but if you had had a stock of shakos and ball-tufts, they could have been issued at once, by putting the plates on the shakos, and these plates should be in store the same as buttons.

1613. Your system requires a large stock?—The stock I require would be more than compensated by saving the extra expense which we are put to at present in consequence of different matters connected with the detail of these rejections.

1614. (*Mr. Turner.*) You think that six months' stock would be quite sufficient. Therefore in six months' time you would be just going on in the same routine with the supplies required. You require, as I understand you, a start of six months?—I would even be satisfied with three months' stock, if I could secure having it in.

1615. (*Chairman.*) Have you taken into account the possibility of alterations of patterns during those three months?—The alterations of patterns have been a most serious impediment, but I should hope, in the same way as with the artillery and cavalry equipments, the stores on hand would be allowed to run out. In that case the regiments would have to go on with the obsolete pattern till the stores had been used out.

1616. Have you any other alteration to suggest in the existing system?—I can only say this: I think if the clothing was treated as all the other requirements for the army, such as arms and accoutrements, a very good system would prevail, far superior to anything that the army has ever arrived at yet.

1617. (*Colonel French.*) You have stated that you were eighteen years in the service?—I was eighteen years on full pay as a regimental officer.

1618. Did you ever know any of the short-comings which we hear of to have occurred before this system was established for the supplies of dress, the deliveries of bad boots, bad clothing, and so forth?—No, I certainly did not.

1619. (*Chairman.*) I believe you deny the short-comings?—That is with respect to clothing. I did, I believe, last year. With respect to the other question, I have never known a regimental board condemn its annual clothing. I never was present at any board condemning it. The contractor was bound to have it delivered to the regiment, so that it could be taken into wear on the 1st of April.

1620. (*Colonel French.*) Did you ever know the clothing not to be delivered in proper time?—No, not to my knowledge. Nor have I ever heard of any case.

1621. Did you ever know a want of supply of clothing to a regiment from the contractor failing to supply what was required to keep up the regimental stores?—No, because the regimental committee was answerable that those stores were kept up; but in the field I consider the greatest impediment that was thrown in the way of a regiment was, that of being encumbered with these regimental supplies; and it would have been better for Government to have taken the whole matter with regard to necessities for the army into its hands. When in the Crimea the regiments were so encumbered with regimental necessities, that it added vastly to their baggage, as well as to the responsibility of the commanding officer of the regiment.

1622. That was not complained of in the Peninsula?—It was complained of in the army in the Crimea, and I believe Sir William Codrington quite agrees with the principle which I advocate. The army never could have taken their necessities with them if they had taken the field. The quantities of stores that were shipped for the army and that were with the regiments, for which the commanding officers were responsible, were enormous.

1623. You were stationary in the Crimea, were you not?—Yes, I was, but the quantities of stores that were with that army were enormous, and the regimental necessities and clothing, I consider, ought to have and would have been, as far as the former is concerned, supplied from public stores.

1624. (*Mr. Turner.*) You do not consider that the present system has been yet perfectly developed?—I do not think it has ever been treated as a Government store.

1625. The system has never been brought completely to perfection as you would wish it to be if you had your own plans carried out?—It has not.

1626. Therefore the working of the present system could scarcely be compared with the old system?—I do not think it could.

1627. (*Colonel French.*) Had it been necessary to have removed the army in the campaign in the Crimea, would not there have been the same facility for conveying those stores if they had been divided into portions, as in the case of the Peninsula, each regiment carrying its own stores?—The means of transport for the army were not sufficient to carry the stores; the army could not have carried its camp equipage, therefore it could never have carried any regimental supplies if it had taken the field; but if my plan had been carried out, which was that necessities were to be supplied by a contractor, who was to be attached to the army, they would have been in bulk at the dépôt, wherever it might have been, and the regiment would have drawn upon that dépôt as they required their stores, the commanding officer not being responsible for more than was drawn from time to time; whereas, according to the other system, the commanding officer had a bulk of stores with him, for which he was responsible to his contractor for payment, and therefore did not dare to lose sight of them.

1628. If the army had been moved some hundreds of miles up the country, must you not have moved your stores?—The stores would have remained most probably on board ship at the basis of operations and have been sent to the army as they were required, or a small dépôt would have been kept by the army, which

would have been replenished from time to time from the rear. No regiment would have been able to carry its own stores with it.

1629. (*Chairman.*) In fine, you approve of the system as now existing at Weedon, and you think it ought to be carried further, with the modifications which you have suggested?—I consider if the clothing of the army only had been looked to, that it would have worked well. The correspondence that arises not only from these few rejections of supplies for clothing regiments, but also from taking into hand the clothing of the schoolmasters and instructors of musketry and the other services for individuals, is enormous, and the service would be better done, by contract, direct to the parties themselves, giving more satisfaction. If the army only were to be clothed, and you were to put on one side the schoolmasters, the instructors in musketry, and the garrison serjeant-majors, I think the system would work well.

1630. Do I understand that in your opinion the existing system will yet work well?—I do not know what you mean by the "existing system."

1631. First, the application of the Ordnance regulations to a depôt for clothing?—That would answer; but the system for the next year's clothing is now coming into operation, whereby the contractor furnishes the cloth, the materials, and everything, and he merely delivers the made-up clothing; but we are still working upon the other system also; we are issuing cloth for the clothing of 1858-9.

1632. I was not pointing to the difference between the contract for cloth, with the subsequent making up, and the contract for delivering the clothes made up, which is to be the system for this next year; I am referring to the system of contracting for the army generally, with inspection at the clothing depôt; do you think that that is a sound one, with the modifications which you have suggested?—I do.

1633. (*Mr. Turner.*) There has been a great deal said about patterns having been brought down to Weedon by parties whose goods had to be inspected. You say in your evidence that you heard of it, but you did not know the party alluded to who brought down the patterns; do you know anybody who does know anything about that matter at Weedon?—I imagine that Mr. Hoile does. I think in his evidence he stated the particulars. The evidence, of course, can be got at Weedon of the parties who were present when the patterns were brought down.

1634. Are kits supplied by Messrs. Isaac and Co., or has their contract ceased?—The Government contract for kits, as far as Weedon is concerned, has ceased altogether.

1635. Have contracts been made with other parties for those kits?—It has not been officially notified to me. I have reason to believe that contracts have been entered into to supply regiments directly from the contractors, without reference to Government inspection at all—merely trusting to the regimental board.

1636. (*Chairman.*) We understood that there was

to be inspection still?—The clothing would undergo Government inspection, but the necessaries, I believe, are not to undergo Government inspection.

1637. (*Mr. Turner.*) Since Messrs. Isaac ceased to deliver kits, have you had any kits delivered by other parties?—There were some kits delivered by Messrs. Hebbert and Messrs. Prater. On examination I found them very inferior to the kits which we had received from Messrs. Isaac.

1638. Have any of those kits been delivered to the regiments?—They are still waiting, pending the authority of the War Office, to know what shall be done with them, whether we are to receive them or not to receive them.

1639. You are hesitating about receiving them?—Yes; I refused to receive them on account of their being inferior to the standard patterns.

1640. (*Colonel French.*) In your experience of the service as a regimental officer, did you not find that there were in the regiment non-commissioned officers, master tailors, and master shoemakers, who were well qualified to judge of the goodness of the articles issued to them?—Certainly.

1641. As well as the present viewers?—I should hesitate in giving an opinion upon that because on a regimental board I should be a great deal swayed by the opinion of the quartermaster or the parties who were practically acquainted with the goodness of the article; my opinion would be a good deal biassed by what they said.

1642. Amongst the old experienced sergeants and old privates, were not many of them qualified to give an opinion upon the articles issued to them?—Yes; I think the great difficulty of Government inspection compared to regimental inspection is, that with the former it is necessary to be exact according to the pattern, besides quality; whereas, if a regimental board saw that the stores that had been sent to them from a contractor were good and really serviceable, they would not stick so much to pattern as they would to the serviceability of the article.

1643. That is, they would be fair to the contractor?—Yes; I think he would have a less stringent inspection with a regimental board than he would with the Government officials.

1644. The soldiers were always satisfied with their goods under the old system, were they not?—Yes; they were certainly always satisfied; the captains of companies being virtually responsible for the necessaries which the men got from time to time.

1645. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you formed any opinion as to the economy of the two systems?—None whatever, except that the clothing of the army is so much improved that of course it would not be fair to draw a line without taking into consideration the superiority of the present clothing.

1646. (*Colonel French.*) Upon what data do you found your opinion that the army clothing is better than it was?—Only from the cloth and buttons being of a much superior description, as well as the boots.

SAMUEL SILVER GARRETT, Esq., further examined.

1647. (*Chairman.*) Do you produce a return showing the disbursements at Weedon from the establishment of the depôt?—Yes. (*See App. No. 9.*)

1648. Had Mr. Elliott the amount to pay the carriage from quarter to quarter in one lump sum?—He had the money month by month for carriage.

1649. (*Mr. Turner.*) In October, November, and December it appears that the principal items occur for carriage?—Yes; in all probability those claims were not made upon him by the carriers till the latter date.

1650. If the bills were not sent in, how could Mr. Elliott ascertain how much was due to the carriers?—His books would show within a little what would be required from time to time.

1651. Would he not send an abstract of what he would require?—Yes; monthly.

1652. Although the carriers might not have made a demand for the aggregate amount, I suppose they would send in a delivery note, so that he would have a pretty good idea of the amount that was due?—Most likely there was no application made to him by the carriers; we had no intimation of the nonpayment of this claim till after he left.

1653. In future, I believe you intend to pay these accounts direct?—Yes. I have ascertained since yesterday that periodical inspections of cash accounts have already been taken; there have some taken place in Ireland.

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Capt. H. W. Gordon.

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S. S. Garrett, Esq.

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1654. (*Colonel French.*) Can you furnish an account of the difference of expense between the old and the new system?—No. Weedon was a mere experimental matter altogether.

1655. (*Chairman.*) If this statement is correct, the total expenses of the Weedon establishment were about 18,000*l.* for the year ending March 31, 1858?—Yes.

1656. If you were to have a dépôt at all, do you think taking into account the cost of building warehouses, that it would have been more expensive in London than at Weedon?—I think it would have been more

expensive in London. You must have paid a very enormous sum for the hire of warehouses in London.

1657. Assuming that a dépôt is to exist somewhere, do you think that this 18,000*l.* a year is less than the expense would have been for a dépôt in London?—Yes; inasmuch as we have no buildings to hire at Weedon. I think that sum alone would have been almost required for buildings in London.

1658. Will the expenses of all the inquiries about Weedon come into your department?—Yes; so far as the travelling, &c., of men and officers are concerned.

C. Bonneau,
Esq.

CORNELIUS BONNEAU, Esq., examined.

1659. (*Chairman.*) What are you?—I am a clerk in the War Office.

1660. Have you brought with you some of the documents connected with Weedon?—I have brought the Weedon ledger for the 31st of March 1857.

1661. Has it been examined with the vouchers?—It has been examined with the vouchers.

1662. Is that examination completed?—No, it is not. I have brought with the ledger a list of the discrepancies which we have already found, and they amount to something like sixty or seventy; but we have now to verify some of the entries of receipt and issue to see that they are really correct. The simple entries of the receipts and issues are correct, with the exceptions I have mentioned.

1663. What are those sixty or seventy discrepancies?—They are very trifling.

1664. What do they refer to?—They refer to clerical errors principally.

1665. When will the examination be completed?—I think we could complete it in a week from to-day.

1666. How many persons are employed upon it?—Some two or three.

1667. No alterations will be made in it, I suppose?—No.

1668. When your examination is completed, will the ledger be retained in the office?—Yes.

1669. With the vouchers?—Yes; it will never leave the building.

1670. (*Mr. Turner.*) How long have you been employed at the War Office upon this ledger?—Altogether, since the 14th of June.

1671. You say that two or three persons have been engaged upon it. I suppose one calls over the vouchers and another checks them?—Yes. This is made up in the form of an ordinary store ledger; there are five sectional parts, consequently we have been able to set six persons to work upon it at once; the five sections being small parts will soon be disposed of; the remaining part, the sixth, of course will take a great deal longer. We have been at it from the 14th of June to the present time. In future ledgers we can get over the difficulty of examination by cutting up the book into sections and distributing it amongst six or eight clerks.

1672. Is the ledger in one volume?—It is in one volume, with five small sections in addition.

1673. (*Chairman.*) Are they in the same volume?—No, they really form one ledger in six parts.

1674. (*Mr. Turner.*) I suppose it will occupy a professional accountant and his clerks some considerable time to examine this ledger?—If he takes the same trouble that we have it will. I consider that it has been very rapidly done. There are between 5,000 and 6,000 vouchers, and every single item in each has been gone through.

1675. How many items, upon an average, are there in each voucher?—I cannot tell; some contain only two items, some twenty.

1676. (*Chairman.*) Are you one of the parties employed upon the ledger?—I have the management of it, it has been done under my superintendence.

1677. I understand you have been at work upon the ledger for five or six weeks?—We commenced about the 14th of June, and it will be finished in about a week.

1678. You say that the sixty or seventy discrepancies are very small?—They are very trifling; they are just what you would find in any other ledger.

1679. Are all the vouchers forthcoming?—No; what we have to do now is to go carefully through the vouchers and pick out those which are not verified by signature. In some few cases the vouchers are wanting, but the number which the voucher should have borne is in the ledger. For example, we find in the ledger an entry "Voucher 324, 200 great-coats," but the voucher itself is not to be found; the voucher must have been in existence some time or other from the fact of the number being in the ledger.

1680. (*Mr. Turner.*) Why is that necessarily the fact from the number being in the ledger?—They could not have put "Voucher 324," and filled the entry in of the article itself, whether it is receipt or issue, unless the voucher had been in existence.

1681. (*Chairman.*) Why not?—It is not an impossibility; it is but fair to suppose that the voucher was in existence.

1682. Are not those discrepancies just the cases in which there may have been imaginary transactions?—I think not; that is one of the discrepancies.

1683. Are you reckoning those cases in which the voucher is absent as discrepancies?—Yes; that we have to clear up.

1684. You are not passing over them?—No; in the examination of the ledger, if we find an entry of a yard of cloth in the ledger itself, and the voucher says three quarters of yard, that is a discrepancy of a quarter of yard, and that discrepancy is put down upon a printed form; and when the examination of the ledger is completed, so far as the entries are concerned, we then go through that list of discrepancies and clear them up; very often they can be cleared up, sometimes they cannot be cleared up.

1685. That is a case in which the voucher does not agree in quantity with the entry in the ledger. Did you not state a case where the voucher was altogether missing, although there was an entry in the ledger?—Yes.

1686. How did the entry get into the ledger if there was no voucher for it?—I suppose the entry was originally made from the voucher, and the voucher has been lost. The voucher has not been given to us.

1687. (*Mr. Turner.*) Upon what ground have you any right to suppose that the voucher has been lost?—From not having received the voucher we suppose that it was lost.

1688. As a charitable man, you suppose that there must have been a voucher?—Yes, and whether there was one or not can be ascertained.

1689. You have mentioned a little discrepancy of three-quarters of a yard of cloth being stated instead of a yard, that is not very material; but are you not very vigilant and rigid in enquiring into those entries with respect to which there is no voucher whatever?—We are now going to do so; we have simply finished the examination of the actual entry.

1690. How can you examine the entry; that will be a blank, will it not?—No; in the ledger it is entered, we will say, as 400 great coats to such and such a regiment; we have nothing to do but to write

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to that regiment, therefore there is no difficulty in getting the fact. The voucher is not shown, and therefore the discrepancy is put down on the list for the purpose of being cleared up.

1691. You appear to be all very charitable to each other?—I did not know Mr. Elliott, I never saw him but once.

1692. Perhaps you think that the system is so perfect that there is no doubt the discrepancies will be cleared up?—I speak from having examined some hundreds of ledgers, and we are pursuing the same plan with this ledger that we followed with others.

1693. (*Chairman.*) I understand you to say that in those cases where vouchers are missing you think that they can be supplied?—I have no doubt of it.

1694. By application to the regiment to which the articles were supplied?—Yes.

1695. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you find perfect vouchers in every case of receipt?—I believe we do in every instance.

1696. How do you verify the vouchers themselves? You receive a written document stating that such and such articles have been issued and received, and you check it off by the ledger, is that the practice?—Yes.

1697. If the entry is correct and agrees with the voucher, I suppose you consider that the transaction was a valid one?—Provided it is supported by the signatures of the authorities for the receipt or the issue of those stores which are represented upon the paper.

1698. The inspector signs a voucher that he has received so much from the contractor and has inspected the articles, does not he?—That is a paper which does not come under my province at all; that is a transaction with the storekeeper.

1699. Is the storekeeper's receipt the voucher which is posted into the ledger on the debit side?—Yes; and the entry is that of articles actually received from the contractor, inspected and passed. Supposing a contractor supplies 10,000 articles, and 8,000 are rejected, that would leave 2,000 approved of; those 2,000 are passed in the storekeeper's receipt note.

1700. That is not a voucher?—That is a voucher for 2,000.

1701. Who signs that voucher?—That is signed by the storekeeper.

1702. By the inspector first, is it not?—Yes; but the storekeeper's signature is what we want.

1703. Is he a different individual from the inspector?—Yes; Captain Gordon is now the storekeeper at Weedon.

1704. We are talking of the ledger ending in March 1857?—We have Mr. Elliott's own signature.

1705. Charging himself with those articles as receiving them?—Yes.

1706. Whose signature do you follow when the same article is entered in the ledger on the credit side?—Whoever may receive it; if it is issued to a regiment, we take the receipt of the commanding officer.

1707. You do not obey the signature of the issuer from the store?—No, we want the signature of the person receiving the articles.

1708. Have you those signatures on all these instances?—We are going to see whether we have those signatures.

1709. Except with respect to the seventy discrepancies, have you in all other cases the receipt of the commanding officer?—We have all the entries of receipts on the debit side, and we have examined the issues on the opposite side; we are now going through the addition, to see that the addition is right as by the ledgers; we are then going to see that every document is properly substantiated by the authorities; we have not done that, but we are going to do it.

1710. Those seventy discrepancies you say are only discrepancies from clerical errors?—Yes, it is probable they are so.

1711. I thought you spoke of a document being missing for 200 or any other number of great coats issued?—That would form one of the discrepancies.

1712. Are the discrepancies confined to seventy, both from clerical errors and from the document being deficient?—Yes, as far as we have gone.

[The Weedon store ledger for 1856-57 was produced.]

1713. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you had anything to do with taking a "remain"?—I took the remain at the Tower a short time ago.

1714. When was that?—In October 1857.

1715. Are the books at the Tower regularly posted up?—Yes, I believe so.

1716. When the remain was taken, did it correspond accurately with the books?—We have not examined the Tower remain yet, the ledger is not posted up.

1717. Has not the ledger been posted up to October 1857 at the Tower?—We shall not be able to get it for three months from this time.

1718. (*Chairman.*) Then it is a ledger for more than twelve months?—It is a ledger for twenty months.

1719. Is not the ledger made up to March?—Yes; but the remain is generally taken in the summer if possible.

1720. Then the ledger will be made up to October?—It will be made up to October, because when the remain was finished it was thought desirable to make one book.

1721. Was the ledger account taken in the previous March?—No, it was not; it takes in the financial year ending March 1857, and also from March 1857, to October 1857; that forms one transaction.

1722. (*Mr. Turner.*) What has caused the delay in posting the ledger at the Tower?—The business is so enormous at the Tower.

1723. Is a day-book kept at the Tower?—Yes; but the entries, I imagine, are not made day by day in that day-book.

1724. Why?—I do not know.

1725. Had not the vouchers at the time of the remain being taken at the Tower been entered in the day-book day by day?—I cannot answer that question.

1726. There might be a delay you think in posting the vouchers into the day-book, and the day-book might be very much behind in being entered into the ledger?—I do not think that the day-books are very much behind. I think the delay is occasioned by the enormous business that is done.

1727. Is there not an enormous staff to do that business?—There is a large staff.

1728. Have you been engaged at the Tower or at Weedon in making comparisons between the result of the stock-taking and the statement of the accounts in the ledger?—No; but I have examined a great number of remains.

1729. Have you compared them with the state of the books?—Yes, and in many instances they came out correctly; in some instances they did not; but those discrepancies have been cleared up.

1730. (*Chairman.*) Have you found as many cases of excess as of deficiency?—We very often find that to be the case.

1731. As a general rule, the discrepancies to which you refer are not invariably defalcations?—In many cases the surpluses more than counterbalance the deficiencies. A thing might be wrongly described; you may call a certain article a pick-axe when it is another kind of axe.

1732. (*Mr. Turner.*) There is a branch establishment of Weedon at Mark Lane; goods are delivered by contractors, inspected, and shipped by Messrs. Hayter and Howell, without going to Weedon?—Yes, I believe so.

1733. Are the transactions at that establishment entered into this ledger?—I have not gone into that; they ought to be in this ledger.

1734. We understood from Captain Gordon that there had been a total omission, or pretty nearly so,

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to enter the transactions at Mark Lane?—That will form one of the subjects of examination when we clear up the ledger to see whether that is or is not so, as the case may be.

1735. What is the practice, according to your former experience, in examining these ledgers?—This is the first we have had from Weedon.

1736. Will not it be necessary for you to ascertain

whether the transactions at the branch inspection in Mark Lane, which forms part of the Weedon establishment, and the deliveries from that inspection place to Messrs. Hayter and Howell, for packing, have been embraced in the entries in the ledger?—Yes; and we shall endeavour to clear up everything that has the slightest difficulty in it.

Mr. J. C. Gray.

Mr. JAMES CHARLES GRAY further examined.

1737. (*Chairman.*) Do you wish to make any statement in addition to the answers that you gave to us yesterday?—Yes. The principal evidence that I gave before the Contracts' Committee was, first of all, respecting the pattern button brushes. I believe I stated yesterday that Mr. Hoile contradicted me in part of my evidence, and I wish to draw your attention to two or three points in his evidence, especially to the case of the brushes, in which he has clearly proved what I stated. If you will allow me, I will refer you to questions 6772, 6773, and 6774. I also wish to refer you to Mr. Ramsay's evidence at 6560, in which Mr. Ramsay states that the military store-keeper, Mr. Elliott, in defiance of his instructions, accepted the brushes, and gave directions to the inspector to pass them; also to answer to question 6582, "If such a case ever occurred, it must have been a most improper proceeding." That is Mr. Ramsay's statement.

1738. (*Chairman.*) We wish to give you all reasonable latitude, but we cannot have one witness commenting on the effect of the evidence given by another witness. You must confine yourself to statements of facts. Is not the substance of your statement this—that Mr. Isaac having had his brushes rejected by the first sealed pattern, that pattern was recalled in some way or other to Pall Mall?—Yes.

1739. Mr. Isaac then brought down two sealed

patterns, which were inferior to the previous sealed pattern?—Yes.

1740. You, under the inspector's direction, re-inspected the brushes by those sealed patterns; you remonstrated against passing them by such inferior patterns, and you were ordered by Mr. Elliott to do it, and you did it?—Yes.

1741. You passed them, and you rest your justification upon the orders of your superior officer?—I do.

1742. Whether you or Hoile were both to blame, or only one of you, or how much each was to blame, seems to me really a matter with which we have not much to do?—I do not consider that I was to blame, or Hoile either, who reported the circumstance to his superior officer, which is the regulation of the service. Mr. Ramsay in his evidence stated that it would have been my place to have reported to the officials at the War Office; but we had directions entirely contrary to that at Weedon, namely, that we were never to report to anybody out of our department, except to the head of the department.

1743. (*Chairman.*) If you have any statement of facts to make beyond what you have made before the Contracts' Committee, we shall be glad to hear it?—I have no other particular statement to make.

1744. You have stated all that you know before the Contracts' Committee?—Yes.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

LONDON.

Thursday, 29th July 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELF SEFFE, Esq.

HENRY SELF SEFFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Sergeant ALEXANDER BRODIE examined.

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1745. (*Chairman.*) You were formerly Sergeant Saddler, to what regiment?—The First Royal Dragoons.

1746. For how many years?—Nearly nineteen years.

1747. When did you leave it?—In 1855.

1748. You afterwards filled some appointment at Weedon, what was it?—Foreman of Saddlery.

1749. When were you appointed?—In April 1856.

1750. Were you the first person who filled that office, or did you succeed some one else?—The first appointment was made for me by Lord Panmure.

1751. Lord Panmure appointed you?—Yes.

1752. What salary had you?—127*l.* a year and some odd shillings.

1753. Are you the same person who is described in Captain Smith's evidence before the Contracts' Committee as first-class viewer, or was there another first-class viewer?—There were no viewers appointed at all. When I was appointed there were two

inspectors appointed, — two inspectors of saddlery first.

1754. Who were they?—I was appointed by Lord Panmure, in the presence of General Cannon, to get myself booked as an inspector of saddlery, as my testimonials will show, and Mr. Ramsay would not allow me to fill the situation to which I had been appointed; he made me foreman.

1755. You received the appointment in writing?—Yes.

1756. Have you got that?—Yes; I have not got it here. I will hand it in at a future time. (App. No. 10.)

1757. It describes you as foreman?—Yes.

1758. How many viewers were there?—There were no viewers for the first twelve months, and only one inspector, that was Captain Smith, formerly quartermaster of the consolidated depôt at Canterbury and Brighton.

1759. When were the viewers appointed?—About twelve months after that I wrote to get my duties defined to me, and then there were two viewers appointed.

1760. When did you leave Weedon?—On the 19th of September last.

1761. Did you resign?—No.

1762. How did you come to leave?—That is what I want to know myself. I cannot make out. I was dispensed with and offered a gratuity to go, which I refused, saying that I had a life appointment. It was given to me for life. Lord Panmure told me so.

1763. I never heard of a Government life appointment before of that class?—If I conducted myself honestly.

1764. You were dispensed with?—Yes, and offered a gratuity as the consequence.

1765. Was that dispensing with you in writing also, as well as your appointment?—Yes.

1766. Have you got that?—Yes. (App. No. 11.)

1767. May I ask what you have been doing since?—I have been travelling for Messrs. Nicoll, in Regent Street.

1768. The clothiers?—Yes, for military outfits.

1769. Are you now in their service?—No; I have gone to Mr. Cutler, of Hanover Street, Hanover Square, at a salary of 200*l.* a year.

1770. Had you any instructions at the time you were appointed as to what your duties were to be?—No.

1771. None?—No; but I repeatedly asked for them from the superintendent.

1772. Superintendent Elliott?—Yes, Mr. J. Sutton Elliott. When I went there I found that I did not know my duties; but he said he would find out when he went up to London; he used to go up two or three times a month, but I could get no satisfactory answer, and I wrote a letter to get my duties defined.

1773. To whom?—To the Secretary of State for War, through Superintendent Elliott; then I had an answer, defining my duties.

1774. Have you got that letter here?—No. I will produce it. (App. No. 12.)

1775. Though you had no specific directions as to what your duties were to be, what had you to do from the time that you first began?—When I first began I took charge of all things in store; there were a great many things came in that had been in different storehouses, such as leather, and belts, buckles, and bits, and buffs, and that sort of thing. I took charge of them.

1776. As foreman of saddlery stores?—Yes.

1777. Did you take any share in the inspection?—No, I would not be allowed to do that.

1778. Who did inspect?—Captain Smith, and he alone.

1779. Had you any directions either from Superintendent Elliott or from the War Office authorities, as to whether or not you were to express any opinion about things?—Yes, Lord Panmure told me, in the presence of General Cannon, to go and book myself as inspector of saddlery, and to give my unbiassed opinion upon the cavalry appointments.

1780. What do you mean by “unbiassed opinion”?—Not to be partial to any one in particular. I went to Sir Thomas Troubridge, and Sir Thomas Troubridge told me the same. I was to go and get quarters as soon as I could. I went to the Pavilion, as there was nobody in the Pavilion; but as soon as Watson, the bootmaker, got on, I was to go out. I had a great quantity of goods left from the regiment, and all my furniture lay there. I had to get a house in the town, and I never did get into quarters in the Pavilion, though I was promised them.

1781. Being foreman of stores, you had merely charge of them. In point of fact, whatever you expected to be, you had nothing to do with inspecting them, had you?—No, I had nothing to do with inspecting; they would not allow me to do it.

1782. You have stated, I believe, that you desire to be examined before this Commission. If you have

any statement to make bearing upon the subject into which we have to inquire, namely, the mode in which business has been conducted at Weedon we shall be happy to receive it?—At my first entering into the stores, my appointment was for April, but I received another appointment to go to my duties in May. I was walking about there, and a commission came from London to sit, I think, upon some 170,000 pairs of boots, and Mr. Elliott said to me: “You are doing nothing, Brodie, though your pay is going on. You will not be appointed ‘till May. There is to be an inspection of boots by ‘George Dalhousie Ramsay, the Director of Army ‘Clothing, by a man of the name of Pew, from the ‘Tower, and by two referees. The boots which we ‘have condemned here had been passed at the ‘Tower, and you might walk in and let me know ‘what you think of the examination.” So I walked in.

1783. Did Mr. Elliott say that the boots had been “condemned”?—He said they had been rejected at Weedon.

1784. Did Mr. Elliott use the word “condemned”?—He used that term. Then Mr. Pew came and shook hands with me, and asked me how I was. He said he saw my name in “The Times,” mentioned by Mr. Monsell, as being made inspector of saddlery, and he was very glad to see it. He had not seen me for many years, and he says, “I want your opinion ‘as an honourable man, if you think this is an ‘honourable transaction?”

1785. Whether you thought what was an honourable transaction?—Whether I thought the boots were quite good.

1786. Did he want your opinion as to the whole 170,000 pairs?—I cannot be sure exactly as to the number. He asked my opinion what I thought of them; I thought they were very good boots, and I thought it was a very bad proceeding for that department to run down the other in such a way as they were doing; I thought the place was placed on a bad foundation from the commencement.

1787. Was there a survey of those boots?—Yes.

1788. What was it that you complained of about the boots?—I complained that I thought it was very bad for the inspector of boots to condemn these boots after they had been passed at the Tower; I thought they were really good boots.

1789. What opportunity had you of forming a judgment as to the excellency of the 170,000 pairs of boots?—I was there all the time the investigation was going on.

1790. Did you take a share in the investigation?—No, I was only looking on.

1791. Did you think they ought not to have been surveyed at that time, or that they ought not to have been condemned?—I thought they ought not to have been condemned.

1792. How many were condemned?—I cannot tell the number.

1793. Did you think that none of them ought to have been condemned?—I thought none ought to be condemned; I thought they were very good boots.

1794. Do you mean to represent that you had such an opportunity of examining these boots as to enable you to say that none of them ought to have been condemned?—I have been so long in the leather department that I know what boots are as well as saddlery.

1795. What opportunity had you of forming a judgment upon these boots?—I went by Mr. Elliott’s directions.

1796. Went where?—To the store.

1797. How many boots did you examine?—I did not examine any.

1798. Upon what do you ground your judgment that it was improper to condemn any of those boots?—Because I thought they were good; I saw them being inspected.

1799. How many did you see?—I saw them go round all the stores, and I went round all the stores

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with them, from one room to the other, and saw all the investigation going on.

1800. What opportunity had you of seeing the boots that you think were improperly condemned? How many hours were you engaged in the transaction?—Between three and four hours. I was not engaged in the transaction, only as a looker on.

1801. Did you touch any of them?—Yes; I took up some.

1802. And you thought that 20,000 pairs were improperly condemned?—Yes; Mr. Ramsay asked me what Mr. Pew was saying, and I told him I thought it was a very wrong thing altogether, and that it was the very means of getting the place a bad name. He said, "I want to see you; you had better walk with me, I am going to the Globe; I want your opinion about Weedon, Brodie, what you think of the place." I told him that this transaction, condemning these boots, was a very bad start to commence with, and if they do not put proper and competent men to do the business, and go on in a fair straightforward system, the thing would never flourish. I told that to Mr. Ramsay myself, which he is quite aware of.

1803. What was there that was not straightforward in the investigation (there might be a mistake in judgment) by Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Elliott from the Tower, Mr. Elliott the Superintendent at Weedon, and the boot inspectors?—I will tell you what was not straightforward. Mr. Pew asked me if Watson ever had served his time to the boot trade; I said I believed he had not, and I believed he was not a competent person.

1804. What was there that was not straightforward? It may have been very wrong to condemn the boots?—I do not think it is straightforward condemning good articles. This was before I got on to my duties as foreman of saddlery; so that is all I know about it.

1805. You mean to say that the boots were good, and ought not to have been condemned?—I would not have said anything if Mr. Elliott and Mr. Ramsay had not asked my opinion.

1806. Do you mean anything when you use the word "straightforward," more than that the boots ought not to have been condemned?—That is all I know about the transaction.

1807. (*Mr. Turner.*) There were 170,000 pairs of boots, or some such number, that were looked over on that occasion, and a certain number of them were rejected?—Yes.

1808. You did not examine any of them yourself, but saw some of them examined?—I took up two or three pairs to convince myself. I was standing just by the side.

1809. Might it not easily arise that in 170,000 pairs of boots careful examiners might find 20,000 pairs that were not so good as the rest, and that they considered unfit for service?—I saw them all afterwards when I did get into the department, and I thought they were very good boots.

1810. Did you see the 20,000 that were rejected?—I saw all the boots that were rejected afterwards.

1811. Did you pay particular attention to that portion of the boots that was rejected afterwards?—I will not be sure about that.

1812. You had really no opportunity, according to your own statement, of minutely examining that portion of the boots which was condemned?—No.

1813. We have had it in evidence that some of the boots were so bad that the soles went to pieces like wet brown paper by immersion in water. If that is true, do you think they were good boots?—I think if you were to call upon Mr. Pew, he could tell you about them better than I can.

1814. We want to know whether the 20,000 pairs of boots were properly condemned?—That is all that I know about that transaction.

1815. (*Chairman.*) Do you know whether that survey was ordered or requested in consequence of any complaints?—No, I cannot exactly speak to that.

1816. I wish to test what your notion of straightforwardness is. Supposing a complaint was made of the boots rightly,—or wrongly,—do not you think it was a straightforward course to examine them?—It was not a straightforward course to condemn them when they were good.

1817. I repeat my question, when boots are complained of, do not you think it is a straightforward course to have them examined, for the purpose of seeing whether the complaint is just or not?—Yes; quite.

1818. Was Mr. Pew the person under whose authority the boots had been originally passed?—Yes.

1819. So that Mr. Elliott who thought they were bad, and Mr. Pew, who thought they were good, were both present at the examination?—Yes.

1820. With regard to your own immediate department, what facts do you wish to state to the Commissioners?—As regards the saddlery department at Weedon, I considered the things not conducted as they ought to have been.

1821. Will you state the particular facts on which you ground that opinion?—I have seen one contractor's goods condemned when they have been very good.

1822. Whose?—Mr. Palliser's.

1823. Are you referring to the lassos?—Yes.

1824. Had you an opportunity of comparing Palliser's lassos with the pattern lassos?—Yes.

1825. Were they in accordance with the pattern lassos?—They were according to make exactly, but they were a little lighter than the pattern lassos.

1826. The lassos were not in accordance with the pattern as to weight?—No; but that difference might have been made in the iron rings.

1827. You were not the inspector yourself you say; but do you conceive it to be the duty of an inspector to pass goods which are not in accordance with the pattern?—That depends entirely upon what orders he receives; there have been so many orders and counter orders received at Weedon.

1828. Assuming articles to be as good or even better than the pattern, but not in accordance with the pattern, do not you know that it is the duty of the inspector or the viewer to reject them?—No, I do not think it is, because no contractor can make an article strictly to pattern; there might be a stitch wrong somewhere or another, and an inspector can always find fault if he wants.

1829. According to the directions the inspectors received, do not you know that it is their duty not to exercise a judgment whether the thing sent is as good or even better than the pattern, but whether it is in accordance with the pattern?—That depends upon whether the inspector is a competent judge of the pattern article.

1830. With respect to the mode in which the business is conducted at Weedon, supposing a pattern is sent down, and that goods are sent in which are not in accordance with the pattern, although in your judgment they may be in some respects better, do not you think it is the duty of the inspector to reject them?—If he gets an order from the Secretary of State for War to do so.

1831. As I understand, your evidence upon that point comes to this, the inspector did not neglect his duty, but the instructions upon which he acted were injudicious?—Yes. There is one thing about these lassos. I have seen bad leather weigh as heavy as good; he did not inspect the lassos by his practical knowledge, but he weighed them, which any currier's boy could have done. I told him at the time that he ought to have inspected all these lassos by his practical knowledge of leather.

1832. Weight is surely one ingredient in the quality of such an article as a lasso?—Yes.

1833. Weight being an ingredient in the quality, if the thing furnished weighs several ounces less than the pattern, do not you think that is a deviation from the pattern?—Certainly, it is a deviation from the

pattern; but it does not make out that the article is worse than the pattern.

1834. Is that the question that the inspector has to decide? Is he not bound to decide, not whether the article is as good, but whether it deviates from the pattern or accords with it?—I believe so.

1835. Were not 990 of Palliser's lassos rejected for want of weight?—Yes.

1836. Was that the reason assigned?—I think it was; but I must tell you that these lassos were condemned before they were ever opened at all.

1837. The first time?—Yes.

1838. Are you aware that they came back a second time?—They were condemned before ever they came.

1839. How many of them?—Captain Smith said to me, "Do you know Palliser?" I said, "I do;" he said, "He is sending in forty or fifty packages of lassos; I have heard a little about that man at Pall Mall; he is not the right stamp of man for a contractor, and I will put a word in that will do for him;" I said, "Indeed, Sir." The lassos came in a day or two afterwards.

1840. Do you remember the time when this took place?—I think you will find the date in the blue books.

1841. You do not remember the exact date?—I think I can hand in the date.

1842. Were you at that time on good terms with Captain Smith?—I never was on good terms with him, because I found fault with him at the depôt on several boards I was on, previous to the goods going to the Crimea.

1843. Were you ever on good terms with Captain Smith?—I was on very good terms with him at one time.

1844. When did you cease to be on good terms with him?—When he first came to the department, three months after I was there.

1845. Did this conversation about the lassos take place before or after he came to the department?—After he came to the department.

1846. Did Captain Smith know that you were not on good terms with him?—I do not know; I was not on bad terms with him; I always used to salute him most respectfully.

1847. Without any imputation upon you, you did not much like Captain Smith being put over you?—That is the truth. We were both to hold one position as inspectors; and he told Mr. Ramsay, that he would not hold it with a non-commissioned officer, because he had been a quarter-master; and he took the inspection and made me his foreman.

1848. Did this conversation about the lassos take place after his being put over you?—He was put over me.

1849. Did the conversation about the lassos take place after he was put over you, when you were not on good terms with him?—I was on good terms with him, but he was not on good terms with me.

1850. Do you mean to represent that he, not being on good terms with you, talked to you in the way you have described, and said that he would put in a word for the contractor? Did he mean to damage him?—I do not know what he meant.

1851. What do you suppose he meant?—It looked very like it. I thought so.

1852. Everybody would think so, would they not?—Every good thinking man.

1853. He openly avowed that to you, his inferior officer, with whom he was not on good terms?—He did indeed.

1854. How many of these packages were not opened?—He opened two to commence with, and after he had opened the two, he weighed some of them. "Now," he said, "these must all go back. I will not open out any more."

1855. Did they all go back?—Yes.

1856. Are you sure of that?—Yes; they all went back.

1857. Do you mean to pledge yourself to that statement?—No; they did not all go back. Captain

Smith said, "They must all go back." I said, "Are you not going to open out the others?" He says, "No, I see enough of these two without opening the others." I said, "You will not send all back because you find two of them wrong, you might find some of the others right. It is a very hard thing upon the contractor to send all these back after only opening two." He said, "It does not matter, they must go back." The next day, or two days after, Mr. Elliott came up and asked me to look at one of the lassos, which I did. I said, "I am not allowed to give my opinion;" but he said, "Upon this occasion I will ask your opinion, and you must give it." I told him that the leather was a little light, but I thought it was very good for the purpose it was required for. "Well," he says, "they must all go back; Captain Smith says that they are all light."

1858. There has been evidence given on this subject before. Was this the first or the second time the lassos were at Weedon?—I was there both times.

1859. You know that some of them came back after they had been rejected?—They came back five or six times.

1860. I am talking of the first time. Was Mr. Palliser there?—The old gentleman was there.

1861. The old gentleman who had furnished them?—Yes.

1862. Did he come down to Weedon at all till after they had been sent back?—No; he came down to Weedon before they were sent back, I think, if my memory serves me right.

1863. Did he come down after they had been rejected?—He came down to see about them.

1864. After they were rejected or before?—After Captain Smith rejected them.

1865. How many had he rejected?—He had rejected them all before he had opened them out.

1866. How many packages were there?—I think nearly fifty, as far as I recollect.

1867. There were 2,000 lassos altogether, we understand?—I think so.

1868. In the first instance, how many of them were rejected?—In the first instance they were all rejected, and that is the reason that Mr. Palliser came down to see about them.

1869. Are you quite sure of that. Mr. Palliser has been examined, and Mr. Palliser has said that only 990 were rejected?—That is the second time. Captain Smith said he would send them all back, and that is the reason Mr. Palliser came down. I remonstrated with Captain Smith before Mr. Elliott. I said he ought to give the contractor fair play, and not send them back without opening all the packages. Then we opened the packages, and weighed them all.

1870. Had Mr. Palliser a storeroom at Weedon?—No.

1871. Where were the packages returned to?—They were returned out of our military stores.

1872. Where to?—To Finsbury Square.

1873. Do you mean to say in the first instance, before Mr. Palliser came down, that any more than 990 lassos were rejected?—Captain Smith had never inspected more than two bundles.

1874. Mr. Palliser came down before any of the lassos were returned?—Yes.

1875. How many were then sent back?—I could not exactly speak to the number. I think there was 904 or 907 kept.

1876. Mr. Palliser came down, and you were called in, or you were present at all events?—I was present.

1877. Tell us what took place?—He told Mr. Palliser that he would send them all back. He weighed two bundles, and then he opened out a third bundle. Captain Smith and Mr. Elliott told Mr. Palliser that they should all go back, and then Mr. Palliser referred to me.

1878. Did Captain Smith say why they were to go back?—Because they were light.

1879. Were they light?—They were a little light.

1880. About how much?—About two ounces, I think, some of them, or two ounces and a half. Mr.

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Palliser got into very angry words with Captain Smith about it, and he told him that he did not think he knew anything about his trade. The man told him that he had been about fifty years in business, and then the man got in a very vexed state of mind, and was almost crying about it, that they were to be sent back without being opened out. He referred to me, and I said to the superintendent, if he allowed me to give my opinion, "It is a very hard case that you should allow Captain Smith to send all these lassos back without opening them out. You ought to give him fair play, we are here for that purpose." He said "It will take too much time, you cannot do it." I said "You are here for the purpose." With that Mr. Elliott told Mr. Palliser that he would open them out, and give him a fair chance, after I had explained the thing to him. Mr. Palliser thanked me for my kindness in explaining to Captain Smith and Mr. Elliott to allow them to be opened, and which I thought was nothing but right.

1881. When they were opened out, how many were found to be light?—I think about 900; I could not say to one or two.

1882. I think you said that they were fit for Her Majesty's service?—They were quite.

1883. You say that they were a little light?—They were a little light, but they were beautiful workmanship, and better leather I never saw.

1884. Mr. Palliser took these 990 away, or they were sent away?—They were sent away.

1885. Did some of the 990 come back again, and was there a second examination of those he was to supply in lieu of the 990?—The fact is this; it was such a confused affair, they kept no record about going back, or anything else. I could not tell the time that they went back.

1886. I do not ask you about the time; but, assuming that 990 went back to Mr. Palliser, do you remember his supplying a second lot in lieu of the 990 that were sent back?—I could not be sure about it.

1887. Perhaps you do not know anything about it?—I do, but I cannot call it to memory. I know they went back so very often,—they went back four or five times to my knowledge.

1888. Do you know of 990 having been sent back in order that others might be sent; and a portion of those 990 coming back with the second lot?—I know he replaced some of them.

1889. Do you know whether some of those lassos that Mr. Palliser sent back in lieu of the 990 were a portion of the 990 which had been rejected. If you do not know, say so?—I do not recollect.

1890. Do you know the rule in a contract, when anything has been rejected, that if it is sent in again the whole supply will be rejected the second time?—I think there was a rule to that effect.

1891. If a portion of the lassos which had been rejected in the first instance were sent back by Mr. Palliser in the second, would it not be in accordance with the rule that the whole of the second supply should be rejected?—I cannot speak to that exactly.

1892. You do not know the rule, perhaps?—Not exactly the rule; they would not allow me to see anything of that kind.

1893. Was your opinion asked whether they were fit for the service, or whether they were in accordance with the patterns?—Whether they were fit for the service.

1894. Do you know whether Captain Smith is still in the service?—He is in the civil service.

1895. Is he still at Weedon?—Yes.

1896. Have you anything more to say respecting the lassos?—All I have to say is this, from my own practical knowledge of the trade and of leather, Mr. Palliser was a very badly used man.

1897. You think he was an ill-used man because his goods were rejected for not being in accordance with the patterns?—Yes; but they were quite fit for the service; no contractor can make things to pattern exactly.

1898. Have you anything to state with regard to saddlery which was in your department?—I merely wish to say that the whole thing was conducted on a bad system.

1899. Will you confine yourself to facts; we do not want general observations, we merely want facts upon which we are to form our own opinion?—I know a quantity of sheepskins came from a house in London.

1900. Was that from Bevington and Morris?—I think from Gibson; and out of those skins (there was something above 1,000) there was about 117 or 130 rejected; I am not sure to the number, but there was above 100 I think.

1901. Were those rejected by Captain Smith?—Yes; for bad places in the skin. Captain Smith ordered the man to put a stitch right through the skin, so that he would know it again, to show Gibson where the bad places were, and I put a private mark inside one of the straps, so that I would know all the skins again if they came back. When the skins came back, I found all my private marks, and in fact all the stitches in them on the bad places. I examined them myself; there was no viewer there at that time, and no inspector but Captain Smith and myself.

1902. Did you examine them in the first instance?—I was standing by Captain Smith when he was examining them; I was not allowed to pass my opinion. I called one of the labourers in the Department forward just to show him where I had put my private mark, and the skins came back all the same as they were when they were opened out. Captain Smith passed them all, though I repeatedly showed him the defective places when they came back, and he ordered one of the men after that, when we had some orders to send them to the regiments, a man of the name of Crutchley, to get his tools and awls and things to pick out all the wool to cover the defective parts, so that they would not be seen when they got to the regiments.

1903. You say in that case Captain Smith passed articles which he knew he had previously rejected?—Quite so, because I told him before a witness.

1904. Who was the witness?—Crutchley.

1905. Were you present when Captain Smith was examined before the Contracts' Committee?—No.

1906. Have you read his evidence?—No.

1907. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is Crutchley at Weedon now?—Yes; he was a labourer; he was made a viewer, and raised from 15s. a week to 30s.

1908. (*Chairman.*) If I understood you rightly, during the whole time you were at Weedon as foreman of stores, you took no part officially in the examination of goods?—Captain Smith ordered me to stand by him, because he is a little short-sighted, and when he overlooked anything to tell him.

1909. At this time was Captain Smith on ill terms with you?—He was always on ill terms with me from the commencement. He never liked me; by his manner of talking to me I knew he did not like me.

1910. Being on ill terms with you, he nevertheless made you cognizant of this transaction, which, of course, was a breach of duty. Did you consider it a breach of duty to pass these skins after they had been rejected?—Quite so.

1911. You called his attention to it, and he persisted in that breach of duty?—Yes, and sent them off to the regiment.

1912. Did you ever hear of any those skins coming back from the regiment?—No, I never heard of any of them coming back.

1913. Have you anything more to state about sheepskins?—Bevington and Morris had some sheepskins rejected that were much better than those.

1914. Rejected by Captain Smith?—Yes.

1915. Do you know why?—I think he said that the skins were not good.

1916. What particular defect was there in the skins?—I think it was the dye and the workmanship.

1917. Had you an opportunity of comparing them with the pattern?—Yes.

1918. What became of them?—They were sent back to Bevington and Morris.

1919. Did Bevington and Morris acquiesce in the rejection?—They sent a man down to examine into it; and when the man came we were sending away some of those skins of Gibson's that had come back that had been previously rejected, and the man picked up one or two, and he said, "Bless my heart, are you sending these off to the regiments!" We were just sending them off that day.

1920. Do you recollect what regiment they were sent to?—I cannot tell you. He said, "These are a great deal worse than the ones rejected of ours." I said, "I have nothing to do with inspecting things." He said, "Have you not, you that have been a serjeant saddler all your life? I want your opinion; Captain Smith is not here." I said, "I cannot help it."

1921. I want to know whether Bevington and Morris acquiesced in the rejection, and sent other skins in lieu of those that Captain Smith rejected?—I believe Captain Smith went and passed some skins, either at Bevington and Morris' warehouse or at Hayter and Howell's, because they never came back to Weedon again.

1922. Can you state, of your own knowledge, whether any skins were supplied by Bevington and Morris in lieu of those which were rejected by Captain Smith?—No, I do not recollect any.

1923. If they were, you think they were supplied at Hayter and Howell's, and not at Weedon?—At their own place.

1924. Have you anything to say about saddles that were condemned?—Yes.

1925. What do you wish to say about them?—All the surplus saddlery was to come to Weedon, according to an order sent from the War Office, and be inspected by Captain Smith as to what he thought proper to reject as bad, and he was to send it away to different places to be sold and to keep the good. The first lot of saddlery we had sent was from the Enniskillen Dragoons.

1926. Had that saddlery been in the Crimea?—Some of it, not all; this was surplus saddlery. The saddlery sent out to the Crimea had not been nine months in wear when it came back. Captain Smith inspected the saddlery and threw what he thought was bad on one side and the good on the other. I had been poorly for a week, and when I came back I had the charge of putting by all the good saddlery and packing all the bad saddlery up. As I was putting away what Captain Smith condemned, I said to the man, "Are you sure you have not made a mistake; Captain Smith never means this saddlery to be cast?" He said, "Yes, he does." I said, "I must see him about it before we put it up in the barrels." I went to Captain Smith and said, "That saddlery is new; it has not been worn at all scarcely." He said, "Let it all go, and the sooner we get away a lot of this lumber the better." I said, "If any person sees that saddlery in any town, they will be sure to complain about selling good saddlery like that." He said, "Very well, let it go." I left these out to call his attention to them again. He had been away two or three days in London, and when he came back I showed him these articles again, and he said he never had condemned those things; he said the man must have put them away without his knowledge. The man distinctly said he did it himself. He said, "Let them go," and he ordered us to put them all up in barrels and direct them to the barrack-master at Birmingham to be sold.

1927. How many?—I think something like sixteen barrels.

1928. How many were there in a barrel?—I think there were five or six saddles in a barrel with the straps; we nailed them up, and directed them ready to go away, and he made his report out that those things were condemned, and got it returned back again from the War Office, to say they had been

condemned, and there was an order to send them away.

1929. Can you remember about the date of this transaction?—It was in the latter end of 1856. I showed Captain Smith a notice in the newspaper just the very day they were going away, that Colonel Dunne was going to call for a return of all stores, with the date of those stores, and how long they had been kept; where they were sold, and all that sort of thing; and I said, "Captain Smith, there is a great deal of good things there, if they go to Birmingham they will be seen after they are sold; some of them are nearly new, and it will be a very serious matter." He took the paper out of my hand and put it into his pocket. "Very well," he said "you had better open the barrels again, and go over what you think are good and detain them, and send the others away." I had a man down, and I opened the barrels out, and kept all those new things, and the others were nailed up and sent away to be sold.

1930. How many saddles were retained in consequence of your remonstrance?—Panels, pairs 44½; tab and straps 35, flaps, pairs 35.

1931. Those are portions of saddles rather than saddles?—Yes, the principal part of the saddle; in fact it is the saddle, because the tree is only made of wood.

1932. In the end, were the unserviceable ones sent away, and the serviceable ones kept?—I detained one complete saddle and all those things as being new.

1933. How many were sent away?—I cannot tell how many were sent away.

1934. Captain Smith says 76 saddles, is that right?—I am not sure exactly to that. I will explain about the saddle. The tree is wooden, not leather; the flaps and panels are the principal things, and the most expensive. A broken tree is almost of no use, but the principal things I detained.

1935. Were any unserviceable saddles sent away?—Yes.

1936. Do you know how many?—I could not say the exact number.

1937. What became of the things that you retained as good enough to keep?—Captain Smith told me to get them cleaned.

1938. Did he say that they should remain in store?—He told me they should remain in store, and be brought up along with the good saddlery for service. I took a man down with some soap and sponges, and got them all nicely cleaned up; when I took the mud off them, in fact the new hue was scarcely off the things, they were not above six months old, and ought to last about eighteen years. I told Mr. Elliott, the superintendent of the transaction, and two or three of the clerks, and Mr. Elliott said it was certainly too bad.

1939. What became of the things?—They were retained, and the same day I got my dismissal I had them all prepared to bring up among the new saddlery.

1940. When was that?—The 19th of last September.

1941. You say that this took place at the end of 1856; what became of all those flaps, panels, and so forth, from the end of December 1856 to September 1857?—They lay in the barrels previously to going to Birmingham. I could not be sure about the date.

1942. Captain Smith says that the unserviceable saddles were sent to Birmingham in March. Now, I want to know where those things were from March 1857 to September 1857; were they made available at all during the time you were at Weedon?—No; they were merely in store.

1943. Captain Smith was examined in May last, and he says these things are not available even now; and the reason he gives is, not that they are bad in themselves, but that the pattern is obsolete. Was the pattern old?—The flaps can always be made available; the service is having what they call a new pattern saddle now; but they cannot have that saddle till the other is worn out; the flaps and panels of the

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saddle last a number of years; and it will be years before you will get the whole of the British service furnished with the new saddles.

1944. As a matter of fact, were not they an obsolete pattern?—They were not flaps of the new pattern.

1945. You know what I mean by obsolete. Is the old pattern different from the new one?—Yes, from the last new pattern; but half the British service has got this old saddle, in place of furnishing new flaps and things till the old saddle is done with. These flaps and panels could be very easily converted to make them serviceable.

1946. That is a matter of opinion. Did Captain Smith say that as they were an obsolete pattern he thought they would bring more if they were sent for sale as they were?—He never stated so to me; and when I showed him that that return was to be called for, he was very glad to take them out.

1947. Up to the time that you left Weedon those things had not been made available for any purpose?—No.

1948. So far as you know, were they capable of being made available?—If I was to show them to you, your own common sense would tell you that such good things ought not to be sold as public stores.

1949. They were not sold in consequence of your remonstrance; Captain Smith, though not on good terms with you, did listen when you remonstrated?—Yes.

1950. Is there any thing more that you wish to say about the saddles?—The saddles were all pitched up in large heaps; they used to come in on wet days and perhaps about fifty or sixty sets were all tumbled up together. I got different shelves put up to try and give them air; they will soon get mouldy, and mouldy leather is perishable in a very short time. I repeatedly told them that I wanted carpenters to put up shelves according to my dimensions, so that I could give proper ventilation through these saddles, and not keep them in a heap like a haystack. After a time I did get a carpenter to put up some temporary shelves, but not what I wanted. I told them the whole saddlery would go to destruction if they were not put in order. They told me that they could not spare the carpenters, because they were always at work. I said, "You can give the carpenters wood, and set them to work to make private safes up at the pavilion, why cannot I have a man for the work of the department." He said, "You had better mind your own business, I am responsible for the department." All the saddlery went into a very bad state indeed; for months the saddlery was getting blue mouldy and quite cracky; I could not have my full scope to put things in a proper state for the interest of the public; they would not allow me to do it.

1951. Was any saddlery actually spoilt?—A great deal of saddlery was spoilt.

1952. What became of it?—That I cannot say. If any competent judge went down with me I could show him that the whole of the plan is on a bad principle.

1953. You say that damage was done to the saddlery?—Yes.

1954. Was oil used, or dubbing?—There was some very common oil used. I have a return at home to show when I remonstrated with Mr. Elliott about getting dubbing, and all that sort of thing. I wrote letters to Mr. Elliott repeatedly, upon Her Majesty's service, and told him, but he never took any notice.

1955. Can you say during the time that you were there, whether any saddles were spoiled from neglect?—Yes.

1956. What became of them, did you leave them spoiled when you came away?—Yes; I wrote for dubbing which had been ordered for four months, and the wrong sort of dubbing came. I could have got any quantity of the right sort in two or three days; I had applied for it and could not get them to do it. I had

often applied for brushes and different things to keep the moths out. Lots of new panels have been ruined upon the spot that have never been used.

1957. Because the moth had got into them?—Yes; from downright carelessness, because Captain Smith would not allow —

1958. With the best care will not moths get into serge and wool?—Yes; but if you have men to take these things down, and beat them and brush them, they will keep better. I applied for turpentine and several things which I suggested might have been of great service every time Mr. Elliott came up to the stores, and everyone in the department; I was every day telling the abuses to them, which they did not like, but I was determined to do my duty straight-forward and honest.

1959. If only 76 saddles have been condemned out of the quantity at Weedon during the two and a half years that the establishment has been opened, do you conceive that there are a great many that ought to have been condemned?—There were a great deal more than that condemned, packed up in barrels; there were others disposed of as well as those.

1960. How do you know that?—Captain Smith cast other things besides those, and had them packed up to be sent away.

1961. I am not speaking of the things packed up to be sent away that were afterwards unpacked and retained; can you say that any more than the 76 saddles that Captain Smith says were sent away, were sent away?—I do not know whether they were sent away, but they were packed up for sale.

1962. Were they unpacked again afterwards?—No.

1963. Did you leave any quantity of saddlery packed for sale when you came away?—Yes, I did; a great quantity besides the 6th Dragoon saddlery.

1964. Captain Smith said, on the 10th of May 1858, that only 76 saddles had been sent away, do you mean to say that more were packed up; whether they were sent away or not you do not know?—Yes.

1965. Can you undertake to say what number of saddles were deteriorated by the neglect of which you have spoken?—We had every regiment in the service there. We had not the Life guards or the Blues; but we had all the other regiments with the exception of those; we had all the surplus saddlery of the cavalry regiments, with the exception of the three household troops.

1966. And the new saddlery?—Both new and old.

1967. Did you ever hear while you were at Weedon any complaint from any regiment of saddlery being sent to them in a bad state?—No; I do not think I did.

1968. There was an establishment at Weedon, was there not for the repair of saddlery?—No.

1969. Do you mean to say that?—Yes.

1970. Not in your time?—I wanted it very bad.

1971. Did not Gibson and Co. contract to repair the saddlery?—That was a private concern; that was not a public department between the Government and Mr. Gibson; that was Mr. Gibson's private men.

1972. Was not the saddlery repaired at Weedon?—No repairs, only alterations.

1973. Supposing a saddle tree opened, and got out of order, was not that tree set right at Weedon, or a new one put in?—Yes.

1974. Do not you call that a repair?—Yes; the other saddlery was not repaired, only the trees.

1975. Saddle trees were made at Weedon, were not they?—Yes, the trees were.

1976. Were they made by Messrs. Gibson's men?—No; Captain Smith had a school of instruction.

1977. Is not that a portion of the Government establishment?—Yes, that is a portion of the Government establishment, but we had no saddlers there for the Government for repairing, only the tree makers.

1978. Is not tree making a branch of saddlery?—It is a different thing.

1979. You cannot have a saddle without a tree, I suppose?—It is different from saddlery altogether.

1980. It is a portion of saddlery?—Of course.

1981. You had a school of tree makers?—Yes; but no government saddlers.

1982. Was not there one man from each cavalry regiment who was taught to make saddle-trees, and also to repair saddlery?—No.

1983. You say that the repairs to the saddlery were done by Gibson and Co.?—Yes.

1984. Under a contract with the Government?—I never could find out how that contract was. I know that they had something like 1*l*. a piece for cutting the pad sticks and altering the pannels.

1985. Was that for the purpose of bringing them into the new pattern?—There have been so many new patterns; they altered one new pattern into another pattern by putting a broader seat on, cutting the pad sticks, making them shorter, and the pannel a little shorter than the pad sticks; for the alteration of the flaps and the panel I think the contract price was about 1*l*.

1986. That was done at Weedon, and paid for by the Government?—Yes.

1987. They were only the servants of the Government for that purpose?—Yes; I furnished a great many things out of my stores to those people; their shop was just behind ours, about 100 yards.

1988. You furnished leather and so forth?—Yes.

1989. Did you keep a book of what you received?—I am sorry to say that I asked frequently for a book, as I was the foreman of the saddlery, and had to supply Mr. Gibson's men; I said to Captain Smith, "I will not be answerable for these things if I am not to have a book to enter what goes between Gibson's foreman and me; he shall sign every article I send, and I shall sign every article he sends." Captain Smith said "No," as I have witnesses to prove, and he said, "Mind your own business, that is mine." So I never knew what I was doing.

1990. You were foreman of the stores and you knew what stores you furnished?—Yes; but we never kept any accurate account.

1991. Why did not you?—He would not allow me.

1992. How could he prevent you?—You do not know what hardships I put up with there.

1993. Were you denied the use of pen, ink, and paper? If you had a little memorandum book like the one now in your hand, what was there to prevent you from making entries for your own satisfaction?—I did in some things.

1994. What was to prevent you making a memorandum of every issue that you made?—I applied to have a proper set of books in that department, but Captain Smith would never allow us to have them.

1995. What was there to prevent you from keeping an accurate memorandum of everything you issued?—I did that myself.

1996. Where is that memorandum?—I think it was left at Weedon when I came away.

1997. Is it in a book?—It was a little book I had.

1998. Then you did keep a book of your issue?—Yes; for my private information, not for the public.

1999. I thought you said just now that you could not tell what you issued: so far as you were concerned, if you had that book could you tell everything that you issued?—I could, but I could not tell what came back.

2000. Why not?—Because there would be an order come for 200 or 300 saddles away from the saddler's shop in an afternoon, and I was really in such a puzzle that I did not know what came back or what was done with all the things; there was no regular system.

2001. Did you ever suggest any alterations?—Yes,

2002. Were they in writing or verbally?—In writing. Lord Panmure sent down a printed circular to Weedon to Mr. Hebdon, the inspector of cloth, and another to me to be handed to Mr. Elliott, if I could invent or improve anything for the good of the department, and I told Mr. Elliott I would be most happy if I could do anything.

2003. Did you make a representation in writing?—Yes.

2004. Addressed to Mr. Elliott?—To Lord Panmure through Mr. Elliott. I had an answer from the director-general of cavalry about my new inventions. I got up a saddle and appointments which I took up to Lord Panmure. I was three days at his council room at the War Department, and he showed it to the director-general of cavalry and Mr. Ramsay.

2005. Was it invited by Lord Panmure?—Yes. Captain Caffin, Sir Henry Storks, and all rode on my saddle, and so did the Earl of Cardigan. I took it down to the Horse Guards, and the Earl of Cardigan made me make several alterations in the saddle, which he seemed very well pleased with, and he got two mounted orderlies of the 11th Hussars to ride with it. Sir Thomas Troubridge looked at it, and the Duke of Cambridge. The first thing was that I did away with the shoe cases that used to be knocking about behind.

2006. You suggested in writing certain alterations?—Yes.

2007. Do you know whether any of those alterations have been carried out?—I do not know.

2008. At all events you made some suggestions in consequence of being invited to do so?—Yes. I have a copy of the letter I sent, and I shall be happy to furnish the Commissioners with it.

2009. (*Colonel French.*) You made use of the word "straightforward," upon which the Chairman questioned you with regard to those articles which were rejected, and which you considered were good; do you mean to say that their rejection was an error in judgment or an act of venality?—I could not exactly say to that. I do not think it was straightforward. I was not on the establishment then, and I would rather not say any more about it. I was merely asked by Mr. Elliott to go in and take notice of what was going on, and tell him afterwards what I thought of the transaction—that was all.

2010. When you made use of the word "straightforward," did you mean that it was not an honest act?—I would not be exactly sure to that, for fear I might lead the Commissioners astray; it was a thing that did not trouble me so much as the saddlery; merely being there was a sort of casualty; I was just passing by.

2011. (*Chairman.*) Colonel French wants to know, and I want to know whether, when you use the phrase "not straightforward," you mean to say that there was anything more than an unwise and improper rejection of goods that ought to have been passed, or whether you mean to say they were rejected from an improper motive?—I could not exactly say that.

2012. Have you any opinion about it?—I think they ought not to have been rejected.

2013. When a man says that a thing is not "straightforward," it is an imputation, not only upon judgment but upon motive; do you think it was an error in judgment, or an improper motive? I understood you to say that you thought it was an error in judgment that things were rejected that were good and ought to have been passed?—That is what I meant to convey to the Commissioners.

2014. Did you mean further to suggest, that there was anything dishonest in the transaction?—That I could not exactly answer.

2015. (*Colonel French.*) You mentioned that a certain number of lassos were rejected by Captain Smith; upon the rejection of those articles, did you communicate with Mr. Palliser?—No more than before Mr. Elliott and Captain Smith.

2016. You did not write to him?—No.

LONDON.

Sergeant
A. Brodie.

29 July 1858.

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12017. Are those saddles which you said were injured in the store for want of care, still in store?—I suppose they are all in store. If the Commissioners were at Weedon, I could show them a great many things that would be a benefit to them.

12018. (*Chairman.*) Did any body tell you that you were to have a life appointment?—Yes, Lord Panmure.

12019. Verbally, or in writing?—I had three or four letters from Lord Panmure.

12020. Saying that he would provide for you for life?—I considered it a life appointment, as long as I conducted myself in a proper manner.

12021. I understood you to say that Lord Panmure told you that your appointment was to be for life?—And likewise Lord Hardinge.

12022. Did anybody ever tell you that you were to have a life appointment?—Lord Panmure and Lord Hardinge both.

12023. Are you quite sure of that?—I am quite sure that I would have it if I conducted myself in a proper manner as long as I liked, or something to that effect. Lord Panmure told me so, and Lord Hardinge told me the same.

12024. (*Mr. Turner.*) Had you it in writing from Lord Panmure?—Yes; and I will bring you his letters. I do not think the letter said “for life.”

12025. (*Chairman.*) I understand the letter does not quite come up to what you had been led to expect before?—I have got three letters.

12026. If the letters come up to what was promised you in words, the letters will be sufficient; if they do not come up to what was promised you in words, I should like to know what you think was promised you in words?—I will produce all the communications between Lord Panmure and me. (*See App. No. 10.*)

12027. Do you mean to say that in words either Lord Panmure or Lord Hardinge ever told you that you should have a life appointment?—They both told me so, both Lord Panmure and Lord Hardinge.

12028. (*Mr. Turner.*) You say that Lord Panmure did not make use of the words “for life” in any communication?—No, not “for life.”

12029. Did Lord Hardinge?—No, I do not think he did.

12030. You might infer very naturally that as long as you did conduct yourself well you would have a life appointment, but they did not pledge themselves to anything of that kind, did they?—I had frequent communications with Lord Hardinge at his private house, and Lord Panmure too, and at both their official places at the Horse Guards and the War Department as well. Lord Panmure sent a mounted orderly at 11 o'clock at night stating that he did not think Sergeant Brodie left the service with any stain upon his character; and, on the contrary, he thought my services were available for the public interests, and Lord Panmure saw no reason why I should not be employed.

12031. (*Chairman.*) When was that?—In February 1856.

12032. Before your appointment;—Yes. Then I had another letter from him to say he had appointed me; and Sir Arthur Kinnaid sent for me and read a letter he had sent as well.

12033. (*Colonel French.*) How came you to be known to Lord Hardinge?—Through the unfortunate duelling affair at Canterbury. Lord Hardinge said he thought I had been badly treated, and he would see Lord Panmure and get an appointment for me. I was to send all my testimonials, and I wrote to my different officers; I believe you have got a copy of the testimonials.

12034. (*Chairman.*) Did either of them promise you any definite amount of salary?—127*l.* a year. Mr. Ramsay told me I was a young man and he was a young man, and I might be there for 20 years along with him, and my salary would go up to 500*l.* a year if I minded myself.

12035. (*Mr. Turner.*) Mr. Ramsay said that?—Yes; in the presence of Sir Thomas Troubridge.

12036. (*Chairman.*) Were you ever promised a larger amount of salary to begin with than you actually had?—No.

12037. Did you expect a larger amount than 127*l.*?—I did not expect so much; I only expected 100*l.* I will convey in a very short way how that came about. There were two inspectors of saddlery appointed, and it was stated by Mr. Monsell in the House of Commons that they were highly recommended as competent persons. Mr. Ramsay annulled my appointment of inspector of saddlery and made me a foreman.

12038. You go by something you heard that Mr. Monsell had said in the House of Commons?—I have got the “Times,” and I asked Mr. Monsell about it, and he said he would be most happy to come forward and say that Lord Panmure told him I was to be inspector of saddlery.

12039. You consider yourself in some respects an injured man?—I do. I had sold 800*l.* worth of regimental goods for a very little. I had a great number of regimental goods, and I wrote to London to people to buy them, but they said they could not take them because the patterns would be altered soon, and I had an open sale at Northampton.

12040. What kind of goods were they?—Saddlery goods; all sorts of goods.

12041. Was that when you went to Weedon?—After I went to Weedon.

12042. Had you a private store of saddlery?—No; in the regiment. I furnished every new officer that joined with all his appointments. I was contractor for the army for the repairs, for doing all the things in the regiment connected with saddlery. I was the only one in the service upon a large scale of business.

12043. Did you get rid of your stock when you took office at Weedon?—Yes; I had a public sale.

12044. Before you went to Weedon?—I took all my goods to Weedon with me. I had two tons of baggage.

12045. What for?—I was nine months out, and my goods were all lying at the railway station at Canterbury. The proprietors of the railway were kind enough to store them away, as I had been an injured man, and they never charged me anything for it. When I was appointed to Weedon I took them there.

12046. Why did you take your goods to Weedon?—To sell them.

12047. To sell them at Weedon?—Yes; I sent them to Northampton, and they were sold at the Goat Inn by public sale; besides that I sent a lot to Ireland and other places, where I sold them by private bargain; and I sold some to the farmers round the neighbourhood.

12048. (*Colonel French.*) Is it customary for sergeants in cavalry regiments to keep stores of saddles and so forth?—Yes, for the accommodation of the regiments, if the commanding officer thinks proper to allow them to do it. It is a great convenience to the officers to have a tradesman who knows his business, so that he can get up things and fit them to the horses upon the spot; they can be fitted there so much better than with goods sent from London.

12049. When the regiment was moved, how were those articles moved?—I had to pay privately myself for the carriage of those things.

12050. (*Chairman.*) How long had those things been lying at Canterbury?—About nine months.

12051. From the time you left the First Dragoons?—Yes.

12052. What was your intention with regard to those goods?—To be candid with you, I came up to London, and I was taking Mr. Pitt's old shop in Piccadilly at about 280*l.* a year from Mr. Watkins, the solicitor, and he gave me time to arrange things. Lord Hardinge sent for me in the meantime, and said that it would be much better if he gave me an appoint-

ment for life not to commence business in London, because Lord Panmure thought it would be better for me to get out of London; I might not get on with my business through this duelling affair. I thought it

was very kind of his Lordship, and I went to Mr. Watkins and gave him back the papers that his man drew up, stating that I had got an appointment for life, and I would decline taking the shop.

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A. Brodie.

29 July 1858.

Mr. J. Dowie.

Mr. JAMES DOWIE, examined.

2053. (*Chairman.*) You have been examined before the Committee on Contracts?—Yes.

2054. And have had an opportunity of reading the evidence that you gave before them?—Yes.

2055. May we consider that evidence as given before us without troubling you to go through it in detail?—Yes.

2056. Do you wish to make any statement in addition to the evidence which you have given before the Contracts' Committee?—Yes; the statement that I would wish to make is simply this, that the first contract I entered into was for 5,000 pairs of boots according to a pattern. And here permit me to state, that at that time the conditions of the contract were somewhat different from what they are now.

2057. Can you give the date?—The 9th of August, 1856. I have the contract before me. At that time the conditions stated that the articles required were to be of the qualities and sorts described, and equal in all respects to the "patterns or specifications" which may be inspected upon application at the Tower. Immediately after my contract was entered into, in the very next paper which came out, which is dated 8/56, which I presume means the same month, it is altered to the "patterns and specifications," and upon that point they very much rested. I had sent down during the month of December, 1856, a portion of the boots in terms of the first contract. Those boots were of a description certainly not equal to what is now supplied, because they have raised the standard from time to time. This was a standard boot at 8s. 2d. a pair. I was desired to look at the pattern, and I asked in terms of the conditions that I should be furnished with a duplicate. I was desired to make a duplicate pattern and send it in.

2058. Will you state the date?—Immediately after the 9th of August I applied for my pattern, there might be a few days, but it could not be many. Mr. Richards, who then officiated in the absence of Mr. Ramsay, stated that he was not possessed of a duplicate pattern to give me in terms of the conditions, but as I knew the business well enough, if I would make a pattern and bring it to him it would be submitted to Sir Thomas Troubridge, and he would seal that pattern if in accordance with the standard. I made those patterns, and I have only got them back two days ago from Weedon with the seals taken from them. I am in a position to prove that they are identically the same boots as were sent as my patterns. I have brought them here. Those pattern boots were sent to Weedon.

2059. How did you get the pattern back?—In consequence of a communication that I made to General Peel. I have all the correspondence here about them.

2060. Did any letter of advice accompany the boots?—Yes, I have it here. The first delivery regarding that 5,000 pairs was about 1,100 pairs. I think they went down during December, and on the 7th of January I received a letter stating—"Referring to your supplies of regulation boots, dated the 4th, 27th, and 29th ult., I beg herewith to enclose you the result of the inspection, and have to request you to cause the rejections to be removed with as little delay as possible." Out of that supply there were only, I think, 65 pairs approved of, all the others were rejected; and upon my asking the reason Mr. Ramsay suggested that I had better go to Weedon, and ascertain the cause. I went to Weedon, and the answer I received was that my boots were more than equal to the quality of my pattern, but they did not approve of that pattern.

2061. Was that in writing or verbally?—It was

verbal to me. I returned to London and I repeated it to Mr. Ramsay.

2062. Who said that to you?—Mr. Folkerd, Mr. Watson, and Mr. Elliott.

2063. They said that they did not approve of the pattern?—They said they did not approve of the pattern.

2064. Was anybody present besides yourself?—There were none present. They have put it in writing, and I have asked for the communication, but I was refused the communication.

2065. Who put that in writing?—The inspectors at Weedon. When I returned to London, I explained to Mr. Ramsay what had been stated to me at Weedon. He said, "I do not doubt your word, Mr. Dowie, and I will make inquiry." He wrote to Weedon asking whether what I had stated to him was correct, and he received an answer from Weedon to that effect.

2066. Have you seen it?—It has been read to me.

2067. It exists?—Yes, and I am desirous that this Commission should be pleased to ask for it. It will not be refused you, but they decline to give it to me. Mr. Ramsay said yesterday, "I cannot give it to you, Mr. Dowie, but if the Commissioners ask for it, it is here." (*See Question 2152.*) Mr. Ramsay read it to me. I am now speaking of 18 months ago, and rather more, and I may not be exactly correct, but the impression upon my memory is, that the import of the answer was to this effect, that they said "the boots are more than equal in quality to the pattern, but we do not approve of the pattern. We do not think it suitable for the service." I think those were the words, "and what Mr. Dowie has stated to you is strictly correct."

2068. (*Mr. Turner.*) You had that read to you from a written document?—It was read to me by Mr. Ramsay, the assistant director of stores. The Commissioners will find that I refer to the fact in my previous evidence. Mr. Ramsay was present when I stated it to the Contracts' Committee, and since then I have asked him if I was correct in my statement. He said I was perfectly correct, it was to that purport, and that letter will be forthcoming if the Commissioners will be pleased to ask for it. I am desirous that it should be asked for. My letter upon the fact of that, which I did not lay before the Committee, will explain, I think, exactly the whole matter, and I need not take up the time of the Commissioners after I have read it. This letter is dated the 12th of January 1857, and, is addressed to the director of stores. "Having received a letter from Weedon, dated the 7th instant, informing me that a supply of boots which I had sent was rejected without any reason being assigned, I went there and had an interview with the superintendent," (that was Mr. Elliott) "and the inspectors," (namely, Mr. Watson and Mr. Folkerd,) "who informed me that the cause of rejection was chiefly because the boots, although nearly all equal to the sealed pattern furnished to me, yet as that pattern was inferior to the class of boots which the contractors were now supplying, they could not approve of those sent by me. Permit me, sir, respectfully to state that having supplied the Scotch Fusileer Guards and other regiments for the last 11 years, and knowing that the soldiers were always desirous of having softer upper leathers than those which were usually supplied, I made those sent to Weedon after the same manner, namely, soft kip vamp." I might mention that in the specification we were not tied to any particular quality of leather at all, it was left to our own judgment. "When the vamp was stout I did not put

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" in side linings, as I have done with the latter ones, considering it not necessary to do so; the inspectors, however, say, as the pattern had a side lining the supply ought also to have the same, whether necessary or not, so far as they are concerned. In this I quite acquiesce: at the same time it is clear, that the inspectors are desirous to have a better class of boot for the soldiers, and in that I would most willingly aid them, should the authorities desire me; and I now, therefore, most respectfully beg to state, that so far as the present supplies are in accordance with the present pattern given to me, I humbly submit that those should not be rejected, or those yet to be delivered by me, which I shall withhold until I am honoured with your reply. For the remaining portion of the first contract, I have no objection to receive other patterns from Weedon as my guide, but being a more expensive article, I will, of course, expect the same price as is now paid to other contractors. I feel very much that any of my goods should have been found such as to require rejection; but with the exception of the side linings, which many prefer to be without, the boots are in quality equal to the pattern, with very few exceptions at all: a large portion are very superior to it."

2069. (*Chairman.*) Does anybody dispute all this?—It has been disputed in this way, that at a subsequent period when a meeting was called by the Secretary of State for war, Lord Panmure, in consequence of many complaints at the Tower, certain boots of mine were placed upon the table: they were not selected by me, but they were selected by a gentleman from the Tower, who had been appointed especially for that purpose, but he selected from one class of goods, namely, from my first supply, and the gentlemen, Mr. Davies and Mr. Burrows, who were asked to give an opinion, had given them for their guide the second pattern. I objected to that, and stated at the time that it was not fair to employ a pattern, which pattern was, I think, 9d. a pair more in price than the first pattern. It appeared to me to be unfair towards me to set those gentlemen to give an opinion upon the boots with a superior pattern. I have received a reply to the letter I have just read, but not with regard to the particulars that I have mentioned; they allowed the goods there to be supplied to the extent of 5,000 pairs. During that time I took back those that had been complained of for want of side linings: I found that the gentlemen at Weedon were constrained to reject them, because they did not approve of the pattern, so it is stated in the letter to me.

2070. (*Colonel French.*) Were the side linings any additional expense?—No; but it was done by me as a matter of judgment.

2071. (*Chairman.*) How many were rejected for not having side linings?—1,050 pairs.

2072. Under the first contract?—Yes.

2073. Did you complain of that rejection?—What I complained of was this,—that when I complained first in that first contract, they were ordered to re-inspect them themselves. The same inspectors did so re-inspect them, and they passed 489 pairs some months after they had previously rejected them.

2074. Without any alteration in the boots?—They never were away from Weedon.

2075. Were they passed by the same pattern?—Yes, and by the same individuals.

2076. Without side linings?—No; they had all side linings; it was only the first supply that had no side linings, and those were received back.

2077. The first contract was 5,000 pairs to be according to pattern, and that 5,000 had a side lining—Yes, all but 1,050 pairs.

2078. You sent 1,100 down in December, which were reported on, on the 7th of January, and all were rejected except 65?—Yes.

2079. You went down to Weedon, and then the inspectors said that they did not approve of the pattern, and you had them back; you did not complain of the

rejection of the 1,050?—No, I did not complain of that.

2080. When did you deliver the remainder of the first contract?—These are the inspection notes, (*producing the same*), the first supply went in December, 1,100.

2081. Were the 489 that were afterwards passed a portion of that 1,100?—A portion they must have been, but what portion I do not know.

2082. Did you send them back again?—I never removed them at all. My next supply was 200 pairs on the 9th of January; on the 28th of January, 500; the 31st of January, 400; the 6th of February 250; the 16th of February, 446; the 27th of February 654; the 2nd of March, 450; the 11th of April, 400; the 22nd of April, 500; the 9th of May, 100. Then came their own reinspection of what they had previously condemned of those that I have now read over. They annulled so many of those deliveries that at that time there was a considerable number standing in their stores rejected—something, I think, about 2,069 pairs besides those without the side linings. Then they examined and passed themselves 489 out of the 2,069. I then complained to Lord Panmure because I had gone to Weedon, and when at Weedon I was not very long in discovering that the two gentlemen who were there as inspectors had not been brought up to the shoe trade, and in my conversations with them I found them to be what I conceived. Though I do not wish to speak of myself, I must in this case say I found they were not so well acquainted with the nature of leather and the make of boots which I had been used to. I have been about forty years in the business, closely attending to every detail in it, and I found that one of the gentlemen had really not been in the trade at all, and I named it to Mr. Elliott at the time.

2083. You wrote to Lord Panmure and told him that the boot inspectors at Weedon were incompetent?—I did; I had in the interval entered into the second contract.

2084. When was the second contract?—The 29th of November 1856. I complained of that large amount of rejection. I went down to Weedon, and the inspectors and superintendents at Weedon took me into the stores, and it was then stated to me again in substance what had been written to the director of stores, that the boots were more than equal to pattern, but they did not approve of the pattern.

2085. Did Folkerd and Watson both say that to you?—They did at that time. Upon one of the occasions Mr. Hoile was present in the room; that is one of the other inspectors at Weedon. My correspondence with the Government goes on the same principle, and it has never once for an instant been denied, but admitted, that they made the statement which I am now making.

2086. You used the word "approved" as if the inspectors were exercising a right of judgment, as if they said, "we do not like the pattern"?—They stated that they did not approve of the pattern, and I found unfortunately that there was a very large hitch, if I may use the phrase, between the authorities at Pall Mall and the authorities at Weedon; so much so, that if I mention one fact, it will illustrate what I am now referring to. When my sealed pattern was wanted under the second contract, I applied to Sir Thomas Troubridge for the pattern.

2087. Can you give the date?—I can, because I wrote a note for it; March 3rd. Although I entered into that contract in November, it was not to commence till some time in April. On the 20th of March I find I stated, "Having entered into a contract of the date of the 29th of November," so and so, "to supply 2,000 pairs of boots per month, according to sealed pattern shown. The first supply commenced in the present month; not having yet received a duplicate pattern, I apply for it to guide me." That was asking an extension of time; and then I received that duplicate pattern. Sir Thomas Troubridge

sent for me; and I should mention that by this time a change had taken place in the arrangements, and all patterns were passed at Weedon first, and sent to London; they were selected by the men at Weedon, instead of the officials in London. Sir Thomas Troubridge then said, "They have sent a pair of boots for you here, Mr. Dowie; do you think those will suit?" I said, "That is a very superior article to the one which I have contracted to supply." Sir Thomas Troubridge said, "I think it is very superior; it appears to me that that boot is worth perhaps 2s. or 2s. 6d. a pair more."

2088. That refers to the second contract?—Yes. At that moment Mr. Elliott from Weedon happened to meet me in the lobby. He had been in town; and I said, "Sir Thomas Troubridge does not like this pattern you have sent up; they are superior to the one we have contracted for;" he replied at once, "I know it is; the fact is that Government must give a better article to the soldiers; we must have a better boot than we have had hitherto;" I said, "But we should have been shown that pattern when we entered into the contract." Sir Thomas Troubridge said, "I think they wish to be down upon you. I cannot ask you to take the pattern; I will send for some more." He showed me some that were then in the room, and seeing that they were also superior I refused them, and the ones that I did get as the sealed patterns I have in this room.

2089. Whom did you get the sealed patterns from?—From Sir Thomas Troubridge; they were sent from Weedon to Sir Thomas Troubridge, and the duplicate pattern having been sealed was given to me.

2090. What was the amount of that second contract?—2,000 a month,—a running contract; it was to be a permanent contract with three months' notice, to regulate the prices of the material, the rise and fall of the market. There was one clause in the contract which stated that the decision of the director general (it was then) of clothing would be final, and that subsequently was altered to "the decision of the Secretary of State shall be final." In consequence of my first supply going down 1,100 in number, and being all rejected, I felt somewhat vexed. I went directly to Mr. Howell, and said I was surprised to find such wholesale rejection; he said it did appear strange to him. I begged that he would give me the privilege contained in our contract, namely, a reference to the Secretary of State.

2091. You are now referring to the first contract?—Yes; Mr. Howell said, they could not give a reference, and could not appoint arbiters, as the decision of the Secretary of State for War was to be final, but he not being a bootmaker, had it in his power to send a bootmaker to guide his judgment, and the result was, that a telegraphic message was sent for fifty pairs of those very boots from Weedon. It was out of the remains of the first contract that they were sent for.

2092. The 1,100, or the 1,580?—It was out of the 1,580, fifty pairs were sent for; they were brought to London, and a bootmaker in London was sent for, I was told, although I was not present, and did not hear anything that was said; that bootmaker was the person referred to yesterday, formerly of Charing Cross, Taylor and Bowley, and it would appear that he was sent to Weedon with authority from Lord Panmure to examine all my rejections. He examined the first portion, which is the 1,580, the remains of the first supply, and out of that portion he passed 870; consequently, that left out of the first 5,000 rejected 710 pairs, in addition to the 1,050 pairs for want of side linings, which I had taken back without discussing the matter, when I found they would be rejected.

2093. Did Mr. Taylor reject the 710 pairs?—Yes; and they were sent back to me. At that time I had supplied something like 1,300 of my second contract, which had also been rejected. Mr. Taylor, it was

stated to me, was not a referee, but merely acting as the representative of the Secretary of State, and of course I was not permitted to be present while he was there, nor to ask questions. Mr. Taylor then, merely as agent of the Secretary of State, was to examine also these 1,300 pairs of the second contract, but prior to his doing that, he had been asked to give in a report upon the portion of the first contract, which he did, and having given in that report, I was then asked by the assistant-director of stores, whether I would give an undertaking to the Government respecting the second contract, so far as it had gone, that in the event of the boots not wearing equal to what they ought to do, I would subject myself to a penalty such as the Secretary of State might inflict. I stated that I was perfectly ready to do so, because I knew, from the quality of the articles, that they would give satisfaction in wear. I was then desired to name two individuals who would be guarantee for any such amount; I named two gentlemen, who were approved of as guarantees, and I was requested to call at the end of the week, when the document would be ready for their signature. Upon my going the assistant-director of stores, Mr. Ramsay, stated that they could not enter into that arrangement, as it was opening a new principle, and if they adopted it, it would not be necessary to have any inspection at all, and it was now declined, but that the inspectors at Weedon were ordered to re-inspect the boots themselves; and out of that 1,300 supplied under the second contract, which they did so reinspect after some length of time, they passed, I think, about 600 pairs which they had previously rejected themselves. The consequence was that Mr. Taylor was not allowed to go down again to examine the boots, although he had in his first instructions authority to do so. In the mean time Mr. Howell the director of contracts said, that probably they would arrange to take these boots, if they found that they were, although rejected, good boots, and it was possible they might be required, but he would let me know. However, it would appear that immediately after that, it was found, the rejections being so heavy, some of the boot manufacturers in Northampton had not replied to the tenders that had been sent out by Mr. Howell, and fearing that there was going to be something like a combination or strike, we were called together by the orders of Lord Panmure to meet Mr. Howell at the Tower, and an account of what took place at that meeting is already in evidence. (Parliamentary Paper, No. 398, Appendix 14, page 182, 1858.) And with reference to that, it was promised (and that was one thing I never could ascertain the reason for) that Mr. Taylor, who, it would appear, had given every satisfaction to the Government, had received a letter from them thanking him for his valuable services, and after he had done so,—immediately afterwards,—Mr. Taylor, who was asked to accompany Mr. Howell to Weedon to hold an inspection of the boots, was laid aside, and other two gentlemen were appointed to do so, who were highly respectable men, certainly, but not exactly in that line of business, namely, Mr. Davies, of Gracechurch Street, and Mr. Burrows. The principal thing I want to get at is that meeting at the Tower; because from the document which is now published it appears that my boots were the first boots shown. It is a very extraordinary fact, that those very boots were subsequently sold by me to a man of the highest respectability, and I have got reports from some of the regiments, showing that they gave the highest satisfaction.

2094. How many of your boots were there?—I do not know.

2095. Were you present?—I was present.

2096. Did they form a portion of the first contract or the second contract?—Those boots were from the first contract, but then they had the pattern of the second contract.

2097. Did you see them, so as to know that they came from the first contract?—I saw them when

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they were placed upon the table. I had taken some from the second contract which Mr. Howell declined to allow to be examined. The boots condemned at the Tower were a portion of the first contract, but they were examined by the pattern under the second contract. The Report, as published, is very ambiguous, because there is merely No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3, without saying in one part whose boots they are. I asked them to send me back the rejected boots. There were eighty pairs of mine, and I wrote to Weedon whether those eighty pairs were to be returned. The reply was, "that those boots were at the Tower, and when returned they will be forwarded to you;" the boots had to travel from the Tower down to Weedon, and from Weedon back to me.

2098. There were sent up from Weedon to the Tower for inspection eight specimens of rejected boots and eight specimens of passed boots?—I think you will find, unless I am very much mistaken, that the report will bear me out in saying that those were rejected boots; it states, that there were, upon the average, something like fifty per cent. that Davies and Burrow state should not have been rejected at all; but, upon the re-inspection with the inspectors from Weedon, they had reduced that number, in fact they only passed about eight or nine pairs; those were all rejected boots; I think there is no reference made to any that were previously passed.

2099. If you will look at the report, you will see that the first eight are specimens of rejected boots, the names of the parties not being given, but merely No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, &c.; and the second eight are specimens of passed boots, with the names of the parties given—among them, your own (*handing a paper to the witness*)?—I find it is so "Dowie. Inferior to all the other supplies, and they are of opinion that none exhibited should have been received." Now I can understand that, because by that time the other boots were being supplied; they were supplied under another pattern, of a better description.

2100. Do you undertake to say positively that those twenty pairs of your passed boots exhibited at the Tower were a portion of the first contract?—They were.

2101. Do you know that from looking at them at the Tower?—Yes, and I could explain the reason; I have the pattern of them here, and you will see that I could not be mistaken in the matter. I have brought the first and second pattern, and it so happens that I have changed the colour of the little back strap in my latter pattern, so that they could be distinguished. What I complained of was, Mr. Taylor not being allowed to examine into the boots that were so rejected, and as they refused to take my guarantee, I was kept out of my money for many months, and then I received the boots back, finding that they would not either take the boots or the guarantee, as they proposed. As an illustration of the fact that General Peel is satisfied that the delay in the inspections was too great, I have here a letter offering a certain sum as compensation for the delay in the inspections.

2102. In which cases?—In many of the cases; because the contract declares that the articles will be inspected within thirty days, and within so many days thereafter we shall receive payment. Instead of being thirty days, they were sometimes three or four months, which would put any contractor entirely out of his calculations. I complained, because I knew for certain, that other contractors had some of their goods passed in half the period that I had.

2103. Do you mean delay arising from the subsequent re-inspection?—Partly, and partly that they were not inspected within the period prescribed. It is only last night, I had a letter from General Peel. I had been fined 63*l.* for non-performance of my contract, that is to say, not having the goods in at the fixed time, and I complained that as I was lying out of the money to a greater extent than they were lying out of my boots for the time, I thought that they

should remit the amount. I received a letter, that they would not do that at all. Then I asked for compensation for delay in receiving my money. I asked for the 63*l.*, the amount that I had been mulcted; they offered me 20*l.* I demurred to that, and there has been a long correspondence about it, commencing on the 2nd of April 1857, ending last night.

2104. What was the end of it?—After offering me 20*l.*, last night I received a letter offering me, in consideration of the long time I have laid out of my money, 48*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* I have the cheque here for the amount of 20*l.*, which I have not yet drawn. The letter states that I may receive 48*l.* 15*s.* 8*d.* which I find to be the bank interest for lying out of the money for that time, but it was a large cruelty during the last year to have to lie out of the money in that way. Allow me to say, it does seem a little singular that Captain Gordon yesterday should have drawn attention to my boots in particular.

2105. (*Mr. Turner.*) You seem to have had more delay to encounter in getting your goods inspected than some of the other contractors?—Yes.

2106. Has any reason occurred to your own mind in any way why you are not received with quite so much favour as the others?—I do not know; I must leave others to draw their own conclusions upon that subject.

2107. Did you ever offer any fee to any of the inspectors?—Never; no consideration whatever. I might mention one fact that came under my notice when I was at Weedon in the first instance, which was, I considered, a great irregularity; some of the viewers had been working after hours for some of the contractors to the shoe trade, I named it at headquarters because I thought it imprudent; it was giving the men a bias in a way that I did not think was fair to the other contractors. Although it was smiled at at the time, I have been told that it is done away with. Whether something similar was done by all the other contractors, I do not know; I never did it. Whether I have been specially pointed out I do not know, but it is clear to me, and I have that firm conviction, that I have been marked more by the men at Weedon than any other man; there is no doubt of that because I have had more rejections. Though certainly taking it wholesale, that 80,000 pairs were rejected out of 340,000, as I think is stated by one of the witnesses, I am, probably, not very much worse off than some of them are. I have no doubt, however, from what I saw, having boots subjected to a mere inspection is no criterion that the country will get a good article. I know the fact with respect to two of the principal contractors to the Government, whose boots were lauded by the men at Weedon. I was called in to Mr. Howell's room upon one occasion by Mr. Ramsay, who asked me about the two individuals whose boots had been supplied to the guards and condemned by them in wear.

2108. (*Colonel French.*) I think you said that you had supplied two regiments of guards for eleven years?—The Fusileer Guards.

2109. Were the boots that you supplied to them of a superior quality to those that were condemned, and have been the subject of our inquiry?—No, they were not.

2110. Were they the same price?—They were a little less at that time, because we were only getting then 7*s.* 9*d.* and 8*s.* ultimately from the guards.

2111. They were not such good boots, you say?—They were not better; they were boots of a similar quality, but not better.

2112. Were they always received?—I never had a rejection or a complaint with the exception of two pairs during 11 years, and one of the committee, Colonel Brownlow Knox, who is an officer in that regiment, publicly corroborated the fact before the Committee.

2113. (*Chairman.*) Although there is nothing like the proof of wear, probably, to test a boot, still it is an awkward thing, is it not, to issue boots and only find they are bad by wear? Do you not think a previous

inspection is of some use?—I think it is, but certainly not the inspection that boots at Weedon were subject to. The whole of the pattern boots that have been brought back to me this last week have been nearly pulled to pieces. You may strain the best boot as well as the best bound book by giving it an unnecessary wrench, which was done at Weedon.

2114. Were you present at a meeting of boot-makers at the Tower on the 17th of October 1857?—I was.

2115. Is this true, "At the suggestion of Mr. Davies, Mr. Dowie's rejected boots with the sealed pattern were produced, when the whole quantity, without exception, was condemned by every member of the trade present as not only inferior to pattern, but also unfit for a soldier's use?"—I did not hear that.

2116. Did not you see the bootmakers handle and inspect your boots?—I saw some bootmakers looking at the boots placed upon the table, but I heard no such remark as that. I should mention that I went to Mr. Howell upon the subject, having seen it in print, the statement being made by Mr. Charles Elliott at the Tower, and Mr. Howell distinctly stated to me that that document had been furnished without his knowledge.

2117. How do you mean furnished without his knowledge?—In print to the Committee, and that it does not bear a correct statement of what occurred.

2118. He has himself put upon it "very fair report"?—It is very extraordinary that that remark is dated a month before the report was made.

2119. Do you suggest that that is a forgery?—I am not going to suggest that there was any forgery in the matter, but permit me to draw your attention to one fact. You will find in Mr. Elliott's subsequent examination the question is put "Did Mr. Dowie demur?" and he admits the fact that I did demur to the patterns not being there; that is not in the report.

2120. You demurred to the first pattern not being there?—Yes. The parties who were looking at my boots could form no judgment whatever upon them. I have brought the patterns and some of the boots. (*The witness produced several pairs of boots, which were examined by the Commissioners.*) Two pairs of those boots are from those which have been referred to as being sold at the Tower as unserviceable.

2121. Where did you get them from?—From Mr. Shaw, who bought 150 pairs from Mr. Levy.

2122. Has he never sold them?—No.

2123. Why not?—He did not wish to send them away to a regiment.

2124. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were these part of the 20,000 pairs that were rejected from Weedon and sold?—Yes, I believe so.*

2125. (*Chairman.*) There were 74,000 pairs sold, 20,000 of which came from Weedon, and 54,000 from the Crimea, that never were at Weedon. These boots have not the Weedon mark?—They have the Board of Ordnance mark; I am credibly informed that Mr. Levy bought 20,000 pairs at one sale, and these are a portion of those 20,000 pairs. Another party bought from Mr. Levy something like 14,000 or 15,000 pairs. I saw 10,000 or 12,000 pairs of them myself, and they seemed to be similar boots to these. I think there is one fact it is important the Commissioners should know regarding these boots; I believe the statement made by Mr. Levy is, that they were bought at 6s. 3d. a pair, which is about the highest price at the Tower sale; I believe they averaged about 5s. 5½d. Now it so happened that last week one of the buyers of goods at the Tower called at my warehouse to sell some things which I did not wish to buy, and I put this question, "How is it you can buy such excellent boots at the Tower for 6s. which cost the country 11s. 2d." His reply was, "They cost more than 6s. 6d.," and I said

"How is that?" he said "Levy paid 7s. 9d. for them," I said "It would appear not;" on which he said "I know that he did, for there was five of us that he had to pay 3d. a pair to keep us out of the market." If those boots really cost Mr. Levy 7s. 9d., of course they were worth more to the Government than 7s. 9d., while the Government is getting only 6s. 3d. for them; the loss to the country is still greater than, at first sight, it would appear.

2126. By reason of the combination?—Yes.

2127. (*Mr. Turner.*) Those five persons each got a profit of 3d., which they put in their pockets?—Yes; the Government did not get that 15d. The fact is, that they were worth to Mr. Levy 7s. 9d., and the country only got 6s. 3d.

2128. (*Chairman.*) Are you not aware that that process takes place at almost every sale by auction?—Yes; what I wish to draw attention to is this fact. If the boot was worth 7s. 9d. to Mr. Levy to sell over again, it is clear that it was worth more money to the Government, and ought never to have been sold, but ought to have been issued; they were as fit to be issued as any boot that went to Weedon; there has been some culpability or negligence that ever allowed a boot like that to be condemned to be sold.

2129. (*Mr. Turner.*) Who was the maker of those boots?—Francis Parker, of Northampton.

2130. (*Chairman.*) How did you ascertain that those boots were a portion of the boots that were condemned at Weedon?—I ascertained that fact simply because Mr. Shaw bought 150 or 200 pairs direct from Mr. Levy; Mr. Levy brought a portion of the boots before the Committee, and showed them as being a portion of what he had bought 20,000 pairs of. He showed them to Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Shaw bought them a few weeks ago. I asked Mr. Shaw to allow me to take two pairs out of the heap with me, as I wished to compare them with some I had in my warehouse, which he allowed me to do.

2131. That the boots were bought by Mr. Levy, and resold by him to Mr. Shaw, is clear; but how is it proved that those boots are a portion of the 20,000 that came from Weedon to the Tower, and not a portion of the 54,000 pairs that were not at Weedon at all?—I believe it can be clearly pointed out in this way: there were only 20,000 pairs sold upon that occasion when Mr. Levy bought them; I believe that is the state of the fact. The date of the sale, I think, is the 26th of July, and there were only 20,000 sold at that time, and, consequently, if Mr. Levy bought them, those were some of them.

2132. Who is the Mr. Parker who is reported by the assembled trade to have produced the very best boots. I observe that their remark is "admirable in every respect"?—There are two Parkers, Parker and Company and Parker and Sons. Those boots are Francis Parker's, or Parker and Sons. There used to be a firm in Northampton, but there is another person of the name of Randall who carries on the business of the late Mr. Parker of Higham Ferrars, and he also is a supplier.

2133. Who is the person who is represented by the trade as having produced "admirable boots, as good as can be manufactured"?—I presume it must be Francis Parker; my reason for thinking so is that I remember he sat next to me. He was the late Mayor of Northampton, he asked a question of Mr. Howell—it does not appear in the minutes; they put down perhaps what was of the least importance, and some of the most important things were kept out. Upon that occasion Mr. Parker asked a question of Mr. Howell, who was in the chair, whether there was any report about his boots, namely, those of Wright's patent; they are made in rather a different way from any other boots; they were tried in some regiments, and some were approved of, and some were not approved of and returned. The peculiarity is that the top is put in the boot back, and sewn between the sole and the welt. Mr. Howell remarked that there had been a very satisfactory report respecting his boots, and Mr. Parker then made the remark to me,

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* It was subsequently proved that Mr. Levy bought none of the 20,000 boots sent from Weedon to the Tower and there sold. See Question 6344.

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2134. According to Captain Gordon's evidence it appears that there are still a number of your boots at Weedon, and he intends to issue them to the militia, he says they cannot issue them to the line?—It is a pity that the Government did not carry out what they proposed to me in the first instance, to have sent those boots to various regiments, and in the event of their not giving the satisfaction which I expected they would do, and which I have every reason to believe that they would do, I would bear all the responsibility.

2135. Are you willing to do so now?—Not now, because those boots are off my hands; they have those boots.

2136. You have been paid for them?—Yes.

2137. In your opinion the only sufficient test of a boot is wear?—Yes; I have no objection at all to bear the responsibility with one proviso, and that is that I see the boots before they are issued, so that I can ascertain that they have had fair play during the time that they have been in store; if those boots have had no injustice done to them in store I am perfectly willing to let them be issued at my risk.

2138. (Mr. Turner.) Even though you have been paid for them?—Even though I have been paid for them. I am quite willing to allow them to be issued at my risk, and stand the consequences; but I know from the evidence of Robert Taylor, which is at very great length, that there is an ambiguity about those boots which I never could understand, and I think, if you will not consider me imprudent in drawing your attention to it, you will see that there is something that is rather strange about it. Mr. Taylor was stopped in his investigation, but he was not my referee, he was the representative of the Government, and he states in his evidence that having come to London to ask what he should do, he had not finished his inspection, he had not marked what he had passed and what he had rejected; he had put them in two separate heaps, with the intention upon his return to initial those that he had passed, and also to put a mark upon those he had rejected; but when he found that he was not permitted to go down again (there is a correspondence which he gives) he felt himself aggrieved, and the question in my mind is, whether they may not have sent back, and I was a little suspicious that they had sent back the boots to me that Mr. Taylor had passed, and kept the rejected ones, because there were no bad ones came back to me. If there were bad ones in the lot that was kept at Weedon, and none came back to me, what has become of the bad boots?

2139. (Chairman.) Supposing those that are kept at Weedon are worse than those sent back, is it not all the better for you?—In one way, but very much worse in another way; I would not issue boots if they were bad boots, because I consider that my reputation as a tradesman is of far more value than the worth of these boots. I have been in business for many years. I have the honour to state that the last Prime Minister and some of the present one's family I have been in the habit of supplying with goods, as well as some of the most respectable of all classes, and I would not have my reputation as a tradesman stained for a few pairs of boots.

2140. If you wish it, we will send down to Weedon, and desire that the boots may be kept, in order that we may have a further ocular inspection of them if necessary, with the opinion of some independent person?—I will take it kind if you will do so. There has been so much said about those boots already, that I think in fairness to all parties if the Commissioners were to order these boots to be retained, and as Mr. Taylor has been implicated as Lord Panmure's representative, it would be but fair if the parties were brought face to face.

2141. (Mr. Turner.) Have you about half a dozen pairs of the inferior article that you have had returned to you?—Yes.

2142. If your idea is correct that they have sent back the good boots and kept the inferior boots and placed them in store, must there not be some difference in comparison between the rejected boots and the passed boots, which you think have been returned to you?—I think there must; at all events I can produce my workman, who packed up the boots when they were sent away, and unpacked them when they returned.

2143. (Chairman.) Supposing this is the case, would you infer anything else than that the inspectors really did not know how to conduct their business?—That is my impression. I think it was a want of judgment.

2144. If it is correct that they have actually sent you the best boots and have retained the inferior ones, there either was not much judgment exercised, or they did not know what they were doing?—One or two of the very last letters that came from Weedon bear date about the time that they sent back a great many boots to me, which they stated had been previously delivered to them, and I wrote to say that I had not sent any in a second time under any circumstances. I got back a letter from the chief party, I think, Mr. Tatum, stating that he was quite satisfied in his own mind I had done nothing that was wrong, although a long report came which would make it appear that they had been previously delivered.

2145. (Mr. Turner.) Do you infer that there can have been any motive, or that it was only blundering?—My impression is simply this,—if I was to offer an opinion myself from the conversations I had with the two inspectors while I was at Weedon,—that there was a great mistake made in their selection and in their admission at all. I will mention a fact which I think it will be but fair to state to this Commission, because it was stated to me by Mr. Elliott, the chief person at Weedon. He said he was sent to Weedon, it was a place where there was no officers of any description, and he was desired to get such officers to fill up his staff as he best could. He happened, he said, to live at a tavern called "the Globe," which was kept by Mr. Watson; he stated this to me personally when at Weedon. Mr. Watson said, "Can you find a situation for a son of mine in the 'stores who is a clerk in the Grand Junction Canal Company's office in London?" Mr. Elliott asked his age, and found it was about 29, I think; he said "he is too old to be admitted as clerk, but if he knows anything about cloth or leather we could make him an inspector in one or other of those branches." Mr. Watson says, "He knows about leather; after his work was over in London, he used to go to work at the business of a shoemaker; he has made the shoes for himself and his family before now. If that is the case, Mr. Elliott, perhaps you could get him appointed." Mr. Elliott said, "Yes; I can make it all right; can you get any certificates?" Mr. Watson said, "Yes, I can;" the young man then went down to Weedon. He had some certificates, I am told, one from a French shoemaker in London, who stated, that from what he knew of him, he daresay he would be admirably fitted for being a boot inspector at Weedon. He did not say anything about his previous qualifications. Mr. Watson, I see, has stated in his evidence, that he was 11 years clerk in the Canal Company's office till four in the afternoon, and after that time he used to work in the shoe trade, yet he is reported as being 11 years a manufacturer of boots. Then Mr. Watson said to Mr. Elliott, "Would you not require another one, because there is a person a friend of mine in London, who I know would be very well fitted to be the other inspector."

2146. (Chairman.) Mr. Elliott told you all this?—Yes. The other gentleman was this Mr. Folkherd, who at that time, it would appear, was keeping what we call in common language, a grindery shop, that is, supplying materials for the workmen, thread, rosin, and cut leather, in Titchfield Street, in London. He said he was not in very good health, and he would like to have something to take him into the country.

Those two were appointed, and as soon as they were appointed, they seemed to think (from their conversation it was quite palpable), that they had the sole control of the Weedon establishment in the subject of boots, and when the boots that were then at the Tower, I think about 170,000 pairs, were sent down to Weedon to the stores, these two gentlemen considered they were totally unfit for service, and condemned them. In fact they appear to have condemned what other people had passed. Immediately afterwards Mr. Elliott stated, that he was very awkwardly placed, in addition to these inspectors, because he said he considered they had given him what he called a legacy from the Tower in what they called the viewers; and he said, of all men that the men from the Tower were the last men that he would have selected, and he was very awkwardly placed, because he saw that they did many things that were wrong, and he could not help himself.

2147. Wrong in what way?—In rejecting things that should not have been rejected, and in passing things that should not have been passed. That was referred to at the meeting at the Tower, as the reason why it sometimes happened that a shoemaker might send in shoes to-day and have them rejected, and have them passed to-morrow when he sent them in again. I never did send any myself in a second time, therefore I cannot say what they would have done in my case. I never did so, knowing that it was against the regulations.

2148. Do you know who has ever done it?—Mr. Sharman, of Wellingborough, stated to the meeting at the Tower—I do not know whether it is in his evidence—that he had sent in boots a second time, and Mr. John Gotch, of Kettering, followed upon the back of that. He stated that he had done it frequently; and then Mr. Howell stated that he felt himself rather awkwardly placed, and he said, “I did not think you gentlemen could have been ‘guilty of the like of that.’” The reply to that was, “We do not see any guilt in it; the men did not ‘know good boots from bad boots when they saw ‘them.’” That was a statement made without any hesitation.

2149. The explanation—*valeat quantum*—is, that it

Adjourned to To-morrow at 1 o'clock.

LONDON.

Friday, 30th July 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq. in the Chair.

Mr. JAMES DOWIE further examined.

2152. (*Chairman.*) In compliance with your request yesterday, we have received from the War Office copies of the letters from the inspectors of Weedon relative to the inspection of your boots. They are dated respectively the 11th of December 1856, and the 24th of January 1857; will you read those letters and then make any denial of any statement contained in them, or state any facts connected with them which you desire?—The letter dated the 11th of December 1856 is addressed by the two inspectors, Noah Watson and J. L. Folkerd, to Mr. Elliott, the superintendent of Weedon. “Sir, having examined the sealed ‘pattern transmitted by Mr. Dowie for our guidance ‘as to the supplies of 5,000 pairs boots, under order ‘Y. 19,890, we feel that, before the inspection is

is ‘impracticable for an inspector to examine every ‘article passed by the viewers under him, and he ‘was therefore only able to satisfy himself generally ‘that the stores passed had been sufficiently examined ‘mined’?—Yes, that is the explanation. Another thing showing what was the sort of iniquity practised on contractors, does not appear in the minutes of the meeting at the Tower as it should have done. Mr. Nicholls, I think, complained that about 2,000l. worth, or 2,000 pairs of police boots had been delivered at the Tower, and that he had omitted to punch the holes in them. The consequence was, that the whole of his boots were rejected, and sent back to Northampton from the Tower. That was named to the meeting at the Tower, and Mr. Howell said it certainly was very capricious and unfair towards the contractors to do so. “Why send all these goods ‘back’ (Mr. Howell said) ‘for the benefit of Pickford and Company, that they should have the ‘transmission of these goods backwards and forwards?’” Then he directed his discourse to Mr. Elliott and said, “Why did not you write to Mr. Nicholls, and he would have sent a man here and ‘had them punched.’” All that is quite out of the minutes, and some other things that rather militated against the officials. Therefore, as I stated before, that minute is not a fair representation of what occurred.

2150. It is said that some of the boots condemned at Weedon, consequently some of the boots that were sold at the Tower, went to pieces when they were put in water like brown paper?—I am quite sure that none of my boots would go like brown paper; they must be very bad boots indeed that would go like brown paper.

2151. (*Colonel French.*) Did you say that any portion of the boots that Mr. Taylor passed were afterwards rejected?—No; I said that, perhaps, they had kept the rejected boots and sent me those that had been passed. To show the treatment that I received, I did not get my money for them after Mr. Taylor had passed them. Mr. Howell wrote to Weedon demanding them to send up the return, so that I might receive my money. It did not come for weeks. I have a note here from Mr. Howell to that effect, and not until he telegraphed for the certificate.

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“proceeded with, we should be remiss of our duty if “we did not bring under your notice the very “unsatisfactory result which is likely to follow their “issue. Irrespective of the inner sole (belly) being “contrary to the terms of the specification, the principal part of the uppers are cut from the commonest “description of East India kips; the workmanship in “the sewing seam is as bad as it possibly can be, “much worse than those received from the Tower, “and the sole leather might perhaps, with care, serve “for three weeks, or at most a month’s wear. We “are bound to admit, in justice to Mr. Dowie, that “the bulk of his supply of 491 pairs in part of his “order for 5,000 is fully equal to the sealed pattern “in point of material; but we humbly beg to request

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"that we may not be held responsible for the durability of the boots if they are to be passed upon reference thereto. (Signed) Noah Watson, J. L. Folkard. P.S. The piece of sole leather, which is also sealed, being cut from a very common foreign butt, and not by any means from the prime part, *i.e.* from that part nearest the shoulder, is rather adapted for indoor wear than the rough usage to which it would be subjected." I am extremely sorry that I had not seen this letter before, for there are contained in it statements totally at variance with the fact. This was not all read to me by Mr. Ramsay; the portion that was read to me was "the bulk of his supply of 491 pairs in part of his order for 5,000, is fully equal to the sealed pattern in point of material."

2153. Do the inspectors say anything about the boots being equal to the pattern in point of workmanship?—No; they say, "we humbly beg to request that we may not be held responsible for the durability of the boots." This letter was sent to the director of stores, and a very few days after the director of clothing, who was then Sir Thomas Troubridge,—Sir Thomas having had the charge of the patterns as well as being the director of clothing,—sent for me, and requested that I would bring with me the fellow boot to the one that had been sent to Weedon for the purpose of inspecting the supply by—that is, those two boots that I had with me yesterday, and which were the sealed patterns for my first supply. I sent one of them to Weedon, and kept the other beside me to guide the workmen's directions in the supply, which boot I took with me to Sir Thomas Troubridge. On looking at it, he said, "Did I seal this boot for you? I am told at Weedon that I have sealed you a very bad pair of boots. I do not think I could be so stupid," or a phrase something to that effect. He then took the boot, and rang the bell for the keeper of the patterns to bring him the original pattern boot, the one I had being the duplicate. He then asked the pattern keeper, who, I believe was an old shoemaker and many years in the Fusilier Guards, "What do you think of this boot? Is this duplicate pattern equal to our sealed pattern?" Thomas was the man's name who was then in the place, and he said, "Mr. Dowie's boot, I think, is a finer boot than our boot, and a more expensive one, but it is not so heavy;" that I recollect was his word, "but I have no doubt it will last longer than our pattern; it is a kip boot, and our pattern is a shoe hide." Sir Thomas then said, "Well, Mr. Dowie, we will see of course that you have this given you after examination, and I have no doubt that it will be found right." I left the boot with him, and he sent it also to Weedon, and the consequence was, that I heard nothing about it for a considerable time; not until I received my first report. As you will notice, this letter was dated the 11th of December, and notwithstanding this letter, my first inspection note, which I am glad I brought with me, will show that they only passed out of 1,100 I think 65 pairs, although the letter seems to say that the bulk are about equal in material. After that, as there was no reason whatever assigned upon the first occasion of the inspection note coming to me, for their being rejected, Mr. Ramsay suggested that I should go to Weedon and know the reason. I went to Weedon some time in December or early in January, I am not quite sure which day, I could refer to it from my note at home. When I went to Weedon, I saw Mr. Elliott, and he desired the two inspectors to bring or send into his office a few of the boots that they had so rejected. In the case of one or two of those that were shown to me then, they had pulled at the heel and strained the heel merely one stitch; still it was enough to damage the boot, and they asked me whether I thought that was good work. I said to them, "That boot certainly in its present condition should not be issued." The reason was this, in taking a boot and giving it a sudden wrench the boot may be strained, but there is no human foot ever strains a

boot in that way. (*The Witness produced a pair of boots.*) This is a pattern boot that has been pulled to pieces all manner of ways the last two years, but notwithstanding that, although they say in the letter that the inner sole seam sewing will not hold together, I will undertake to have those boots put upon some one appointed by the Royal Commissioners, if they wish to have them tested. This is not a belly in-sole as stated here, it is cut from the shoulder. I am prepared at any time to prove that it is a home butt the soles are cut from; I have found home butts, although more expensive, a better article, but as they do not seem to be approved at Weedon, I have bought foreign butts since.

2154. Is that boot which you have now produced the first boot that was sent down to Weedon as a pattern one, or the one that Sir Thomas Troubridge sent down, after you had taken it back to him?—I can scarcely answer that question from the circumstance that I did not notice whether it was the right boot or the left boot that I sent down in the one case or the other. The boots are both alike in quality as nearly as I can manage to take them out. I could not make two boots exactly similar in every respect, because there are no two parts of a skin that are exactly similar in every respect. They may be equal in value, but being exactly similar in all respects is another matter. I positively say that the soles in these boots are not what are described in this letter, cut from a foreign butt.

2155. Would any practical shoemaker be able to ascertain by personal inspection from what part of the skin the sole leather was cut?—I do not think that any practical man that I have been acquainted with could tell whether this was cut from the belly or from the shoulder.

2156. Your statement upon that subject is founded upon your personal knowledge of the fact, and not from your skill or judgment?—It is from personal knowledge, otherwise I could not tell. After a boot is made it is impossible to be known. You can distinguish the leather when it is in the hide, but I certainly must say, with all my experience, having been in the trade since I was 12 years old, and I am now 55, and I do not think I have been 20 days absent from my business, that I would not undertake to tell the distinction after the boot is made up. If there had been a foreign brand we could tell, but not from the texture of the leather after the boot is made.

2157. I am not speaking of foreign butts or home butts, but whether the leather comes from the shoulder or the other part; would a practical man be able to ascertain that from inspection after the boot was made up?—Some parts he could and some parts he could not, and the cases are very rare when that would be the case.

2158. Have you any further observation to make upon the statements contained in that letter?—The only thing I can say is that as to the piece of sole leather which was the sole I had cut they are under a complete mistake as to its being cut from a foreign butt, and when called upon I shall be able to prove it. With respect to the inner sole they are completely in mistake also; the inner sole is quite in accordance with the specification, cut from the shoulder; I was particular about it. The letter states that the principal part of the uppers are cut from the commonest description of "East India kip," to that I say that they are in as grievous a mistake as ever they were in their lives. The uppers were cut from Petersburg or Cape kip; there is not a very great distinction between them, but there is a distinction.

2159. (*Mr. Turner.*) I understand you to say that you can prove that neither the soles nor the uppers are of the description of leather that the inspectors state they are?—I can bring before you my men and I can prove at any time that I had no foreign sole leather in my place, not one ounce of it. I did not use it; I have certainly since that time, because I found that they did not like a flexible sole, but they liked what

they call a hard rigid sole, which is not the best for wear.

2160. In short, I understand you to deny the various points which are stated in that letter?—Yes; I deny that they were belly in-soles. I deny that the uppers were “cut from the commonest description of East India kip,” and I say that the soles were not “cut from a very common foreign butt.”

2161. (*Chairman.*) Will you read the letter of the 24th January 1857?—“Boot Department, January 24th 1857. To J. S. Elliott, Esq. Sir, we beg to report that Mr. Dowie’s statement respecting the result of his interview with us in your presence we have little to object. We told him what we have from the first view of his supply stated, viz., that we did not consider either his boots or his sealed pattern suitable for the soldiers’ wear. If Mr. Dowie’s boots are to be passed upon reference to the sealed pattern, then we have a right to expect a complete compliance with it, and not being fully satisfied with the suitability for the service generally, to reject any such as we found differing from the pattern without going into the question of whether that deficiency had been in point of value made up by some other good points in the boot. As a whole, we consider the bulk of Mr. Dowie’s supply equal in point of value to his sealed pattern, but a large proportion being different from it, and not equal to what we consider fit for the service, it appears to us that we have acted properly in rejecting them. (Signed) N. Watson, J. L. Folkerd.” Perhaps the Commissioners will permit me to make one simple explanation. The principal reason for the boots being rejected was, that the sewing in the inner lining was not so closely done as the pattern, and in consequence of that a great portion of the boots were rejected, although it was suggested that if I had stabbed them through, which they are now doing with all the boots, that would have remedied the defect. They said in one of the interviews that I had with them, that in ordinary circumstances if they had liked the pattern they would not have objected to the supply as they were. I have it on record, that that was their statement: but not liking the pattern, there is this peculiar distinction made in the correspondence, whether it is exactly similar to the pattern in all respects, or whether it is inferior to the pattern. With regard to the latter part of the letter, the question arises whether they are to be the judges of the pattern, or the gentlemen whom the Crown have appointed for the purpose of fixing that pattern.

2162. Do not you see that there is a distinction between not liking the pattern and rejecting the boots on that ground, and rejecting the boots because they were not in compliance with the pattern?—Yes, I see that.

2163. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is not this the state of the case? You had a sealed pattern sent to you which was not a good pattern as they say, and not liking the pattern they were more rigid with regard to the boots exactly coming up to the pattern than otherwise perhaps they would have been, had the pattern been an approved pattern, and you suffer, therefore, from their over strictness in examining your boots?—Allow me just to recall to your recollection the letter which I read yesterday, stating that if they did not approve of that pattern I was willing to have another pattern given me, similar to what the men at Weedon were then issuing to the other contractors, but the authorities in London took no notice of that, but suffered me to go on with the present pattern and rejecting the boots as I went along. The clause of the letter is this “For the remaining portion of the present contract I have no objection to receive other patterns from Weedon as my guide.” I might mention, for the sake of information, that by this time the two inspectors at Weedon, together with Mr. Elliott, had got, through their influence, the selection of the pattern boots at Weedon, and they sent them

to Sir Thomas Troubridge for him to seal, so that they managed by that means to take that portion of the business out of Sir Thomas’s hands in the selection of the boots.

2164. You mean that they offered a pattern to Sir Thomas Troubridge, which he might seal or not as he pleased?—Certainly; but they had the selection of the patterns. It was stated to me afterwards by one of the authorities that that was caused in consequence of the sealed patterns not being approved of by the men at Weedon. I go on to state, “I have no objection to receive other patterns from Weedon as my guide, which being more expensive I will, of course, expect the same price as is now paid to other contractors.” I never received a reply to that letter at all.

2165. In making contracts with the Government, is not the decision of the inspectors final?—There is a clause that the decision of the director of stores in the first instance, and then ultimately of the Secretary of State for War shall be final, and then it is presumed that if his servants at Weedon do not do what is correct, he has the power either by himself, or, as in the case of Mr. Taylor, exercising the judgment of some other person to guide him in coming to a conclusion. While I certainly objected to those boots being rejected for want of a side lining, I waived that in the end, because they were not exactly similar to the pattern; but the extraordinary thing is their own language in reference to it, where they draw a line of distinction between the one and the other. I have a letter from the War Office in which this passage occurs; “His Lordship is pleased to sanction the receipt into store of such of those boots as have side linings, and are otherwise not inferior to pattern.”

2166. Is not the transaction with respect to those boots analogous to a transaction in business, where a large quantity of goods have been sold according to pattern, and there has been a fall of something like 10 or 15 per cent. in the value of the goods before they are delivered; the party receiving them is far more rigid in his examination to ascertain that they are quite perfect, than he is when there has been a rise in the market. The inspectors at Weedon did not approve of the pattern; they found that they had done wrong with regard to the pattern, and therefore they were more rigid in requiring that every pair of boots should be up to the mark; do not you think that affords some explanation, and that the boots were rejected not so much from a desire to do you a wrong, as from a desire not to have anything but what was first rate, if they were obliged to have that pattern at all?—I would not have complained of it, if I had seen the same thing done with others.

2167. (*Colonel French.*) I understood you to state yesterday that the boots which were rejected were ultimately ordered by Lord Panmure to be returned into store?—Not all of them; a portion were ordered by Lord Panmure to be received into store that were not inferior to the pattern, and upon that about some 500 pairs which had been rejected were received by themselves after the lapse of some three or four months.

2168. (*Chairman.*) By Lord Panmure’s special directions?—Yes; that letter of Lord Panmure’s is neither more nor less than the terms of the contract, if they are not inferior to pattern.

2169. We have not Lord Panmure’s letter before us, but, assuming it to be as you state, can you draw any inference from Lord Panmure’s letter except that as an act of grace he directed a relaxation of the rigidity with which the inspectors had acted?—I do not see in what respect it was, looking to the terms and conditions of the contract.

2170. (*Colonel French.*) Did not you state to the Commissioners that the boots which were ultimately rejected you afterwards sold, and they were re-sold to the Government again?—Yes.

LONDON.

Mr. J. Dowie.

30 July 1858.

LONDON.

Mr. J. Dowie.

30 July 1858.

2171. (*Chairman.*) Although the Government had to pay for them, they were not purchased by the Government direct, but they were all purchased by colonels of militia regiments, were they not?—They were purchased by militia colonels having power from the Government to purchase those supplies; they were subjected to regimental inspection. The colonels did not pay for the boots directly; the money was paid by the Paymaster-General upon an order signed by the colonel.

2172. Is there anything else that you wish to state?—Respecting my boots that are at Weedon now, when the opportunity comes of the Commissioners being at Weedon, I should certainly feel exceedingly obliged if I could be present to see the boots, leaving them where they are till then; and then there will be an opportunity of going further into the matter. I do not mean simply with respect to my boots, but the question about boots generally.

2173. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you since yesterday ascertained that you can produce some few pairs of the boots which were returned to you?—I have brought some of them to-day.

2174. I understood you to say that your impression was that the approved boots were returned, and the rejected boots retained at Weedon. By a comparison of the boots at Weedon with the boots which were returned to you that question can be determined?—I said I could not account for it in any other shape, if the boots are so bad at Weedon that they could not

be issued at all. Those that were sent back to me could have been issued.

2175. As a matter of opinion, supposing as a tradesman you had an order to make 5,000 pairs of boots according to a certain pattern, and the price was fixed at 10s. a pair, and you were told to make the best pair of boots you could according to that pattern for 10s., and the Government were also to give a similar order to some other equally eminent manufacturer of boots with yourself, and the test should be, whether Mr. Dowie or some one else produced the best article for the money, and that the maker of the best boots should have the preference in the next extended order, would not that put you upon the *qui vive* fully as much as the present system?—I am very pleased to say that that is exactly my proposal. You have completely acquiesced in my view if that be your view.

2176. Would it in your opinion be a good or a bad plan of operation?—It is the plan put in print by the Contracts' Committee in Appendix to my examination. (*See Parliamentary Paper, No. 328, 1858, p. 459.*)

2177. Then you approve of it?—Yes: only instead of restricting it to two or three, I suggested, for various reasons, that there should not be less than 20. My reason for extending the number was simply that in case of an emergency arising there would be a greater facility for obtaining an additional supply.

Adjourned.

LONDON.

Tuesday, 21st September 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq. in the Chair.

MR. CORNELIUS BONNEAU further examined.

LONDON.

Mr. C. Bonneau.

21 Sept. 1858.

2178. (*Chairman.*) Since you were examined on the 28th of July, what progress has been made in the preparation of the ledgers? First as to the ledger which terminates March the 31st, 1857?—The ledger itself, so far as the actual entries of receipt and issue are concerned, has been thoroughly examined, with the exception of some few items, which we shall have no difficulty in settling.

2179. Do you mean examined with the vouchers?—Yes; in some few instances there are vouchers wanting, but those we shall get: they are vouchers for issues to regiments. There will be no difficulty whatever in getting them; we shall write to the regiments; and get either the vouchers or certified copies.

2180. Have you written to the regiments for those vouchers?—We have not.

2181. Why not?—We shall do so as soon as we get Commissary-General Carpenter's abstract of payments on behalf of Weedon stores.

2182. Who is Commissary-General Carpenter?—He is the Commissary-General who is now engaged at Pall Mall in preparing an abstract from certain books and vouchers of the payment for stores for Weedon.

2183. Have you had any report from him yet?—No; we shall get the paper itself in the course of next week. I saw Commissary-General Carpenter myself two days ago, and he is busily engaged in preparing it.

2184. Having from him a list of the payments

which have been made, by comparing that list with the ledger shall you be enabled to see whether any vouchers are missing?—We shall be enabled to see whether the stores which have been paid for have been brought on charge, to a certain extent.

2185. When may we expect the result?—I do not think I could promise anything satisfactorily till the ledger up to the 14th of May 1858 has been examined.

2186. Is that second ledger the one upon which Commissary-General Adams is now engaged?—Yes.

2187. Can you state when his labours are likely to be brought to a conclusion?—I have no doubt we shall be able to get it in a month or five weeks at the very outside from this time. It contains, as I understand, about 25,000 vouchers; it is a very heavy ledger.

2188. Is the ledger which you have already examined in such a state, and have you done with it so far, that it can be submitted to our accountant?—It can at once, within a couple of days.

2189. The Commissioners have fixed upon an accountant, who who will be here to-morrow. Can the ledger be handed to him for examination then?—I will undertake to hand it over to him on Friday morning.

2190. (*Mr. Turner.*) With the vouchers?—Yes.

2191. (*Chairman.*) At Pall Mall?—Yes. There is a great mass of papers.

2192. You stated, when you were examined before,

that there were some 60 or 70 discrepancies between the vouchers and the entries in the ledger ending March 1857?—We have cleared certainly the half of them up.

2193. Are the others trifling?—Very trifling indeed.

2194. Are they such as would in your opinion occur in any ledger?—Yes; in any ledger of the smallest stations.

2195. What number of entries may there be in that ledger?—5,400, I believe: some few vouchers are wanting, which we have written for and obtained. We have the actual vouchers now in the building.

2196. Were the vouchers sent up to you from Weedon in order?—They were in bundles numerically placed.

2197. Have you any means of knowing whether those vouchers have been in disorder, and were afterwards put in order, or whether they were sent up in the state in which they were filed?—I believe they have been in disorder, for they bear two sets of numbers.

2198. (*Mr. Turner.*) When you were examined six weeks ago, and produced the ledger, you stated that there were only about 70 items in which there were discrepancies in the ledger?—Yes.

2199. What has prevented you, in six weeks, from finishing the examination of the ledger completely, so that we could hand it over to our accountant?—We are waiting for the statement which we expect to receive from Commissary-General Carpenter of the sums paid for stores on account of the Weedon establishment.

2200. I understood you in your former examination to state that you had examined the ledger with the vouchers from Weedon?—Simply with the store vouchers; not vouchers for payment.

2201. Now your difficulty is to check the ledger with the actual payments made to contractors; is that the case?—Yes; that is the real difficulty.

2202. Then there may be errors in those vouchers which you cannot clear up until you know what you have actually paid at the War Office?—Exactly.

2203. Therefore the accuracy of that ledger is unascertained until you have so checked it?—Yes, it is.

2204. It may be full of errors, may it not?—It may have errors in it.

MR. ANTHONY GEORGE WATTHMAN examined.

2215. (*Chairman.*) Are you manager of the house of John Pollard and Company?—Yes.

2216. What are they?—They are army cloth merchants.

2217. Where is your establishment?—At Halifax.

2218. Anywhere else?—Yes; we have a house in London.

2219. How long has their house been engaged in that business?—I cannot say positively, but I should say something near 50 years. The house is a very old one. Colonel Pollard is the head of it.

2220. How long have you been their manager?—Four years.

2221. Have they been long established contractors with the Government?—For a very long period.

2222. Before the new system as well as under the new system?—Yes.

2223. What did your house furnish to the Government before the new system commenced?—They furnished to the clothiers principally, as well as to the Government, all kinds of cloth used by the service.

2224. Was the cloth furnished direct to the Government?—Both direct to the Government and to the clothiers.

2225. Are you cognizant of the transactions of your house before the new system?—I think about the time I joined them was when the change of system took place.

2205. Is it not open to any number of errors until you know that you have paid the money, and no more than the money, that those vouchers exhibit?—Yes.

2206. (*Chairman.*) Can that be finally ascertained until you have made up the second ledger?—Not until the ledger is made up to the 12th or 14th of May last; up to the time when the stock was counted.

2207. (*Mr. Turner.*) It strikes me that we have not made much progress since we were here before?—We have done everything which appertains to our portion of the business. We are simply waiting for other documents.

2208. (*Chairman.*) It was stated that the regiments would be written to to furnish their accounts of goods received and goods returned; has that been done?—I think you will find in the evidence, that Commissary-General Adams or Captain Gordon promised to do that with regard to the ledger which is now in preparation.

2209. Has it been done with regard to the ledger of which you were speaking?—We do not require it, except in three or four cases, and in those cases we shall do it this next week.

2210. You do not require to communicate with the regiments, because the documents are complete?—Yes; we have the documents, with the above exceptions.

2211. (*Mr. Turner.*) On the debit side of the ledger your difficulty is that you have not yet been able to check the entries with the amounts paid at the War Office?—Exactly.

2212. And your difficulty on the credit side of the ledger is, that you have not yet ascertained from the documents that supplies have been received by the regiments exactly corresponding with the entries on the credit side of the ledger?—We have all our issue notes, with the exception of some half dozen, perhaps. The remark you have now made applies to the ledger in preparation, and not to the one examined.

2213. Are you perfectly satisfied with the ledger which you undertake to present on Friday for examination, so far as the issue department is concerned, that is, the credit side of the ledger?—Quite.

2214. But I understand that you are not satisfied with the debit side of that ledger, because you have not checked the payments with the entries?—Exactly.

2226. Are your contracts as extensive since the new system was established as they were before?—Quite so.

2227. Have you delivered large quantities of cloth to Weedon from the time of its establishment?—We have.

2228. Has the majority of your supply been to Weedon?—Chiefly to Weedon.

2229. I presume you are cognizant of the system of inspection which has been pursued at Weedon?—I am.

2230. Have you ever personally attended at Weedon at the inspection?—I have.

2231. By whom has your cloth been inspected?—Mr. Hoile I suppose was the chief inspector.

2232. Who was under him?—Under him there was Mr. Hebdon and Mr. Mallett, I think, in the dark-coloured cloth room; they were in separate rooms.

2233. Have you had, from the time you began to deliver cloth at Weedon to the present time, any reason to complain of undue severity in the tests applied to your cloth?—We have thought the inspection has been too rigid, frequently.

2234. Can you tell us what amount of rejections from the quantities supplied by you have taken place?—I have prepared a memorandum of the various contracts, which will give the Commissioners that information.

LONDON.

Mr. C. Bonneau

21 Sept. 1858.

Mr. A. G. Waithman.

LONDON.

Mr. A. G.
Waithman.

21 Sept. 1858.

The following paper was delivered in :

CONTRACT.	Supplied.	Rejected.	Approved.	Allowed.
<i>Dated—</i>				
19th July 1856. Scarlet Foot Guards 11,000.	12,246	3,661½	7,870½	241½
Order 7th Aug. 1856. Oxford Grey.	26,609½	10,733½	15,726½	150½
4th Nov. 1856. 60,000 yards Tunic Cloth Red Drummers.	62,576	2,092	60,000	484
19th Nov. 1856. Rifle Tunic 10,000.	12,053½	1,932½	9,862½	257½
7th Aug. 1857. 60,000 yards Tunic Cloth Red Drummers.	67,263	6,496½	60,000	766½
27th Oct. 1857 and 9th Nov. 1857. 22,300 Kersey Rifle Pri- vates.	30,725½	8,434½	22,145½	194½
4th Nov. 1857. 17,200 yards Kersey Ox- ford Privates.	24,447½	7,414½	16,902½	160½
17th Nov. 1857. 25,000 yards Tunic Cloth Red Drummers.	9,661½	4,062½	5,448½	150

(*Witness.*) The yards rejected, as stated in column No. 2, were those rejected at the first inspection. Ultimately the defects complained of were in most cases removed by us, and the greater portion of the cloth was passed. I cannot give the precise quantity ultimately rejected, but it was very small.

2235. What is the meaning of "allowed" at the end of your memorandum?—It is the amount taken for damages, narrow widths, &c., which always will occur in lighter coloured cloths.

2236. Allowed to whom?—It is the allowance taken off. If there is a hole in the cloth, they take a quarter or an eighth of a yard, and the same if there is a dirty spot; that is the amount of allowance claimed by the inspectors to cover damage in places.

2237. (*Mr. Turner.*) That would be an allowance from the amount approved?—No.

2238. (*Chairman.*) Are those quantities which are allowed paid for?—No; they are deducted from the number of yards.

2239. (*Mr. Turner.*) Here is an item of 62,576 yards supplied; out of that quantity 2,092 yards were rejected, and to balance the amount there would have been 60,484 yards received, but they make you take off the 484 yards, and only credit you with 60,000 yards; is that so?—Yes.

2240. (*Chairman.*) The contract was for 60,000 yards?—Yes.

2241. (*Mr. Turner.*) What became of the 484 yards which you say were allowed?—That additional length would be taken over what was paid for, and the Government would receive 60,484 yards, and pay for 60,000 yards.

2242. You do not know what amount they would debit themselves with in the ledger?—No; I know that I only got paid for 60,000 yards.

2243. Whereas you actually delivered 60,484?—Yes; which 484 yards are supposed to be allowed to the clothiers. In taking away the cloth to make up into garments, wherever a damage occurs in the piece a string is put in, and a calculation is made of the damages in each piece by how many strings there are in the piece.

2244. (*Colonel French.*) Do you make the same allowance to clothiers?—We should make the same allowance; we should inspect the cloth, and string it in the same way as is done at Weedon.

2245. Was the mode of inspection at Weedon the same as would be pursued by a clothier?—I do not know that we should adopt precisely the same system. I do not think we should be so rigid in our inspection as they have been.

2246. (*Chairman.*) Whether you were furnishing cloth to the Government at Weedon or a clothier in general, there would be an allowance for the blemishes

that occurred in the pieces?—A similar amount of allowance would be claimed by each party.

2247. Can you refer to any cases in which you think there was undue severity in the inspection of your goods at Weedon?—The second case on my memorandum was the first we had to complain of; it was Oxford grey cloth. There was 10,000 odd yards rejected. I think it was the first item we sent to Weedon.

2248. The first item on your paper is the one about which there has been a good deal of discussion, namely, scarlet cloth for the Guards?—Yes; I think you will find some of the Oxford cloth went in before the scarlet for the Foot Guards was delivered.

2249. I do not propose to take you in detail through that case, but there was a failure in the dye, was not there?—No; not a failure in the dye. An accident occurred from not being able to keep the cloth clean during the process of dyeing. The dye was more perfect than any dye before brought into store; at least it was so considered.

2250. Had you any reason to complain of the rejection in that case?—Certainly not of the rejection, because the goods that were sent back were imperfect.

2251. Was that the case in which Messrs. Isaac had a supplemental contract?—Yes; and we paid the difference.

2252. Had you any reason to complain of the rejection of the cloth in that instance?—No; the only complaint was this:—A specification was issued requiring the cloth to be dyed through and through, which had never been done before, compelling us to go to a great expense to obtain the necessary machinery. The time given was short. We did not complete the contract, and we were fined—we considered—severely, because the specification itself was such as had never been brought out or acted up to. We had no right, we thought, to be fined, under the circumstances. As far as regards the rejection of the cloth for being damaged, there is no doubt it was perfectly right.

2253. Were the fines actually enforced?—Yes, they were actually enforced.

2254. To what amount?—The total amount of the fine was 511*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*, from which we got a return of 70*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, leaving 440*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*, and that included the fine also upon some rifle tunic cloth that was undelivered at the time. That was the amount they took from our invoice.

2255. Although it may have been hard upon you as individuals, do you think it was necessary, looking to the public service, to reject that cloth?—Certainly. The only thing that they might have done was what we prayed for, namely, that it should be taken at an extra amount of allowance.

2256. I gather from the evidence taken before the Contracts' Committee, that that fine was not enforced till the present year. Is that so?—It was deducted from an invoice of the 16th December 1856, about a year afterwards.

2257. Are there any other rejections in which you think you were treated with undue severity?—I consider we were in the case of that Oxford grey cloth.

2258. You have had eight contracts in all?—Yes.

2259. In the second you think there was undue severity in the inspection?—Yes.

2260. In what respect?—When the cloth was sent in to the stores we considered it perfectly marketable cloth, and it was rejected for various faults that were then described, which we did not consider really existed. We considered that the cloth was proper cloth, such as we should deliver to any manufacturer to cut up; and they rejected 10,000 yards of it, simply for not being properly finished. I believe that was the term used.

2261. Is not that a fault that may be remedied after the cloth is returned?—The goods were returned, and we had them to re-finish.

2262. The alleged defect was remedied, and the cloth was subsequently taken back?—Yes, quite so.

2263. (*Colonel French.*) Was there any loss to your house?—There was the loss of time, and the loss of the carriage of the goods from Weedon to Halifax, re-finishing them, and the carriage back to Weedon.

2264. The cloth could be made use of?—The cloth was as good as before.

2265. (*Chairman.*) The cloth was finally received?—Yes.

2266. (*Colonel French.*) Would a clothier have rejected that cloth?—I should say certainly not.

2267. Had you any similar rejections of cloth when you supplied it under the old system?—Never, to any such extent.

2268. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have spoken of the hardship of the new system of inspection at Weedon as occurring chiefly with the first two contracts; have you had less difficulty with subsequent contracts?—No; we are quite as badly off now as we were then; in fact the whole of the inspection, if you ask for a general opinion, we consider too rigid.

2269. Were you admitted into the room when the cloth was inspected?—I went down to Weedon when the rejection had taken place, to get an explanation, and I was permitted to go into the room, having received a certificate from Mr. Elliott, who was there.

2270. With whom did you chiefly communicate?—With Mr. Elliott and Mr. Hoile.

2271. Not with Hebdon and Mallett?—I had no communication with them, except to hear their opinion upon the cloth.

2272. (*Colonel French.*) Are you now supplying the Government or contractors?—We are supplying both at present.

2273. (*Chairman.*) You think that the power of rejection has been exercised with too great severity at Weedon?—I have examined all the goods that have been rejected, and I have considered in many instances that there was no just cause of rejection.

2274. In the first case the red cloth was permanently returned to you?—Some portion of it.

2275. In the second case the defect was remedied, and the cloth subsequently passed?—Yes.

2276. Were there any cases in which the defects pointed out were irremediable, or were they all removed by you?—Frequently we have received red cloth back which had got dirty or damaged, and we have not been able to do anything with it.

2277. Does "rejected" mean rejected for some defect which you afterwards remedied, or final and permanent rejection?—A great many goods would be returned that were not final rejections; those of the goods that were capable of being re-finished and amended were done so, and sent in again.

2278. Have you had goods returned without a specific reason for their being sent back?—We have a mark sometimes upon the ticket. Frequently it is not so, which leaves us at a loss to know why the goods are rejected.

2279. Have you ever in your contracts sent in rejected goods again without alteration?—Never.

2280. Perhaps you would consider it a breach of faith to do so?—We should consider that a piece would necessarily require re-finishing before going into store.

2281. You never thought the rejection so frivolous, or presumed that the rejection arose from non-examination, so that it might be safe to send in the same goods unaltered?—I have frequently seen goods come back, and I have failed to discover what was the matter with them. I have had them re-finished, and sent them in again.

2282. What is re-finishing?—Putting them in the press again.

2283. You have never sent goods back in exactly the same state that they were returned to you?—I am not aware of anything of that sort having been done.

2284. (*Mr. Turner.*) When goods have been sent to you without any mention on the ticket of the cause of rejection, have you, on various occasions, contented yourself with re-making them up, giving them an extra pressing, and sending them back again?—In most cases we have sent them back to the dyers, and had them re-dyed or washed, presuming that there might be defects in the colouring or in some other way, and then they have been sent in again.

2285. Have they then been passed?—Frequently.

2286. Have there been instances in which you have not sent the goods to the dyehouse again, but treated them as perfect goods?—I should say very few instances; there may have been instances of the kind of a piece or two.

2287. I understand you to say that there have only been one or two instances in which the goods have not been re-dyed?—Very few instances.

2288. (*Chairman.*) Whether you were told the cause of rejection or not, you presumed that the objection arose from some defect of the dye?—From being short of colour, or something of that sort.

2289. Are you still under contract?—Yes.

2290. Do you still think that the inspection, taking the last six months, for instance, is too rigid?—We do.

2291. (*Mr. Turner.*) Being liable to an over-rigid inspection, as you think, and that being a great evil to you, in making your contract do you not consider that you should take into account your liability to extra trouble and expense from over-nicety of examination, and charge accordingly?—Of course we put on such a profit as we suppose will pay us.

2292. In order to meet this extra rigidity of inspection?—No; competition will hardly allow us to do that; it comes off the profit afterwards.

2293. Do not those who compete with you know that they will have the same difficulties to contend with?—Quite so.

2294. And do not they put on an extra price in consequence?—We work our business on a certain standard, and just take the risk.

2295. Suppose that you are sending goods to two houses, and with one house you expect to have great difficulty, trouble, and expense when you send in your goods, and by the other house you expect to be fairly treated as between one merchant and another, and that you are not liable to those frivolous objections; would you quote as low a price to the first house as you would to the other house?—Certainly not.

2296. Would not you put an extra price on to those who treated you with severity, and subjected you to extra expense?—Where it can be demonstrated and anticipated, certainly.

2297. (*Chairman.*) Supposing competition in the first case and not in the second,—if, notwithstanding the rigidity of the inspection, you could still make a profit, though a small one, would it then raise your price?—You must value the chance at what it is worth, and put the price on accordingly.

2298. (*Colonel French.*) Are the conditions the same with the Government as with contractors as to price?—No; between the clothier and the merchant it is of course a question of bargain; between the clothier and the Government it is a question of contract; you have to tender, and you take your chance amongst the rest.

2299. (*Chairman.*) Clothiers do not usually issue tenders for competition, as the Government do, I believe?—No.

2300. We have heard something of shoddy. Is shoddy ever used in your establishment at all?—We are not manufacturers; we are simply merchants.

2301. Who are the main manufacturers?—We have a great many.

2302. Have you sufficient practical experience to know when a certain amount of shoddy is in cloth?—It is a difficult matter to tell.

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2303. Can you say whether any of the cloth furnished by you to the Government has had shoddy in it?—I do not know; I should say not.

2304. You believe not?—I believe not; but of course, not being a manufacturer, I cannot say.

2305. Is there a machine for detecting shoddy?—I never heard of such a thing.

2306. For testing the strength of cloth in which shoddy is an ingredient?—Yes; there is such a machine.

2307. Have you ever seen that machine?—Yes.

2308. Have you one?—Yes.

2309. (Mr. Turner.) Who was the inventor of it?

—Mr. Hebdon, the inspector at Weedon.

2310. What does it cost?—I think I paid him 30*l.* for it.

2311. Is it a patent?—I think it is.

2312. Is it in extensive use?—I do not know; I have seen several in the district.

2313. When did you buy yours?—I think 12 or 18 months ago.

2314. Do you use it regularly?—I frequently use it for testing the strength of samples.

2315. Do you attach much importance to it?—No.

2316. You do not consider it an essential instrument in a cloth establishment?—No. In the hands of a man who understands cloth it is a useful instrument, but it will do more harm than good in the hands of an improper party.

2317. (Chairman.) Do you in point of fact use it?—Occasionally.

2318. For the purpose of testing the strength of cloth?—Simply to see what strain the cloth will bear.

2319. Is it part of your contract with the Government that there shall be no shoddy or any material except wool in your cloth?—That is in most of the specifications.

2320. Do not you know of your own knowledge whether shoddy is used or not?—No.

2321. Or cotton?—Cotton we could not use, I apprehend.

2322. Not in cloth?—I should say not; cotton would not take the same dye as woollen cloth. I never saw any cotton used, except what might come out of the sewing of a wool bag.

2323. Notwithstanding the rigidness of the inspection, are you willing to go on contracting with the Government under the present system?—We have an establishment and a staff so thoroughly engaged in the trade that we are compelled to follow it; we cannot easily turn our attention into other channels.

2324. So far as your judgment goes, whatever may be the hardships on your and similar houses, do you think that the public service has suffered from the rigidness of the inspection at Weedon?—I should say not.

2325. Have you ever had any reason to suppose that there has been undue laxity in passing your goods?—I have never seen it.

2326. Or the goods of other persons?—No.

2327. To revert for a moment to that Oxford grey; do you know, of your own knowledge, what became of it?—I do not.

2328. You do not know whether it was issued?—I do not.

2329. (Colonel French.) Is the cloth which you now supply of a superior quality to what was supplied under the old system?—It is the same quality that has been existing now for two years.

2330. Is the cloth superior to what it was under the old system?—Quite so; it is very much more valuable.

2331. (Chairman.) Does that arise from the standard pattern being better?—Yes; under the old system the army cloth was worth about 5*s.* 6*d.* a yard, and the present cloth is worth 8*s.* 6*d.*; therefore there is a difference of 3*s.* a yard in the value of it,

2332. Does that difference of value arise exclusively from the superiority of the pattern, or is it attributable to greater severity in the inspection?—It is simply attributable to the increased value of the material used, and the difference in the make.

2333. (Mr. Turner.) Have you many competitors in these contracts?—A great many.

2334. Do you generally succeed in getting the contract?—We have not been very fortunate lately.

2335. Who has generally succeeded in the competition with you?—I do not know.

2336. (Chairman.) Are you aware of the general rule, that unless any special reason exists the lowest tender is accepted?—That we understand to be the fact.

2337. Did you ever hear of any deviation from it?—I never did.

2338. (Mr. Turner.) The lowest tender being generally accepted, of course you are very careful in making your offer to go as low as you can?—Quite so.

2339. And you sail very near the wind as to the quality?—Quite so.

2340. Do not you sometimes send in a low tender, making the quality low accordingly, and trust to finish or some other part of the business to make an article pass which may not be quite up to the pattern?—Certainly not; we value the pattern to the best of our knowledge, and put a price upon it, such as we think will make it up to the standard.

2341. In the case where your goods were replaced by Messrs. Isaac, do you know what difference was paid which you had to bear the cost of?—16*d.* per yard.

2342. Either Isaac must have made a very large profit on their 10*s.* 4*d.*, compared with you on your 9*s.*, or you must have given an extraordinary low price?—Quite so.

2343. Is there fairly in the trade a margin of 1*s.* 4*d.* a yard?—No.

2344. (Chairman.) In that case, your goods having a fault in them, were not the Government obliged to go into the market, and buy the first thing they could get?—Yes; and they had to pay a higher price.

2345. (Mr. Turner.) You do not think the Messrs. Isaac would have got 10*s.* 4*d.* in competition?—Certainly not.

2346. (Chairman.) Do you know how it was obtained?—I do not know whether it was tendered for or not.

2347. Messrs. Isaac say that they had for that very contract tendered at 10*s.* 4*d.* In consequence of your tender being the lowest, they were thrown out, and you got it. You failed about the dyeing, and then, in time of need, the Government went to them, and were obliged to pay them the price at which they had tendered?—Quite so.

2348. Have any of the Weedon officials, Mr. Elliott or any of his subordinates, ever been down to your district?—I never saw any one of them, excepting Mr. Hebdon.

2349. Did he come about his machine?—Yes.

2350. Was he successful?—I do not know. We live quite away from the district.

2351. Did you purchase the machine, or Colonel Pollard?—I purchased it.

2352. I suppose these details are left very much to you?—Yes; I had the consent of Colonel Pollard, of course.

2353. (Mr. Turner.) Did Hebdon say that he was successful generally in the district in selling his machines?—No.

2354. (Chairman.) Did he stay with you at all?—No.

2355. (Mr. Turner.) Do you know whether other contractors use the shoddy machine?—I do not know. I have seen one or two.

2356. Is it used generally in the trade?—I do not know.

2357. (Chairman.) Are you now furnishing cloth to contractors?—We are.

2358. Is it a portion of your contract with them that the cloth which you furnish to them shall pass inspection?—Yes.

2359. Have you had any instance in which the cloth so furnished to contractors has failed to pass inspection?—Not that I am aware of.

2360. All the rejections have been of cloth furnished direct by yourselves to Weedon?—We are only just commencing the deliveries upon the new system to the clothiers; scarcely sufficient time has elapsed to prove how it may be.

2361. Do you think, in consequence of the rejections you have spoken of, that you have been of late more careful, if possible, to send in an article which shall not be subjected to that slight?—We endeavour to send in such goods as will not be returned, in order to save expense.

2362. Do you think you are additionally cautious?—We are more careful than we have ever been.

2363. Can you suggest any practical alteration in the mode of inspection which would promote the public service?—I have but one idea about it, and that is that a party should be appointed over the viewers and inspectors, who should decide, in any case of dispute between the merchant and the inspector, so that goods should not be sent back in the way in which they are sent back from Weedon, without appeal. To obtain that appeal you must have some man who understands cloth thoroughly, and a man who should be well paid.

2364. And independent of the Government?—No; I do not say that he should be independent of the Government.

2365. You mean a Government official?—Yes.

2366. Some one of a higher station than the inspector's?—Yes; a man of thoroughly practical knowledge. I would have such a person appointed, for this reason;—If you take 100 pieces of cloth of the low quality of goods they are using for trousers for the line, it is impossible to make those pieces exactly the same as if they were stamped sovereigns; and an inspector, having only a certain form to refer to, is justified in rejecting everything that is not up to the standard; but a man, understanding what is right between the maker and the consumer, would be able to say whether that cloth was perfectly fit for the service. I apprehend that no such officer at present exists.

2367. Would you give to such an officer as you describe the power of dealing equitably between the maker and the inspector, and of deviating to some slight extent from the patterns?—I do not ask for any deviation from the pattern, absolutely; what I wish is, that you should not expect a man to send goods in just like stamped sovereigns, when it is perfectly impossible, as to width, weight, or what not. I think the same freedom should exist between the Government and the merchant as would exist between a clothier and a merchant.

2368. In your opinion, if things are substantially as good as the pattern, in the judgment of the officer, they should not be rejected because they are not literally and exactly the same?—Quite so. If the party sending in the goods is a responsible man, and able to guarantee the wear of his cloth afterwards.

2369. (*Mr. Turner.*) I presume you would adopt

that principle in purchasing from a manufacturer?—Certainly.

2370. And you would expect to be treated in like manner in sending goods to a merchant, whether that merchant was the Government or a private trader?—Just the same. All we ask is that we should be treated as one merchant would treat another.

2371. From your knowledge of cloth you know that it is impossible for any manufacturer to make his cloth one piece just like another, as two sovereigns are alike each other, because the cloth is made by different hands, and comes out somewhat different, according to the management or handywork of the particular workmen?—Yes. With 500 pieces it would be absolutely impossible to say that the blending of the wool should be identically the same; but a thoroughly practical man would understand it, and the contractor would have some chance of getting on, without being put to the expense of these rejections.

2372. I suppose when a certain standard is aimed at, some pieces may go a trifle over and others a trifle under?—Yes.

2373. There may be no very material deviation either in those pieces which exceed the pattern or in those which go under it, but in your opinion all of them ought to be passed, except there is some actual defect?—That is all that I ask.

2374. (*Chairman.*) Have you any good reason, not from mere rumour, to believe that anything like corruption or bribery has existed at Weedon?—I have no knowledge of any such fact.

2375. Neither directly or indirectly?—Neither directly or indirectly.

2376. I understand, so far as your own house is concerned, you deny it altogether?—We deny it in toto. I am quite sure that Colonel Pollard would not do anything of the sort.

2377. Nor would you?—No.

2378. We have heard of rumours; according to your belief is there any ground for them?—No.

2379. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have never perceived the slightest inclination on the part of inspectors or viewers to hint at anything of that kind in your communications with them?—No. It is but three times I have been at Weedon, and I do not think that I exchanged half a dozen syllables with them, except to discuss the merits of the cloth with Mr. Elliott or Mr. Hoile. I was never permitted to do so.

2380. (*Chairman.*) Apart from the question of undue rejection, have you ever had any reason to complain of delay in the inspection?—No; I do not think we ever had. I think our inspections have been in good time. When you are busy on large contracts you do not notice it so much.

2381. Have you ever had occasion to stimulate the officials at Weedon to send your certificate?—I do not remember an instance where we have ever done so. It takes 67 days between the delivery and the payment certificate, and they generally keep to their time pretty well.

2382. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you ever had any instance in which certificates were given for goods in anticipation?—Never; I cannot conceive how that could occur.

Mr. JOSHUA ELLIS examined.

2383. (*Chairman.*) What is your firm?—Joshua Ellis and Company of Dewsbury.

2384. Are you cloth manufacturers?—Yes, we are.

2385. Have you had a good deal to do with contracts with the Government?—Not a great deal.

2386. How many contracts have you had for cloth to be delivered at Weedon?—We have only had four:—10,000 yards, reds, privates; 15,000 drummers' reds; 24,000 artilleries, and 1,500 rifles.

2387. Were those contracts all in 1856?—Yes.

2388. Have you been a considerable time in the army cloth trade?—We have, but our business has been very small in the Government contract trade. We have been principally in another business; in the general woollen business. I should not think one-fourth of our business has been in army cloths.

2389. With regard to the deliveries which you have made at Weedon, have you had any reason to complain of too great rigidity in the inspections?—We have.

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Mr. J. Ellis.

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2390. Have you any memorandum similar to that which Mr. Waithman put in?—No; I have not any memorandum that I could depend upon.

2391. In what cases have you had reason to complain of over strictness of inspection?—With respect to artillery blues; the reds we have no reason to complain of; they were passed without any particular difficulty.

2392. They were delivered before the artillery blue cloth?—Yes.

2393. What quantity of artillery blue was sent back or rejected?—I should think rather more than one half of the lot. If I recollect right, about 13,000 yards were rejected. I would not be positive that that is the exact amount, but that is as near as I can recollect.

2394. What was the complaint about the cloth, or the ground of rejection?—The first complaint that was made was that the goods were not so strong as the pattern; they were afterwards tested by the machine which has been spoken of, and found to be stronger than the pattern; consequently that objection was withdrawn.

2395. Was any other objection made?—Another objection was made respecting the colour of the cloth not being right; and after that, as they ceased to examine the cloth, I could not consider it a rejection. Ultimately the case was brought to arbitration.

2396. Who made the offer to refer it to arbitration?—The Government did.

2397. The Government offered it?—Yes.

2398. To whom was it referred?—We made choice of one person, and the Government made choice of another. We had Mr. Howse of Saint Paul's churchyard, and they had Mr. Stephenson of Saint Martin's Lane.

2399. Had you any difficulty in obtaining that arbitration?—We had not asked for it.

2400. How did it come to pass?—We complained to the Government that the goods ought to have been passed. There was nearly one-half of the lot passed, and we said that the others were precisely the same cloths. We complained to the Government of this, and after considerable negotiations this arbitration was proposed to us.

2401. Proposed on behalf of the Government?—Yes.

2402. Did the proposal come from the director of contracts, or from the War Office?—I believe it came from Mr. Howell, the director of contracts. We accepted the offer at once, and went to arbitration.

2403. What was the result?—All the goods were passed at once by the arbitrators.

2404. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was the demand for the cloth at that time very urgent?—Not that I am aware of.

2405. (*Chairman.*) Had you any compensation for the delay and vexation attendant upon that arbitration?—None.

2406. There was some delay, I suppose?—There was a delay of many months.

2407. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were you allowed the interest for the time?—No; nothing.

2408. (*Colonel French.*) Where did the arbitration take place?—At Weedon.

2409. Was Mr. Elliott there?—Yes.

2410. (*Chairman.*) Was there an umpire?—No.

2411. The Government arbitrator coincided with yours in thinking that the goods ought to pass?—Yes.

2412. Did the Government pay the expenses of the arbitration?—We paid our own expenses. We received nothing from the Government.

2413. Was that your last contract with the Government?—Yes, the last we had.

2414. (*Mr. Turner.*) Who were the inspectors who rejected this cloth?—The usual inspectors, Mr. Hebdon, Mr. Mallett, and Mr. Hoile; but there was another person from Woolwich who assisted them in this inspection, a Mr. Taylor.

2415. For the artillery cloth?—Yes; I dare say that was the reason.

2416. (*Chairman.*) Were you present at the arbitration?—No. I was at Weedon; but I was not allowed to be present at the time the goods were passed.

2417. (*Mr. Turner.*) The counsel and witnesses being on one side gave it in your favour?—There were no witnesses. They examined the cloth piece by piece, and passed every yard of it.

2418. (*Chairman.*) They did not call in the viewers and inspectors, to ascertain upon what ground they rejected the cloth, but simply viewed it by themselves?—They simply inspected the cloth, and compared it with the pattern.

2419. (*Mr. Turner.*) You were perfectly satisfied, of course, with their decision?—I was satisfied with their decision, as a matter of course. I was not very well satisfied with the loss I sustained in consequence of the delay.

2420. Was the conclusion you came to that the arbitrators were both competent to judge of the cloth; and the inspectors at Weedon were not?—That I leave anybody to judge of as they think best.

2421. Is it your opinion that the result proved the inspectors to be incompetent?—It proved to me that the cloth was fully equal to the pattern, as was stated.

2422. (*Colonel French.*) Did you ever supply the artillery with cloth under the old system?—We did occasionally, but very rarely. We had a few orders from army clothiers under the old system, but very few. I know of no difference between the old system and the present. It is merely the removal from one place to another. I have not sufficient knowledge to know any difference between passing goods at the Tower and passing goods at Weedon. I do not know what difference there is, and I am not able to speak upon it.

2423. You stated that an inspector came from Woolwich, did you not?—Yes.

2424. Had he ever inspected your goods before?—Not that I am aware of.

2425. (*Chairman.*) Have you contracted with the Government since?—We have sent in prices, but we have got no orders.

2426. Do you attribute that to the fact that your prices were too high?—Yes.

2427. You are still on the list, and have tenders sent to you regularly?—Yes.

2428. What happened then has not discouraged you from offering to contract, although you have never made any contract?—We have sent in prices, but we have never received any orders.

2429. (*Mr. Turner.*) In the case of this artillery cloth, in the end you got all your goods placed?—Yes, every piece.

2430. Was that the case generally with your goods?—Yes.

2431. You never really have suffered from any return, because your goods have always been ultimately passed?—No.

2432. Therefore we may infer that they were dealing with a respectable tradesman, whose goods were fit for the service they were intended for, and according to contract?—We had no reason to complain previously to this contract which has been spoken of.

2433. But you have never received any further orders?—No, not for the last two years.

2434. (*Chairman.*) Have you frequently sent in prices during the last two years?—We have.

2435. And are willing to do so still?—We have continued to do so up to the present time, and for anything I know we shall continue to do so.

2436. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were your goods tested by Hebdon's machine?—I understood so. I did not see it done myself.

2437. Did you test the cloth by Hebdon's machine before you sent it?—We did not in the first instance, but after we had the goods sent back we tested them.

2438. Had you Hebdon's machine in your possession before or after that transaction?—During the time

of the transaction ; before the transaction finally closed.

2439. After the goods were rejected you purchased one of Hebdon's machines, in order to test them in the same way as they were tested by him at Weedon ?—We did.

2440. And it was subsequent to the purchase of that machine that the goods were passed ?—Yes; they were passed subsequent to that ; that is, by the arbitrators.

2441. (*Chairman.*) Do you use that machine now ?—Very rarely.

2442. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you consider it of much use ?—I do not. I think there is the possibility of testing the strength of cloth with it, but I do not think it is the proper test. I do not think a merchant would use it to purchase cloth by.

2443. (*Chairman.*) You were aware when you purchased it that it was a machine in use at Weedon ?—I was.

2444. Did you ever see Mr. Hebdon personally ?—Yes.

2445. Where ?—At Weedon.

2446. Never at Dewsbury ?—Never.

2447. Was it before you purchased the machine, or after, that you saw him at Weedon ?—After.

2448. You merely sent an order for it ?—I merely sent an order for it.

2449. You were present during Mr. Waithman's examination ?—Yes.

2450. Allow me to ask you the same question, and in the same spirit in which I asked him. You are a cloth manufacturer ; do you ever allow the use of shoddy to any extent in your cloth ?—We do.

2451. I have heard it stated that it is considered not to deteriorate the cloth ?—That is wrong. It does deteriorate the cloth.

2452. Any quantity ?—It does not matter what quantity is used. It deteriorates the cloth in proportion to the quantity you introduce into the cloth.

2453. Why do you use it ? Is it not a condition of government contracts that there shall be no shoddy used in the cloth ?—We do not use it in Government contracts, when we make an agreement to that effect. We use it in general trade, and it is generally used, not for the purpose of benefiting the cloth, but for the very purpose of bringing the cloth in at a lower price.

2454. (*Mr. Turner.*) You use shoddy for the same reason that cotton manufacturers use cotton waste ; that is, to cheapen the goods, and to supply to those who want a cheap article an article at their price ?—That is the case.

2455. Do you see any more discredit in using shoddy to produce low-priced cloth than in using cotton waste to produce low-priced cotton goods ?—If we represent that a cloth made from shoddy is not so made, then it is discreditable.

2456. (*Chairman.*) You never have in any cloth which you have sent in to the Government allowed the introduction of any shoddy ?—I would not say that, because some years back it was used regularly, and I dare say it is at present by many. What I say is this:—In my contracts since what you term the new system, when we have contracted for goods not to put shoddy in, we have strictly abided by our engagements. If a pattern was brought to me, and I was asked what I would make that cloth for, without anything being said about shoddy, but merely that it should be equal to the pattern, I should use my best judgment in the case. If I made an engagement not to use shoddy I should not use it.

2457. Is it not an invariable condition in Government specifications that shoddy shall not be used ?—It is understood that shoddy shall not be used, and there is a general specification to that effect, but it is not always mentioned in the contract papers.

2458. With respect to the contracts of which you have spoken, for artillery blue and infantry red, had you to make the cloth to enable you to fulfil the

contract, or was any of it already made ?—We had all the cloth to make.

2459. (*Colonel French.*) Would it not amount to the same thing, although the Government might not specify that there should be no shoddy in the cloth, if they gave you a pattern without any shoddy in it, and bound you to make the cloth according to that pattern ?—We cannot tell that. There may be a certain amount of shoddy introduced into the cloth, and you cannot discover it. It depends upon the way in which the cloth is manufactured.

2460. (*Chairman.*) What amount of shoddy in your judgment may be detected by Hebdon's machine ?—I do not think Hebdon's machine has anything to do with detecting shoddy. All that the machine detects is whether cloth is strong or not strong. A cloth of very little strength indeed may be made entirely of wool. It depends upon the description of wool. It is not always the case, when a little shoddy is put into cloth, that it weakens the cloth more than defective wool would. It has a great tendency to do so.

2461. Is not shoddy one of the ingredients of weakness ?—Of course it is ; it makes the cloth defective.

2462. (*Colonel French.*) I understand you to state that you would use shoddy unless it was specified that it was not to be used ?—It would depend upon circumstances.

2463. (*Mr. Turner.*) Stronger cotton cloth may be made from the waste of a superior cotton than can be made from perfect cotton of an inferior description ; is not it the same with shoddy ? Would not shoddy derived from wool of a superior description be almost as strong as real wool of an inferior description ?—I should say not ; but it depends upon what the wool is. There is certain wool so inferior in description that really it is scarcely any better as to strength than shoddy ; but no manufacturer would use that as a matter of profit.

2464. When the Government say that no shoddy shall be put into cloth, may not that stipulation be avoided by using very inferior wool ?—The cloth might be deteriorated by the use of inferior wool, not to the same extent, but to a certain extent, as by putting shoddy in.

2465. Is the exclusion of shoddy actually any test of the strength of the cloth ?—Not in all cases. Some cloth, if not made of good wool, may be tender, and from a variety of other causes, such as bad work, bad scribbling, or defect in the wool.

2466. (*Chairman.*) Do you conceive that Mr. Waithman's suggestion is a sound one, as to the appointment of a superior officer as a judge, or arbitrator, or chief inspector, whatever you like to call him, who might act as a referee from the decision of the inspectors and viewers of a lower grade ?—It is difficult to say ; it is a thing I have never thought of. I have had very little experience in Government contracts, and it is a thing I have not made a matter of much study.

2467. (*Mr. Turner.*) Perhaps you would prefer, as in your case, that there should be an independent man on each side to settle any questions in dispute ?—I think when there is a dispute it is right that it should be put to arbitration.

2468. (*Chairman.*) Have you any reason to believe that there has been anything like corruption at Weedon ?—I know nothing of the kind, directly or indirectly ; I have no real reason to believe that any such thing exists. I could give no evidence upon it that would bear me out in saying that it does exist. I have seen nothing to cause me to suspect anything of the kind ; nothing more than mere rumour.

2469. You have never ascertained that there was any ground for that rumour ?—No.

2470. (*Mr. Turner.*) None of the viewers or inspectors at Weedon ever approached you in that kind of way which led you to suppose that there might be facilities offered ?—No.

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2471. (*Chairman.*) Can you refer us to anybody who you think could give us information upon that subject?—No.

2472. We wish to ascertain whether there be any truth in those rumours?—I cannot give any information upon the matter whatever; I am quite unacquainted with anything of the kind. I never did it myself, nor has any other person done it for me.

(*Mr. Turner.*) We have twice notified in the public journals that this Commission was sitting, and

that we were ready to receive evidence from any persons willing to give it, provided they would send in a statement of the nature of their evidence to our secretary; and very little response has been made to those notifications in any way,—substantially none; we are therefore placed in a difficulty. We want this evidence to be tendered; we want not at all to go by rumour, but by some distinct evidence brought before us.

Mr. T. Cook.

Mr. THOMAS COOK examined.

2473. (*Chairman.*) Where is your house of business?—At Dewsbury.

2474. Are you the acting partner of the firm of Hagues and Cook?—I am.

2475. Have you been engaged to some extent in contracts for cloth to be delivered at Weedon?—To some extent, perhaps 20,000*l.*; scarcely that.

2476. Do you happen to have a memorandum of the deliveries that you have made?—I have an imperfect one. I did not know the nature of the examination I should have to undergo, and I wrote to the secretary of the Commissioners, but his answer followed me to London, consequently I could not bring the answer from home that would enable me to answer your question.

2477. When was your first contract?—I think on the 6th of February 1856.

2478. Extending to what time?—Extending to May the 27th, 1858.

2479. Some 20 items, are there not?—Sixteen.

2480. Have you had any reason to complain of over-strictness in the inspection at Weedon?—They are strict, but I do not think we have any great reason to complain.

2481. Did you contract with the Government before the formation of the establishment at Weedon?—Yes; for 30 or 40 years past.

2482. For the same sort of articles?—No. We have been large contractors with the Government for the article of blankets, but we have always been very small in the way of cloth. Our business with the Government in the way of blankets has been very large.

2483. Have the deliveries at Weedon been principally or exclusively cloth?—Yes. No blankets have been delivered at Weedon.

2484. The list which you have refers entirely to cloth?—Yes.

2485. Do you consider that the inspection of cloth at Weedon has been stricter than before the Government depôt at Weedon was created?—Yes, I think it has.

2486. Have you ever had reason to complain of capricious or vexatious rejections?—Certainly not. Our rejections have been in fact very small indeed.

2487. Has the reason generally been assigned when an article has not passed?—Yes; in this way, "a little too narrow,"—"a little too light," or something of that kind. Altogether the rejections are quite small; scarcely worth speaking of. In all probability, when the goods have come back again, we have put the defects right, and they have been returned and passed.

2488. You have found that the alleged defects, if any, could be remedied upon the goods being returned to you?—Nearly in all cases.

2489. Are we to take it that you are substantially satisfied with the system at Weedon?—Yes. I have no reason to be otherwise, as far as the matter has gone. If a man contracts for goods, and he sends them up, and they get passed, he has a right to be satisfied. We have been so fortunate as for that to have been nearly universally our case at Weedon.

2490. Do you think there has been undue lenity shown to you?—No. I do not know a single officer

in the place, nor does any of my firm. We none of us were ever there.

2491. Have any of the Weedon officers been to you?—No, certainly not.

2492. You never saw Mr. Elliott or Mr. Green?—No. Nor do I know the person of any of them. I know all the old officers at the Tower, Mr. Stacey, Mr. Pew, and the rest of them, but not any at Weedon.

2493. Have you any reason to suppose that there has been anything like corruption or anything of that sort at Weedon?—As far as I am concerned, I am sure there has been none.

2494. Have you any legitimate reason to suppose that there has been any such corruption?—None whatever. Certainly not.

2495. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have no knowledge upon the subject?—Not the least. I have heard rumours, the same as others have, but that amounts to nothing.

2496. Do you use Hebdon's machine?—We bought one from him; that is, we ordered one from him. As I said before, I never saw the gentleman in my life.

2497. (*Chairman.*) When was that?—I think it was about the time that Mr. Ellis got his. I think my ordering one arose from a conversation with Mr. Ellis's son.

2498. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you consider it a useful machine?—It does test the strength of cloth; but I do not think a great deal of it.

2499. It is not in constant employment in your establishment?—We scarcely ever use it. I do not think we have used it since we got it ten times.

2500. Do the manufacturers in your district generally possess that machine?—I really cannot answer that question. I should rather fancy not. Perhaps some do; not many, I think; but many may have it without my knowledge.

2501. I suppose, the contractors generally having such a machine in their possession, you thought it right to have one also?—I think I ordered this as a matter of curiosity more than anything else, and I fancy it arose out of a conversation I had with Mr. Robert Ellis. I am not sure, but I think he mentioned having a machine.

2502. What did you pay for the machine?—30*l.*

2503. Is that the general price?—Yes.

2504. (*Chairman.*) Have you had considerable contracts also with contractors?—None whatever; we have never had any whatever.

2505. You never have entered into any guarantee which Mr. Waithman spoke of to furnish cloth which should pass inspection?—We have not. I take it that Mr. Waithman did not guarantee it when the garments are made up; he cannot mean that, I think; he would guarantee the cloth passing, of course.

2506. You have never done that?—No.

2507. Are you still going on with the Government contracts?—Yes, we are. Our large business is blankets. In blankets we have done a very large amount of business with the Government.

2508. Are the blankets delivered at the Tower?—Yes.

2509. Have you any suggestion to offer, under the circumstances you have mentioned, as to any improved

system of inspection at Weedon, or wherever the clothing depôt may be?—I think if arbitration could occasionally be enforced it might be beneficial, since Mr. Ellis has mentioned the arbitrators passed his cloth that had been rejected by the officers.

2510. That is rather an inference from a fact you

have heard than from anything in your own experience?—I have the experience of what he tells me.

2511. Nothing in your own case?—No; we have had nothing of the kind.

LONDON.

Mr. T. Cook.

21 Sept. 1858.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

LONDON.

Wednesday, 22nd September 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. WILLIAM GILPIN examined.

LONDON.

Mr. W. Gilpin.

22 Sept. 1858.

2512. (*Chairman.*) You are the head, I think, of the firm of Gilpin and Company, army clothiers, in Northumberland Street?—Yes.

2513. Have you been in the habit of furnishing all sorts of army clothing?—Yes.

2514. Not only clothing but necessities and accoutrements?—Yes; very few accoutrements, and not many caps, but every thing else.

2515. Tunics, trousers, and great coats?—Not great coats; great coats have always been supplied by the Government.

2516. Was your house largely engaged under the old system?—Yes.

2517. Have you continued to contract with the Government since the abolition of the board of general officers?—To a very partial extent.

2518. For what number of regiments were you clothiers previous to the alteration of the system?—Between 30 and 40.

2519. Since the trade has been thrown open to competition, and the Government have taken it into their own hands, have you done less?—Yes. We have supplied some of the militia clothing; we have had none of the general clothing until the present year. We are now employed for the general clothing for this year for part of 20 regiments.

2520. How was that? Did you decline to compete?—Yes. I upon one occasion did tender for the making up of the clothing, according to the system that the Government had adopted; but finding that it was impossible to do it honestly to the Government and honestly to myself, I declined having anything more to do with it.

2521. When was that?—That was in the year 1856.

2522. Shortly after the establishment of Weedon?—Yes.

2523. Why do you say that it was impossible in your judgment to do it honestly?—Because I am perfectly sure that there was only one way to do it, either to grind the poor people, and not pay them fairly, or else the prices could never compensate a large house for merely making up the clothing, the cloth and other things being supplied by the Government.

2524. In a list of contracts with which we are furnished, there appear to be four entries in 1856 of supplies by you to the Government. Have you a list with you?—Yes, I have. In the year 1856 we only contracted for the medical staff corps. We contracted for some crimson overall cloth and serjeants' grey cloth, and for 1,200 tunics and 1,200 trousers for the medical staff corps.

2525. Those were three separate contracts?—Yes. One in August, one in December, and one in July and August.

2526. Was it from the result of those supplies, or from previous opinion, that you declined to tender?—

No. The medical staff corps, the contract was taken for supplying the garments entirely made up, we supplying the cloth, and therefore upon that I had no objection to tender. My objection was to the Government supplying the materials, and asking the old houses, after so many years' experience, to make them up, and to become piece masters, and that I objected to upon principle, feeling I could not do justice either to myself or to the Government.

2527. There was less responsibility thrown upon you; you did not provide the material in that case?—We did not provide the material.

2528. Was that contrary to your usual custom, whether as regards the Government or other persons, previously?—Yes.

2529. To use a familiar illustration, many of our tailors will not let one send cloth to them; they expect to furnish the cloth, and have a fair profit upon it?—Yes; that was it exactly.

2530. Were the things so furnished by you in 1856 subjected to inspection at Weedon?—Yes.

2531. Had you any reason to complain of the character of that inspection?—No.

2532. Were there any rejections?—I believe very few; nothing of any importance; I cannot recollect the number; it was very few.

2533. There was nothing in the character of the inspection upon those occasions that you had reason to complain of?—No.

2534. Am I to understand you, that in 1857 you had no contract with the Government?—In 1857 we had the pensioners' contract, in July and August.

2535. Is not that a running contract for the year?—That was for the year; what was required for that year.

2536. From April 1857 to April 1858?—Yes.

2537. That contract was for goods to be delivered at Weedon, was it not?—Yes.

2538. And of course subjected to inspection?—Yes.

2539. There were some small matters contracted for, gold lace and so forth; that would be also for the pensioners?—I apprehend it was.

2540. Did you also have a contract for 10,000 yards of drummers' red?—Yes; I had a contract for 10,000 yards of drummers' red.

2541. That was also subjected to inspection?—Yes.

2542. Had you any cause to complain of the nature of the inspection in that instance?—No.

2543. Since that time, during the present year, have you more largely engaged in contracts with the Government?—Yes.

2544. To what extent?—20 regiments.

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2545. Upon the new system?—Yes; of supplying the clothing entirely made up.

2546. Have deliveries taken place?—I think we have delivered for five regiments; that is, delivered in Mark Lane.

2547. But of course subject to similar Government inspection?—Yes.

2548. You are not a cloth manufacturer, I presume?—No.

2549. You purchased, under the old system and the present, from the manufacturers?—Yes.

2550. Do those manufacturers guarantee to you that the cloth they furnish shall pass the Government inspection?—They guarantee to such an extent that if anything is very palpably wrong we expect them to take it back again. With the old houses we have been in the habit of dealing with from time immemorial we never found any difficulty, if the cloth has been wrong, in getting them to exchange it; they have it back. We do not enter into a regular guarantee if the Government rejects the cloth.

2551. (*Colonel French.*) Do not you ascertain, before the cloth is made up, whether there is any objection to it?—We generally do. Up to the present time, under the old system, if the regiment's clothing did not wear well, we always took it back again, and were answerable for its wear.

2552. (*Chairman.*) You have had no occasion, under the present system, to call upon manufacturers to replace cloth which has been rejected by the Government inspectors?—No.

2553. (*Mr. Turner.*) But as this renewed system has only lately come into operation, perhaps you have not yet had time to ascertain how long your cloth has worn?—No.

2554. Supposing that in a few months the report is that your clothing does not wear well, shall you consider that you have any claim upon the manufacturer?—No.

2555. If you have passed cloth in the first instance, and made it up into garments, do you consider that the responsibility of the manufacturer ends?—Yes, certainly.

2556. (*Chairman.*) As regards the Government inspection, as I understand, you have no reason to complain of undue severity?—No. They are all, I dare say, doing their duty properly in Mark Lane. I think we have had garments returned for very trivial matters, but nothing I can complain about to any extent. I do not doubt that the gentlemen mean to do their duty.

2557. Have you found that this system of competition has enabled you to get the cloth cheaper from the manufacturers?—No.

2558. Not at all?—No.

2559. Have there been any delays in the passing of your goods, so as to keep you out of the money that was due for them?—I do not think I have to complain about that.

2560. Have any fines been imposed upon you for delay on your part in delivery?—We are threatened with some fines at the present moment. I complain that they did not give us time sufficient for making up the clothing.

2561. I must ask you the same question that I have asked others, without intending the smallest imputation upon you. Have you any reason to suppose, either from your own knowledge or from any well-founded belief, or from information you may have received, that there has been anything like corruption at Weedon?—I have never found it so. I have heard it rumoured. As an individual I have never known it.

2562. That has been the answer which we have received from everybody hitherto; but we desire, if possible, to ascertain whether there is any truth in those rumours, because neither a Government official nor anybody else ought to have his character rumoured away. Have you any reason to believe that there is anything like corruption existing at Weedon?—Only what I have read in the papers. I have never been at Weedon. I only know what I have heard people talk about. Other contractors have had much larger

dealings with Weedon than I have. I can only speak for myself. As far as I am concerned, I have no reason to complain.

2563. Can you refer us to anybody who, in your belief, would be able to give information upon that subject?—No, I cannot.

2564. Have you ever heard, upon any evidence that you know to be trustworthy, any rumours of that kind?—I have only heard general rumours.

2565. I suppose, as an army clothier, not a manufacturer, you have not troubled yourself very much about machines and so forth for testing cloth?—No.

2566. Are your profits now less in proportion than they were? Supposing you furnished the same amount of clothing, would your profits be less under the present system than the former one?—Certainly.

2567. Considerably less?—Yes; the profits of course would be less, because we get our payments earlier.

2568. Would the profits be less only for that reason?—Only for that reason.

2569. Are the prices charged, having relation to the goodness of the article, as high now as they were formerly, taking into account that you get quicker payment?—They are higher, because the quality of the material is better.

2570. Can you institute a comparison between the amount for which you now contract to furnish made-up clothing, and the prices for which you formerly supplied the same articles to the regiments?—I am not prepared to state that at present.

2571. Are your profits less only because you get quicker payment?—That is it; we have been anxious, of course, as far as possible, to keep our people employed, and therefore we have been very well satisfied with having a less profit, to meet, as I have said, the ready-money payment.

2572. That is not really a less profit, is it, if ready money is one of the ingredients of a good contract?—Yes, because there is the interest of the money.

2573. Taking the interest of the money, which you save under the present system, still are your profits less?—They are less.

2574. From what cause?—The one reason is of course that there is more competition than there used to be; and therefore of course we have acted as far as we could with as small a profit as possible, wishing to do our duty to the Government, as well as dealing fairly with those with whom we are connected in business.

2575. Does the throwing open of the trade reduce the price?—Certainly.

2576. To that extent the public have an advantage?—Yes.

2577. But the articles being better than they formerly were, and there being a higher standard of patterns, actually a higher price is paid?—Yes.

2578. Have you formed any judgment as to the expediency of the Government keeping a store of those articles? The present superintendent at Weedon, Captain Gordon, gave evidence very strongly in favour of the expediency of keeping a large store of everything; applying to clothing the same principle which is applied to ammunition?—I should think it would be very detrimental.

2579. Will you be so good as to give your reason for that opinion?—The reason is, if a great store of clothing is kept for any length of time, what guarantee is there that it will not get moth-eaten and will not get damaged? I should be very sorry to keep a large stock of cloth or clothing that I was not sure would be used during six or eight months.

2580. Apart from the damage, do you think the possibility of a change of pattern might also be a reason against having a large stock of clothing?—Yes; we are never safe against that.

2581. (*Colonel French.*) Would not there be also a great many other liabilities with regard to clothing, in case a large store was kept on hand, to which the Government were not subjected formerly, such as a

number of officials to look after it, and the transport of it also?—Yes.

2582. (*Chairman.*) Under the Ordnance regulations, they have a twelvemonths' supply, and Captain Gordon, as we understood his evidence, was desirous of applying that Ordnance regulation to clothing. You think that would be bad policy?—I think it would.

2583. You think the clothing would deteriorate?—I have no doubt of it.

2584. Do you think the risk would be greater, and that the cost of insurance, and so on, would be increased?—Yes.

2585. Have you formed any opinion as to the expediency of giving longer notice for contracts?—Decidedly. I have no hesitation in saying that I think it has been a very unfair thing upon the old houses, not giving them notice whether they were to be employed or not, as in the present instance with myself. I took a contract in May for 20 regiments, and I may be called upon to supply those regiments at certain dates. Of course I am not able to fulfil the contract at the periods allotted to me, from a variety of reasons. In the first place there is a very important part with regard to the facings. Everybody knows, with the dyeing of the facings of the regiments, if there is not a sufficient supply of water it is impossible to get them properly dyed; that is one of the reasons why I am threatened to be fined at the present moment. I cannot of course expect a manufacturer to supply me if he has not got water to dye his facings.

2586. You think that short notice for the contract, or requiring the completion of the contract within too short a time, is detrimental to the contractor?—I think so; for instance, if I am to be employed for the year 1859 I ought to have my contract made in the beginning of the month of January; then I should have time to get all my materials properly together by the time they are wanted. In the present instance I knew nothing of the contract till the month of May, and then I am expected to have the supply ready in June, July, and August, just at the dates when the regiments ought to be clothed.

2587. Is not the probability of failure in the fulfilment of the contract increased in proportion to the shortness of time given for it?—Yes; and the expense to the clothier is increased also.

2588. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are you not aware that large wholesale houses in the spring and autumn seasons do lay in their supplies before those seasons arrive, by giving orders to the manufacturers for the different articles which they require?—Yes.

2589. Is it not a benefit to the manufacturers to have early notice of the supplies and of the description of patterns which may be required by those wholesale houses?—No doubt it is only fair to them.

2590. Is it not natural to suppose, and is it not the fact, that the manufacturers will supply wholesale houses at a more reasonable price if they have due notice, so that they are enabled to manufacture the goods at their leisure?—I think so.

2591. If they were asked for a large supply immediately, or within an unreasonably short time, would they not have to pay more for wages, and more for various processes, and must not the ultimate price be thereby larger?—No doubt.

2592. Would not the consequence of the Government adopting the same plan for their clothing be, that they would have the supply beforehand, as Captain Gordon advocates, without the necessity of keeping a very large stock in store?—Certainly.

2593. And the service would be benefited by that arrangement which is adopted by large wholesale houses?—No doubt.

2594. (*Chairman.*) I presume that, under a system of competition, when you do not know whether you shall get a contract or not, you do not make provision beforehand?—It is impossible that we can do so.

2595. Under the former system, when you had a number of regiments to supply, you made the arrange-

ments which have been alluded to beforehand?—No doubt.

2596. And probably you get articles better made, when they are not made in a hurry?—I should say so.

2597. (*Mr. Turner.*) I asked you whether a manufacturer would not be likely to supply a large wholesale house more reasonably if he received due notice of what would be required than if the goods were wanted in a hurry, and you said that you thought he would. Supposing that you received orders from the Government in anticipation, in the same way, and were therefore able to buy your goods from the manufacturer, would not the effect be, that you would take your contract at a more reasonable price than if you were hurried to get the supply ready in a short time?—Certainly.

2598. There would be consequently economy to the country?—Yes.

2599. (*Chairman.*) Has not coming into the market suddenly for any article a tendency to raise the price of the article wanted?—No doubt.

2600. Have you ever had anything to do with the purchase of a quantity of Oxford grey cloth?—I have bought Oxford grey cloth.

2601. Does my question suggest to your mind any particular transaction?—No; I merely bought it as a matter of business.

2602. Have you made any bargain in that way of late at a low price?—Everything that I have bought I have bought in a straightforward and business-like manner, and of course I have been very glad to get it as reasonable as I can, knowing that I am obliged to charge very low prices.

2603. Have you any reason to suppose that you have bought Oxford grey cloth which has been previously condemned by the Government inspectors?—I may have done so.

2604. Have you done so?—I have bought cloth; I did not know it was rejected.

2605. Have you afterwards ascertained that it had been sold by Government?—I saw the Government mark upon it, therefore I knew it had.

2606. When was that?—Two years ago, when the militia was being called out.

2607. Will you state the particulars of that transaction; what quantity did you buy?—I bought the cloth from different manufacturers who offered me cloth. I did not buy it direct from the Government.

2608. You found the Government mark upon some cloth which you so bought?—Yes.

2609. Can you tell me what quantity?—Really I do not know at the present moment. My partner purchased the cloth; I did not.

2610. You are cognizant of the transaction?—Yes.

2611. Will you give us all the information that you can upon the subject?—There have been large stores that have been sold by the Government at different times by auction.

2612. Where?—At the Tower. There was a considerable quantity of cloth and other things sold, and therefore, if any of the manufacturers, or any of the houses in the city, had bought cloth, and we were in want of the cloth, and they had offered it to us, we might have bought it, and never asked where it came from.

2613. You have told me that you upon one occasion bought Oxford grey cloth that had the Government mark upon it. Can you tell me what quantity?—I cannot at this moment, but I will do so presently, after referring to my books.

2614. (*Mr. Turner.*) Can you state whether that same cloth afterwards found its way into the Government service?—It was made up for the militia clothing and for any other; what we call extra supplies, which have nothing to do with the Government; regiments going out upon service very likely took a set of extra trousers with them.

2615. (*Colonel French.*) Was it inspected?—No.

2616. (*Chairman.*) It was furnished as regimental necessities?—Yes.

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2617. Not submitted to any inspection?—No.

2618. Was this cloth like the boots we have heard of, which were sold at the Tower, and afterwards supplied to the militia regiments?—Just so.

2619. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is not it the real fact that the country sold the article at a low price, and the country bought the same article back again at a high price?—I cannot tell what price was paid by the Government. I can only tell the price we gave.

2620. (*Chairman.*) The Government authorized those purchases, and had to pay the bill, though the goods were not received at the Government office?—The manufacturer they had of course to pay.

2621. If it had the Government mark upon it, it must have been purchased in the first instance by Government?—The Government mark I take it was put on. I do not know how that is,—when they put their mark upon it. I apprehend this cloth was sold from being rejected, or it might have been sold because the Government did not want it.

2622. (*Mr. Turner.*) You are aware, from reading the reports in the papers, what the case of the boots was; that they were first purchased by the Government at the Tower; that they were then rejected at Weedon; that they were then sent to the Tower, and sold at a low price; that they were then bought again by militia colonels, and paid for by the Government or the country at a high price. We want to know whether that was the case with this Oxford grey cloth. Cannot you tell us whether that cloth had been passed by the Government inspectors?—I cannot; it may have been so. I only know that from time to time there are large supplies sold at the Tower, and some of that cloth certainly we purchased. We did not purchase it at the Tower, but we purchased it from different gentlemen who offered it to us, asking us whether we wanted any grey cloth.

2623. (*Chairman.*) You never submitted that cloth to Government inspection again?—No.

2624. (*Colonel French.*) What price was it sold for to the militia colonels?—It was made up in trousers as extra supplies, and made up for different regiments.

2625. (*Mr. Turner.*) Could you easily give the comparative price of the cloth sold at the Tower and the price of the same cloth contracted for by the Government?—No; I have not supplied any grey cloth.

2626. (*Chairman.*) Have you any opinion, whether, where a contractor or a person in your business has furnished goods which have been rejected, there ought to be an appeal?—I think there ought to be an appeal, certainly.

2627. Why?—Because I think that sometimes the clothing may have been rejected, perhaps,—I will not say not fairly. We do not know who the Government inspectors are, or whether they are competent judges of cloth, therefore we think, in justice to the manufacturers, there ought to be an appeal, and let the referee say whether the cloth is inferior to the pattern or not.

2628. You are acquainted of course with Mr. Dolan, who is, like yourself, a very large contractor?—Yes.

2629. Have you read the evidence which was given by him upon that subject before the Committee on Contracts?—I have read part of it; I have not read the whole. (*See Parliamentary Paper, No. 269, sess. 2, 1857, page 412.*)

2630. He is asked, "Do you think that it would be an improvement in the system of Government contracts if an appeal were inserted as one of the provisions of the contract?" He answers, "I think it would not; on public grounds I think it would not. I think it would lead to a great deal of inconvenience. I think I never yet knew a contractor who was satisfied with the reasons for which his goods were rejected; and I think that a dishonest contractor would look to an appeal as affording him a second chance of passing his goods; and I think also, from experience, it would be found that they

"would always be able to bring forward people to speak to the quality of the goods, and there would be no end to the inconvenience." Then he is asked, "Do you think that an appeal would be any benefit to the honest contractor?" He says, "No, I think not. It is possible that sometimes the inspectors may be wrong in their decisions, but still I think that the benefit that the honest contractor would derive from having an appeal would be counterbalanced by the injury that he would sustain through the dishonest contractor having a second chance of passing his goods; and I do not think that that would be good?"—That might be. My only reason for thinking that there should be an appeal is, that we should have an opportunity of really being satisfied that the rejection is correct. It is very often the case, if we complain to the manufacturers of the quality of their cloth, we get their reply, "We are quite satisfied that it is equal to the pattern." I say in fairness it should be tested whether it is so or not, and not condemned as a whole, without there being any opportunity of examining it.

2631. Would you be satisfied with a Government appointee, or would you require one of the referees to be a person nominated by the complaining contractor?—That I think is very immaterial, so long as the person who was the referee was really competent. If the Government inspectors of clothing are competent people, and know their business, I apprehend there would be very little difficulty or necessity for an appeal.

2632. In your personal experience, have you had any reason to suppose that the Government inspectors are not competent to the performance of their duties?—I have not. I have, comparatively speaking, had very little to do with them.

2633. (*Colonel French.*) Under the old system had you many rejections?—No.

2634. Were you satisfied when you had rejections with the decision of the board of general officers, or whoever rejected the goods?—Certainly; I do not know of any instance when any of my clothing was unfairly condemned under the former system. We were very unlucky one year, and there is no doubt that the cloth supplied was very bad. It was not found out until the clothing had been in wear about three months, when we immediately saw that the cloth was bad in consequence of the dye, and we then supplied an entirely new set of clothing at our own cost. The manufacturer very handsomely took half the expense, because he was satisfied, as we were, that there was something wrong in the dye. There was an instance in which the Government was saved a large sum of money, and the soldier had what he ought to have, —proper clothing. We always considered ourselves responsible for the clothing for a whole year.

2635. Did you find necessities for the regiments that you furnished with clothing?—Yes.

2636. (*Chairman.*) Supposing that discovery of bad clothing had taken place at Lucknow, or Canton, would there have been a supply sufficient to replace it on the spot?—No, I think not.

2637. In such a case the test of wear, though it is the best, would not be sufficient to avoid inconvenience to the soldier?—No; out there it would not.

2638. (*Mr. Turner.*) With respect to the question of appeal from the decision of the inspector, would it not be a little check upon the inspectors, both as to carelessness and as to the arbitrary inspection of which you complain, if they knew that there was an appeal against their judgment?—It might.

2639. Would not the existence of an appeal have that tendency?—I think it would put them more on their guard.

2640. Would not it give a little confidence to the contractor to know that there was the power of appeal on his part?—No doubt it would.

2641. Would he not be willing to quote the prices rather lower in his tender if he knew that he had an appeal from the decision of the inspector, and

therefore had not to calculate upon the arbitrariness of the inspector, and to provide in his prices for the inconveniences arising from unnecessary rejection?—I do not know that. In a public competition the profit is so low that I do not think we could go much lower in consequence of that. We should not be subjected to heavy loss by—very likely—improper rejection, and we should probably feel more confidence in that way.

2642. Should you like to do business with a large wholesale house that assumed to itself the same power which the Government does of rejecting your goods without any appeal?—Certainly not.

2643. Why should you wish to contract with the Government, when under the same circumstances you would not contract with a large wholesale house?—I do not wish to do that; I wish to have an appeal.

2644. You do contract with the Government without any appeal at present?—Yes; we do, at the present moment.

2645. Then my question arises, why do you do it?—Because I have no alternative.

2646. Have you not the same alternative that you would have with a large wholesale house, namely, refusing to contract?—I certainly have.

2647. Have you more confidence in the Government than you have in a wholesale house?—I do not know that I have.

2648. Yet you contract in the one case under circumstances where you would refuse in the other?—I have contracted this time with the understanding that I am not responsible after my goods are passed; that then there is an end of my contract.

2649. Is not that the case with a wholesale house?—Yes.

2650. Are there any advantages which you obtain in contracting with the Government which you do not obtain in dealing with a wholesale house?—I can hardly answer that question. I contracted with the Government this time because I believed that we should be treated fairly and properly, therefore the question of appeal did not occur to my mind. If I am asked whether an appeal ought to take place, I think we ought to have the opportunity of appealing.

2651. Why do you contract with the Government under more favourable circumstances to them than you would afford to a private establishment?—It never occurred to my mind about that.

2652. (*Chairman.*) Perhaps you do not anticipate the necessity of appeal, even if one existed?—No.

2653. I suppose in substance, notwithstanding the disadvantage of having a judgment upon your goods passed by the party with whom you contract, the other advantages are sufficient to induce you to make the contract, although you would rather the terms were otherwise?—Yes.

2654. (*Colonel French.*) Under the old system, did you ever know any case of collusion between the clothier and the colonel that was injurious to the public or to the soldier?—Certainly not. I am bound to say, so far as my experience has gone, that I never had a colonel who mentioned the subject to me about price or anything else.

2655. (*Mr. Turner.*) I think you have explained that you liked the old system because you got a larger profit under it?—I liked the old system inasmuch as I got a larger profit. My profit was always based upon this: so much for my capital, so much for my expenses, and so much for the interest of money. The Government are quite aware of that, for I gave them a statement myself of what the profits were at that time. The profits are now less, as I explained before, in consequence of the ready-money nature of the transaction; and you will be pleased to recollect also that we felt ourselves responsible for the wear of this clothing for a year, and always were responsible.

2656. (*Chairman.*) Under that system you purchased the cloth of the manufacturers. Then there was

the manufacturer's profit, the clothier's profit, and the colonel's profit?—Yes.

2657. There were three profits in that case; but under the present system, if the Government buys the cloth from the manufacturer, the manufacturer's profit we will assume remains, but there is no colonel's profit now?—No.

2658. And no clothier's profit?—Certainly not. The system up to the present year has been for the Government to purchase the cloth, the buttons, and those things from different manufacturers, and then they send out tenders to see who will make up the garments with their material; that is how it has been done.

2659. (*Mr. Turner.*) In fact the Government was acting as a sort of master tailor?—Yes.

2660. Do you think, as a general principle, that the Government satisfactorily manufacture anything, in competition with a private tradesman?—I should think not; that is my own individual opinion.

2661. (*Chairman.*) Are you now in a condition to state the particulars relating to the Oxford grey cloth?—Yes. I find that the transaction was this: that we purchased on the 9th of November 1857 about 8,000 yards, and in April 1858 about 3,300 yards of cloth; it was cloth that had been passed by the inspectors at the Tower, and was sold as old stores, in consequence of the new regulation quality coming into operation, and that is how it came to have the Government mark upon it. It was not rejected cloth.

2662. The Weedon mark is different from the Tower mark, is it not?—It was the Tower mark.

2663. Then the cloth had never passed inspection at Weedon?—Never; it was cloth furnished to the Tower.

2664. Then it cannot have been the cloth Mr. Waithman spoke of as having been sent in by them to Weedon in 1857?—No; it was cloth having the Tower mark, and I presume it was sold in consequence of the new regulations having been adopted.

2665. What was the price?—I have no objection to give you the price, although I do not know whether it is a fair question. For 8,000 yards I gave 3s. 8d. a yard, and for 3,300 4s. 4½d.

2666. (*Mr. Turner.*) You did not purchase the cloth at the Tower sale?—No.

2667. (*Chairman.*) From whom did you purchase it?—From Mr. Levy. Mr. Levy brought the pattern of this cloth, and it was compared with our patterns which we were supplying for the militia and the pensioners, and seeing that they had got the Government mark we were satisfied that it had been approved of, and it was equal to our pattern, therefore we bought it, and made it up into trousers for those two services.

2668. (*Mr. Turner.*) What is the price of your regular cloth with which you compared it in your own stock?—I cannot tell what we were paying.

2669. Can you give an approximate price?—That old regulation cloth might have been between 4s. and 5s. a yard; I cannot tell exactly.

2670. From the manufacturers?—Yes; I apprehend so, at that time.

2671. Then Mr. Levy got pretty nearly the regular price for the article from you?—Yes; because we found that the cloth was equal. It was guaranteed cloth, and had been passed by the Government inspectors, and therefore, of course, we did not hesitate to make it up into garments. The garments were sent to Weedon, and passed.

2672. Had you the curiosity to ascertain what Levy gave for it at the Tower sales?—No, not the slightest.

2673. (*Colonel French.*) You have stated that the cloth was sold as an obsolete pattern?—I apprehend it was sold in consequence of the new regulation cloth being adopted for the army.

2674. Why was it allowed to be purchased for the

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militia?—Because the pattern for the militia had not been altered, and the pattern for the pensioners had not been altered; it was the old regulation cloth.

2675. (*Chairman.*) You cannot tell us when that cloth was originally furnished to the Government?—Not the slightest.

2676. Was it in any way damaged?—Not a bit.

2677. We have some reason to think that it was sent from the Tower to Weedon, and there looked over, and condemned as not fit for service, and then sent back to the Tower to be sold; are you aware of that?—That I cannot tell; it had the Government mark upon it, and I do not think it would have been condemned having that mark upon it.

2678. Is not the original approval consistent with the idea of its having been deteriorated afterwards, and consequently condemned?—Yes.

2679. (*Mr. Turner.*) You say it was not deteriorated, and therefore there was an error of judgment in selling it?—It was not deteriorated, because it was made up into garments, and the inspector at Weedon passed them, and we have been paid for them. We have heard of no rejection; no fault has been found with the garments.

2680. (*Chairman.*) When was the cloth received at Weedon?—I do not know. It was used for the pensioners' clothing.

2681. (*Colonel French.*) Was there a difference in the pattern that any person not an inspector of cloth might have observed?—Yes; the one is a common cloth according to the old regulation, and the present is a kersey. It is a different description of cloth altogether.

2682. Was the difference in colour or in quality?—In quality: the grey cloth of the present pattern is a twilled cloth.

2683. (*Chairman.*) Can you tell us whether they were using that cloth for the pensioners at the time it was sold to you?—Yes; because we made the patterns, and they were sealed and approved.

2684. Was it from the younger Mr. Levy or the

older Mr. Levy that you bought the cloth?—It was the father.

2685. Did you ever buy any boots or shoes from him?—I think we have bought some boots of him, but very few. We have generally bought them from the manufacturers in Northamptonshire.

2686. You never bought 15,000 pairs, or anything approaching that number, from Levy?—Oh no. You quite understand that why I bought this cloth was because it had the guarantee of the Government mark upon it that it had been passed, and it was exactly my pattern for the pensioners.

2687. (*Mr. Turner.*) You considered that having the approbation of the Government inspector stamped upon it rendered it of the value to you in the one case of 3s. 8d. and in the other case 4s. 4½d. a yard?—Yes.

2688. Then the Government, in your opinion, perhaps, ought to have estimated that cloth as worth something like the same price?—That I cannot say.

2689. Was not the same cloth twice sent to Weedon, and inspected in both instances?—It was inspected at the Tower in the first instance.

2690. (*Chairman.*) Was not the transaction this?—The cloth is accepted at the Tower; it is then sent to Weedon; it is inspected at Weedon, and considered not sufficiently good; it is then sent back to the Tower for sale; sold to Levy; resold by Levy to you; you make it into trousers, and send it to Weedon, and it passes?—Yes.

2691. Did you ever purchase anything of a person of the name of Almond?—I have purchased boots of Almond; he had a manufactory in Northamptonshire.

2692. Did you understand Levy to be acting upon his own account in this matter, or upon commission?—On his own account. I have been in the habit of buying goods of Mr. Levy for years, and I have always found him an honest straightforward man. I have never been deceived by him. I did it as a matter of business.

2693. You have never bought anything at the Tower sales direct?—No.

Mr. C. Bonneau.

Mr. CORNELIUS BONNEAU further examined.

2694. (*Chairman.*) I gather from the correspondence which you have now handed to me, that every stimulus is applied to Commissary-General Adams to proceed with the ledger?—Exactly.

2695. But there is no information before us as to when it may be expected to be completed?—We shall be able to give that information on Friday morning.

2696. Can our accountant, Mr. Jay, in the meantime proceed to examine the books which are now ready for his inspection?—I am deputed to tell you that we shall be able to commence the comparison of the cash and store vouchers to-night.

2697. When shall you complete that comparison?—In a week. Commissary-General Carpenter has handed over the papers which go to the end of November 1856; and in the course of three days we shall have the papers up to the end of March 1857.

2698. Why could not it have been done before?—They have been three weeks doing it.

2699. The ledger was made up two months ago, was it not?—The ledger itself, as far as regards the entries of receipts and issues of stores, has been made up and examined some time since. In the meantime Commissary-General Carpenter has been engaged in abstracting from different books in the cash office all the vouchers for payment of goods on account of stores delivered at Weedon, and it is those papers we are going to compare with the store ledger, which will commence to-night.

2700. (*Mr. Turner.*) If I understand you, the object of this examination by Mr. Carpenter is to check off the entries at Weedon of deliveries from

contractors with the amounts of money paid at the War Office?—It is.

2701. And until that is done you do not feel quite satisfied that the ledger is correct with the payments?—No, we do not.

2702. Supposing that stock had been taken simultaneously with the balance of that ledger that you are now hoping soon to complete to March 1857, would you not have ascertained, by the agreement of that stock with the balances in the ledger, that your receipts and therefore your payments were correct and your issues correct?—Yes; that is the plan which they always observe in taking stock.

2703. Now you have not confidence that your receipts from contractors are correct, because you have not ascertained that your payments of money exactly correspond with the vouchers entered in the debit side of the ledger?—That is the case.

2704. Captain Gordon has told us that before he took charge at Weedon he discarded the books, and left the officers there to settle them, and, like a prudent man, took exact stock of the articles with which he became charged?—He did.

2705. When you have balanced your books up to the period at which Captain Gordon took charge, we shall then ascertain exactly how far the existing stock corresponds with what your book states?—Exactly; and not till then.

2706. That will be in fact the final check of your payments at the War Office, because if the two accounts correspond, the actual remains and the actual balance of the ledger, up to that date, you must have been correct also in your payments,

because you will not have paid for anything that was not actually received at Weedon; is that so?—That is quite true.

2707. Until that remain of the stock is compared with the state of the ledger we can none of us, either you at the War Office or the Commissioners sitting here, know anything with regard to the correctness of all your accounts?—No.

2708. (*Chairman.*) As long ago as early in 1858 Mr. Elliott gave what purported to be the exact amount of certificates passed up to the 31st of March 1857; that is when your ledger ends?—I am not

Mr. JOHN HUNT examined.

2711. (*Chairman.*) You are in business as a clothier at Stroud?—Yes.

2712. In the firm of Hunt and Barnard?—Yes.

2713. You come before us with an excellent character, for I find in the Blue Book (see Parliamentary Paper, No. 398, 418, 438; 1858, page 18) that Mr. Ramsay is asked, "Do you employ clothiers in the West of England?" He says, "We do; they are the best cloth manufacturers we have." I do not find any other cloth manufacturers in the West of England in the list, therefore I suppose you are the persons referred to?—Yes.

2714. Have you been in the habit of furnishing cloth to the Government?—Yes.

2715. Were you in the habit of furnishing cloth under the old system to the clothiers?—Yes.

2716. Have you been largely engaged in the delivery of cloth at Weedon from its first establishment down to the present time?—Yes.

2717. Do you take an active part in the business?—Not very.

2718. Are you sufficiently conversant with it to answer questions such as those which you heard me put to Mr. Gilpin?—Yes.

2719. Have you any reason to complain of the severity of the inspections at Weedon?—No.

2720. Have the amount of rejections of cloth furnished by your firm been considerable?—Rather so at the commencement, but not since.

2721. By the commencement you mean 1856, and perhaps early in 1857?—Yes.

2722. To what do you attribute the small number of rejections of late?—To the cloths being generally more correct in the dye; more uniform.

2723. When rejections have taken place, has there always been a notification to you of the reason of the rejection?—Yes.

2724. In your judgment have the grounds of objection which have been stated been generally well founded?—Generally.

2725. You have taken pains, I suppose, to remove those objections?—Yes.

2726. Have you had any cases in which cloth has been finally rejected, or have you removed the objections and sent the cloth back?—There have been cases in which the cloths have been finally rejected.

2727. For defects which you could not remedy?—Yes.

2728. Is there any other manufacturer in the West of England, besides yourself, that you are aware of, who furnishes cloth to the Government?—I believe Mr. Oliver Bird does.

2729. Have you ever been at Weedon yourself?—Never.

2730. Or anybody on your behalf?—Yes.

2731. Who?—One of our clerks.

2732. For what purpose did he go there?—He went a long time since. When we thought they were complaining without cause we sent him up, and he saw Mr. Elliott and Mr. Green, and went into the matter. He saw what was the matter with the cloths. They all came back, and were put in order, and some of them returned again.

aware of that. He may have done so. He gave us an abstract of the stores.

2709. Has Commissary-General Carpenter really been engaged for the last two months in this business?—I believe he has.

2710. The ledger being substantially finished two months ago, when you produced it here, have you not been able to check the certificates of payment up to the 31st of March 1857?—Mr. Carpenter told me an hour ago that he should be able to give me the first instalment of documents to-night, up to November 1856, and in a few days up to the end of March 1857.

2733. Were any cloths which had been objected to passed in consequence of the visit of your clerk to Weedon without being sent back?—No.

2734. Do you make any complaint of the inspection?—No.

2735. Are you satisfied?—Yes.

2736. Is your contract like those of other people, by tender?—Precisely.

2737. You seem to be fortunate in reference to the inspection, because most of the persons we have heard of seem to have had some reason to complain?—I think our cloths have been fully equal, if not superior, to the pattern generally. The sealed patterns of all the lighter cloths are, with one exception, our make in the first place, therefore we know what to work upon.

2738. It might probably arise from the opinion which has been formed that you were the best cloth manufacturers that the Government had, that the patterns were made by you, and having made the patterns you would be more likely to make the same cloth?—The cloths were not had direct from us, but from various clothiers who were in the habit of supplying the Government. The best patterns were selected from the parties that sent in cloths, and, with the exception of one case, they were our cloths.

2739. Do you believe that the cloths in use by the Government are principally made upon your patterns?—I do not think they have altered very many of them.

2740. Have you any reason to doubt the competency of the inspectors or viewers?—No, none.

2741. You answer with a little hesitation; have you any reason to doubt the competency of the inspectors or viewers?—No; if they had the opportunity of just properly finishing up the goods at Weedon there would be no necessity for returning them; because, as is sometimes the case, the carriage between Stroud and Weedon has taken the press out of the cloth; they have often rejected cloths on that account, and on that account only, and they have stated it on the note as the reason of the rejection.

2742. You think that a temporary defect might more conveniently be remedied at the depôt than by sending the goods back to the manufacturer?—I think so; it is customary with the houses in London to have them redone up; that is, damped by the cloth workers.

2743. You mean that when you furnished goods to the army clothiers, if they found a defect they did not send the goods back to the manufacturer, but remedied the defect on the spot?—Yes.

2744. Would you have that done by Government servants, or would you have a branch establishment of your own for such a purpose?—I think the Government servants would be able to do it very well indeed.

2745. It would save considerable cost, would it not?—Yes.

2746. (*Mr. Turner.*) What operation had you to perform on the cloth when it was returned?—Merely pressing it over again?—In some cases merely pressing it in consequence of the ends being rather more pressed than the middle.

2747. Would not the press be taken out of the cloth fully as much by the tailor as in the carriage?

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Is the press of very great consequence?—No, I believe not.

2748. (*Chairman.*) Were you ever fined in consequence of those defects?—No, we never were fined.

2749. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you ever seen an inspector at your own place at Stroud?—Never.

2750. There is some kind of machine which is used to test the strength of cloth, is there not?—Yes.

2751. Is that a good machine?—I think so.

2752. Do you make use of it?—We do.

2753. Is it Mr. Hebdon's invention?—Yes; we use it occasionally, but very seldom.

2754. I understand your cloth is rather of a superior description?—Yes.

2755. I suppose you do not put shoddy into your cloth?—No.

2756. Then you would scarcely have any use for this machine, the principal object of which is to detect shoddy in cloth?—We have used the machine to try it against other cloths.

2757. Is the machine very much in use in your district?—Not that I am aware of. I do not know any one else besides ourselves that has one.

2758. (*Colonel French.*) Can you detect shoddy in cloth?—We can test the strength of cloth; cloths with shoddy in them of course will not stand the strain that other cloths will.

2759. Shoddy would not be used in superior cloths?—No, it would be impossible to use it in superior cloths.

2760. (*Mr. Turner.*) May I ask you the price of the machine?—40*l.* and 6*l.*; there were two machines.

2761. I suppose that is the machine that Mr. Hebdon supplies to the Yorkshire manufacturers?—I suppose so; I know of no difference.

2762. (*Chairman.*) You said that your clerk went up to Weedon, who was that?—Mr. Woodwark.

2763. Was it his sole and exclusive business to see what the defects in the cloth were?—Entirely; he went off at a moment's notice when we received information that the cloths were coming back.

2764. Had you any greater facilities for having the cloths passed after his visit than before?—No.

2765. You know perhaps what I am distantly alluding to?—Yes.

2766. Have you any reason to believe that there has ever been as far as you know any corruption with any of the officials at Weedon?—Not that I am aware of.

2767. You on the part of your house deny anything of the kind?—I do.

2768. Have you never stated your belief that corruption did exist at Weedon?—I know of no positive case, but I may casually have repeated months ago the following bit of gossip, but nothing further. About two years since, when the Weedon establishment was first opened, one of our clerks informed me that from conversation he had just had with a manufacturer and contractor in my neighbourhood, Mr. Oliver Bird, Southfield Mills, he inferred that some of the Yorkshire manufacturers were not above making presents to some of the people at Weedon. I have seen Mr. Bird, and he says that about two years since he met some contractors at his lodgings in town (but whose names he does not know), and they were all talking of the difficulty of getting their goods passed at Weedon. One of them said, "what do you think of a man taking up his hat, and seeing a 50*l.* note in it, put it on his head without saying anything, and the cloths afterwards passed all right." Mr. Bird did not, unfortunately, know the man's name, or this case ought to be sifted; however, it is now so long since that it would be useless bringing it up, and it amounts to but little or nothing. I really know of nothing whatever that I can have mentioned to any one but this, and, although quite willing to answer any questions that may be asked of me, have positively no information to tender to the Commissioners that would be worth their receiving.

2769. Mr. Bird could not tell you who it was that said it?—No; I saw him upon the subject, and he said he did not know who it was at all; it occurred at his lodgings in King-street, Cheapside.

2770. As a general rule people know who are in their lodgings?—He said a great many were there.

2771. It appears to me that it is a monstrously unfair thing to give currency to reports of that sort unless people are prepared to furnish the materials upon which the truth may be investigated?—I think so too.

2772. You cannot find out from Mr. Bird who it was?—No, I have inquired, and he says he does not know at all.

2773. (*Mr. Turner.*) May I ask whether your servant bought that machine for 40*l.* on the occasion of his visit to Weedon?—No.

2774. Was it previously in your possession?—I am not aware whether it was previously or not; he had nothing to do with it whatever.

2775. He did not order it on that occasion?—No.

2776. You think it was subsequent to his visit that the machine was ordered?—I think it was. We have since had another machine from Mr. Hebdon, and a very useful one it is.

2777. (*Chairman.*) What kind of machine?—For measuring, weighing, and folding at the same time; it is very useful, and we are likely to have another.

2778. That you have in use?—Yes, constantly.

2779. Is it much used by manufacturers?—No; I think it would be generally if it became known. The first person that looked at it said he should like to have one if the price was less.

2780. Do you attribute the increased facilities with which your things have been passed of late to the greater care you have taken in the preparation of them? You said that you had had fewer rejections of late than formerly?—I think that the dyers have been more uniform and more careful; it was principally on account of the dyeing before. We had two dyers, and the colours were not always uniform one dyer with the other, and the cloths were rejected on that account. We have now got them to hit the thing together.

2781. Do you dye the cloth in the piece or in the wool?—In the piece, not in the wool.

2782. Did you hear a question which I put to Mr. Gilpin on the subject of an appeal from the decision of the inspectors? Have the rejections which you have had been sufficient to induce you to desire the opportunity of an appeal to an independent authority?—I think not, because in almost every case the rejections have been upon cloths which we have been able to send back again with a little alteration in re-dyeing and so on; we never had a single complaint of the quality of the cloth.

2783. Only in the pressing, the finishing, and the dyeing?—Yes, trivial matters that are very easily set right. With the exception of the dyeing, I am not aware of any reason for the rejection of the cloths but what they could have remedied the defects on the spot. Sometimes when cloths were first sent to Weedon they remained there for many days without being passed, sometimes three weeks or a month, and lying about in that way the pressing got out of the cloths.

2784. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did the cloths lie about after they were unpacked?—Yes; we knew that by the alteration in the colour, and the seam sometimes being dirty.

2785. (*Chairman.*) Those defects were not attributed to you, were they?—I do not say that, perhaps some might have been attributable to us, and others to carriage and the length of time the goods had been lying there.

2786. If the defect arose from the goods lying about, would not that be a defect originating after delivery?—It would.

2787. Have you ever had reason to complain of undue delay in inspection?—No, I think not; they

have all been within the time; they have been to the extent of the time, which is, I think, 30 or 31 days.

2788. You think if they had been more prompt occasionally, some of those minor defects would not have arisen?—Yes, I believe they have not so much to do now, and we get them passed within a fortnight instead of a month; they are more prompt than they formerly were.

2789. (*Colonel French.*) By whom were you accepted as a contractor? Was it by Mr. Howell?—Yes.

2790. Had you any communication with him after that, direct or indirect?—Not that I am aware of; I have seen Mr. Howell once only.

2791. After your goods are passed, who gives you the authority for receiving payment?—We receive a notification from Weedon that the goods are passed, signed by Mr. Green or Mr. Elliott.

2792. Who gives you the authority for payment?—That comes from the Paymaster-General's Office, generally signed, I think, by Mr. Garrett.

2793. (*Chairman.*) Are you sending as much to Weedon as you were formerly?—No, our contracts are nearly over now.

2794. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are your goods of the same description as those supplied by the Yorkshire manufacturers?—They ought to be.

2795. Do you enter into competition with the Yorkshire manufacturers?—Not very frequently in regard to cloths in general consumption.

2796. (*Chairman.*) I suppose you tender for goods?—Yes, we tender at what we consider a fair price.

2797. And the Yorkshire manufacturers tender for the same thing?—Yes.

2798. (*Mr. Turner.*) Then you enter into direct competition with them?—Yes.

Mr. CHARLES WEBB examined.

2809. (*Chairman.*) What is your firm?—Charles and John Webb and Co.

2810. What are you?—In the woollen trade.

2811. In Coleman Street?—Yes.

2812. How long have you carried on that business?—I have been in it about 26 years.

2813. Were you in the habit under the old system of furnishing cloth to the army clothiers?—Yes.

2814. Have you since the new system delivered any cloth at Weedon?—Upon one occasion.

2815. One occasion only?—Yes.

2816. What was that contract?—Some red and some white cloth.

2817. When was it?—In July, I think, 1856.

2818. Can you state the quantities?—About 8,000 yards of red, and about 400 yards, I think, of white.

2819. Was that contract the result of a tender by competition?—Yes.

2820. What was the price for the 8,000 yards of red cloth?—If I recollect rightly, it was 5s. 3d. or 5s. 4d. a yard.

2821. Was it all delivered together?—No; as the cloth came round it was sent in.

2822. Have you any reason to complain with respect to your treatment in that matter?—I was satisfied with the first portion amounting to 5,000 yards, which all passed with the exception of two pieces and a half; when I came to deliver the second portion of 3,000 yards, then they began rejecting it almost wholesale.

2823. Can you give the dates?—The first 5,000 yards were supplied between the 2d of April and the 6th of May, these were passed; we delivered 5,088 yards, and we had 5,003½ yards passed; we also delivered some white cloths in April and May, amounting to 846 yards, 316 of which were approved and 529 rejected.

2824. Did you complain of that rejection?—I did.

2825. What was the reason assigned, if any?—There was a small portion of the white cloth rather grey; I did not complain of it, but I afterwards re-

2799. (*Chairman.*) Do you get as large a profit under this system of open tender with the Government as you did when you supplied cloths under the old system?—The article of reds for the army we never supplied before, and that is the greatest quantity of cloth we do supply; we never supplied lower than the sergeants in the army before.

2800. So that you supply more than you ever did?—Yes.

2801. Are your prices higher or lower than they were?—A little lower.

2802. Do you attribute that to competition?—Perhaps that may have something to do with it.

2803. (*Colonel French.*) Do you supply a better article now?—It is as nearly as possible the same, because the sealed patterns are the same as those originally supplied; with the exception of the reds the sealed pattern of the scarlets is the same now as formerly.

2804. It is not of a superior quality?—No; the sergeants' scarlet is exactly the same as it has been for this 20 years; the cloth for the privates is much finer.

2805. It has been stated to me, upon very good authority, by a person who has put it in practice, that the present sergeants' cloth might be served to the whole army for the same price as is now paid for soldiers' cloth; is that the case in your opinion?—No; it could not be done in the same colour, scarlet.

2806. I mean in the same colour and the same quality?—There is but 6d. a yard difference between the cloth for sergeants and privates now.

2807. (*Mr. Turner.*) What are the two prices?—8s. 6d. and 9s.

2808. (*Chairman.*) Is the cloth for privates what you call "Drummers' Red"?—Yes, that is 8s. 6d.

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placed it with other cloth which I considered fully up to the mark.

2826. What was the ground assigned by them for the rejection?—"Not equal to pattern."

2827. Was anything further stated?—No, nothing further.

2828. What took place upon that as regards the white cloth?—The first lot I had back again; I got some better cloth and sent that down, part of which was passed, and part of that came back also.

2829. You were not satisfied upon that?—No, I was not.

2830. What did you do?—The contract was closed, and we were not called upon to make any further delivery.

2831. Was there any forfeiture?—None.

2832. No fine?—No.

2833. With regard to the remainder of the reds what took place?—We delivered from May the 6th to the 30th 4,228 yards; 1,462 yards were approved, and 2,000 rejected.

2834. Upon what ground?—"Not equal to pattern." Upon one occasion I see they rejected it for being "too dark in colour;" that was only a small quantity of 200 yards.

2835. What did you do upon that occasion?—I had the cloths back again. I repacked them and returned them.

2836. Without any alteration?—Some few of the pieces might have been repressed, but as a bulk they went back again as they returned them, and they were passed.

2837. Did you return the 200 yards which were said to be different in colour?—I think those were kept out. I do not mean to say that every piece was returned, but as a bulk they were returned.

2838. Did you hear Mr. Hunt's evidence upon that subject? He says that his goods were sent back for not being properly pressed. You say that no special defect was pointed out, except that 200 yards were rejected for being too dark in colour?—Yes; and

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the others were rejected for not being equal to pattern. One case I see was "very inferior in quality, "not fitted for the service," but the majority was "not equal to pattern."

2839. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were those part of the goods that you sent back again?—Those were part of the goods that went back again and were passed.

2840. They were then fit for the service?—Yes.

2841. (*Chairman.*) By being pressed?—Part of them were pressed.

2842. How do you account for that?—I cannot account for it in any way, except that the inspectors had not sufficient knowledge.

2843. Is that the only way you can account for it?—I do not know what other cause there can be; I do not see that there could be any prejudice against us any more than any one else.

2844. Finally you completed your contract?—Yes, within a few hundred yards, which would have been completed if it had not been for a request made by Mr. Elliott that we were not to send any more, as he already had more than he wanted; that was in the presence of myself and my young man.

2845. Who was the young man?—Mr. Ritchie; we were both at Weedon together.

2846. When did you go to Weedon?—I think it must have been about the beginning of September 1856.

2847. Did you go down in consequence of these rejections?—Yes.

2848. Whom did you see?—I saw Mr. Elliott, Mr. Hoile, Mr. Hebdon, and several other parties about it.

2849. Was the cloth there then?—Yes, the cloth was there then which we went about.

2850. Did you examine it in their presence?—I did.

2851. Did they point out what they considered to be the objections?—There were no particular objections pointed out, except these few pieces being too dark in colour.

2852. When you were on the spot did not you ask them their reason for rejecting the cloth?—Yes, but they did not assign any; they merely said "not equal to pattern," and we must have them back again.

2853. How long were you at Weedon?—Perhaps two or three hours altogether.

2854. Had you any private conversation with Mr. Elliott?—None at all.

2855. Or Mr. Hoile?—No.

2856. Or Mr. Hebdon?—No. The conversation was general.

2857. Were all three present together?—Mr. Elliott was not present the whole time. He took us into the stores, and there we saw Mr. Hoile and Mr. Hebdon, who were supposed to be the examiners.

2858. The goods were finally returned?—The goods came back, and I returned them again.

2859. Have you ever tendered for Government contracts since?—Only to a very small amount. I have done nothing at Weedon since.

2860. Why not?—Because I did not like their examination; and the expense of going down and fetching back rejected goods, when I considered they were rejected without a cause, was too heavy.

2861. Do you think if there had been the appeal which has been mentioned, those goods would have been passed?—I think there ought to be an appeal, most decidedly.

2862. Do you think those goods would have been passed if there had been an appeal?—I think so.

2863. Have you any reason to suppose that there has been anything like corruption at Weedon?—Nothing more than is generally reported in the trade. I have no reason to say so myself.

2864. Have you ever heard it from anybody upon whose statement you could rely?—Nothing more than general report. I never was told by anybody

directly that they had bribed parties at Weedon, though it is commonly reported among the trade.

2865. We want to know upon what the report is founded?—I do not know. Perhaps it is a supposition got up from the smallness of the salaries paid to the inspectors.

2866. Have you ever heard any instance given?—No.

2867. (*Mr. Turner.*) Supposing you had resorted to such a practice yourself, I presume you would have some hesitation in acknowledging it?—I certainly should not like to acknowledge it if I had practised it.

2868. Do not you think it is natural that other people, if they have practised bribery, may have a little difficulty in divulging it?—Very possibly.

2869. (*Chairman.*) We consider every witness under the same obligation as if they were on their oath. Do you say that you know of no instance of bribery at Weedon?—I know of no instance where I have bribed myself. In fact I never offered a bribe.

2870. Do you know any instance in which you have reason to believe that there is truth in the rumour which has been referred to?—I do not know that there is any truth in it.

2871. Did anybody ever tell you that they had bribed?—Not directly.

2872. Indirectly?—No.

2873. (*Colonel French.*) Who told you that your cloth was rejected?—We had a report stating how many yards were examined, how many approved, and how many rejected, and in consequence of seeing the large rejection I went down.

2874. Had you any conversation with Mr. Elliott upon the subject?—Nothing more than about the rejection of the goods.

2875. I mean with respect to the cloth rejected had you any conversation with Mr. Elliott?—Very little. The whole of my conversation was confined, I may say, to Mr. Hoile and Mr. Hebdon.

2876. Had you any conversation with them with respect to the cloth being repacked?—Yes. I went into the stores with them, and saw the cloths and the pattern, and I told them I considered the supply equal to sample.

2877. Was there anything in their manner that induced you to suppose that they would like to have a douceur?—I did not notice anything of that sort.

2878. (*Chairman.*) Was a gentleman of the name of Wollen in your service?—Yes.

2879. Is he now in business for himself?—Yes.

2880. Is he here?—Yes.

2881. Did he ever say anything to you upon the subject of alleged corruption at Weedon?—No; he had left us before that.

2882. He was not with you at the time these transactions took place?—No.

2883. When did he leave you?—I think about five years ago.

2884. Do you furnish goods now to army clothiers?—Yes.

2885. Similar goods to those that you supplied to Weedon?—No, not exactly; since that the pattern has been altered.

2886. Was the price fair that was paid you at Weedon?—Yes, we got the price that we asked.

2887. Have you such an objection to the inspection that you have been deterred from tendering since?—We have scarcely tendered for anything since.

2888. Are there any exceptions?—We have made tenders at such a price that we did not think it at all possible that we should get the contract, nor did we.

2889. Why did you tender if you did not think you would get the contract?—We tendered at such a price that if we had got it it would have paid us. There was something put on for the chance of rejection.

2890. (*Mr. Turner.*) You thought it necessary to put on an additional price when tendering to the

Government, knowing that you were liable to rejection, beyond what you would have put on to private establishments?—Yes. We are also liable to the expense of going backwards and forwards.

2891. (*Chairman.*) If the depôt were at London would that objection be removed?—Yes.

2892. Do you give a guarantee to the clothiers to whom you furnished cloth that it shall, if returned by the regiments, or otherwise, be replaced?—We do not give a written guarantee, but it has been understood if the cloth turned out bad that we should replace it, and we did on one occasion 16 or 17 years ago.

2893. Who are the army clothiers to whom you principally furnish cloth?—Messrs. Hebbert.

2894. Any others?—Messrs. Gilpin, Pearse, Shaw, and in fact all the large houses.

2895. Do you supply Messrs. Dolan?—Yes, occasionally.

2896. Is there any other statement which you wish to make?—There is a difficulty in tendering very frequently from a circumstance which exists at the present time, namely, that for cloth goods the pattern exhibited is an unwoaded cloth, and the specification states that the cloth is to be woaded; that makes a difference in the price.

2897. (*Mr. Turner.*) That is to say, the pattern and the specification do not agree?—No.

2898. Which would you think it prudent to follow?—I should follow the woaded, and perhaps others would take the one unwoaded.

2899. Would not that render the cloth liable to rejection?—Not if it is woaded.

Mr. FREDERICK WOLLEN examined.

2911. (*Chairman.*) What is your firm?—Hubbard, Wollen, and Weston.

2912. Where do you carry on business?—66 and 67, Wood-street.

2913. What is your business?—Woollen ware-housemen.

2914. Are you the gentleman who has been mentioned by Mr. Webb as having been formerly with him?—With his father, not with him.

2915. Has your firm furnished any articles to Weedon?—Yes; a large quantity of serge.

2916. Have you had more than one contract?—Only one contract, although there was a supplementary order.

2917. Was it a running contract?—Yes.

2918. Will you state the particulars of the contract?—The contract began in March 1857, and expired the 31st of March 1858.

2919. What is serge used for?—For lining the soldiers' coats.

2920. Is that the only contract you have had with Weedon?—The only contract I have had direct with Weedon.

2921. What do you mean by "direct"?—I have supplied goods which have been delivered to Weedon through other parties.

2922. You would not appear in those contracts?—No, I should not appear.

2923. In those other cases were you responsible for the goods passing inspection? Did you guarantee to the persons to whom you furnished them that they should pass inspection?—Yes, I took those back that were rejected.

2924. Then you were more interested than the nominal party in the goods passing inspection?—Certainly.

2925. What other contracts did you refer to?—For rifle cloth and Oxford cloth.

2926. When was that?—In the summer of 1856 for the rifle cloth, and in August or September 1857 for some Oxford. I am not sure about the dates.

2927. Who were the houses to whom you furnished those cloths?—Isaac, Campbell, and Company.

2928. In both cases?—Yes.

2929. You made yourself responsible to Isaac,

2900. (*Chairman.*) Does your contract say "in accordance with pattern and specification," or "with pattern or specification"?—It is not very specific.

2901. What is woaded?—Dyeing it upon the blue first.

2902. (*Mr. Turner.*) In the wool?—Yes.

2903. Before it is made up?—Yes. The grey, of course, is also dyed in the wool, but the wool to make it woaded should be dyed indigo blue first.

2904. (*Chairman.*) What is the distinction between wool-dyed and woaded?—They are both wool-dyed, but woaded is a fast colour; if it is not woaded the black portion of it is simply dyed black; if woaded it should be dyed indigo blue first, and coloured with black afterwards.

2905. (*Mr. Turner.*) If it was dyed indigo blue first and then black it would be a much more permanent colour, would it not?—Yes.

2906. Can you bring cloth up to precisely the same colour when it is unwoaded as when it is woaded?—It will vary a little in the shade.

2907. Might not that be a cause of rejection?—Yes.

2908. (*Chairman.*) As you say that the pattern and the specification do not agree, have you written for information upon the subject?—No.

2909. After you saw the pattern, and after the tenders were out, what time had you for sending in your tenders?—They are not gone in.

2910. Why do not you ask for information?—Because I do not intend to tender. I merely mention it to show that there is a little difficulty in these cases.

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Campbell, and Company that they should pass inspection?—Yes; to take back those that were rejected.

2930. Confining your attention in the first instance to the serge, was any of the serge rejected?—Yes, we had the whole of the second portion rejected all at once. The first delivery went off without rejection.

2931. When was that?—In July 1857 or August; the delivery was the 30th of June, and they were examined within the month of July, and we had a report of the rejection.

2932. (*Colonel French.*) What was the colour of the serge?—White serge.

2933. (*Chairman.*) What did you do upon the rejection of the second lot of serge?—I went down to Weedon.

2934. Was that your first visit there?—No; I sent some samples down in the first instance as soon as we obtained the contract to get an approval, so that we might work to pattern. I saw Mr. Elliott and Mr. Hebdon, and the samples were approved, and therefore we went to work.

2935. Did you furnish the samples yourself?—Yes.

2936. Were they sealed?—We had a sample piece from the War Office, and we sent down 20 pieces to have them inspected.

2937. (*Mr. Turner.*) Of your own manufacture?—Yes, and as they were approved of we went to work to make the quantity.

2938. (*Chairman.*) Did you go down with those 20 pieces?—I followed them in three or four days.

2939. And you saw Mr. Elliott; did you see any one else?—Mr. Hoile, Mr. Hebdon, and Mr. Mallett.

2940. They would all four be concerned in passing such things as those: Mr. Hebdon and Mr. Mallett in the lower grade, then Mr. Hoile, and then Mr. Elliott the superintendent?—Yes.

2941. Did anything take place then?—I was then asked to go into Mr. Elliott's private room, his countinghouse. I sat there while the goods were examined, for they had not been examined when I was there. I waited half an hour, and he came in and said that the goods would do very well if we would make them to those 20 pieces. That is all that took place, and I immediately left.

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2942. Then you came back to London?—Yes.

Mr. F. Wollen. 2943. Were you down at Weedon again before the rejection of the second lot of serge?—No.

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2945. From whom was the report sent?—The report was from Mr. Elliott.

2946. Whom did you see upon that occasion?—Mr. Green.

2947. I believe he was connected in marriage with Mrs. Elliott?—He was acting under Mr. Elliott. I considered him second to Mr. Elliott.

2948. What happened?—I wished to see the parties who had rejected the serge, and to know what was the cause of the rejection, because “inferior to pattern” is a wide field. I wanted to know the particular cause. Mr. Green went down with me into the store, and I there saw Mr. Hoile, Mr. Hebdon, and Mr. Mallett. During the whole of the time I was there Mr. Green was with me.

2949. Did they point out to you what they supposed to be objections?—They attempted to do so. They said what they objected to.

2950. Who did?—I think Mr. Mallett particularly.

2951. What did he suggest?—He attempted to point out the bad make of the serge.

2952. The texture?—Yes, and the quality, but I thought that his objections were frivolous; in fact I thought he knew very little about it.

2953. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did you consider them fully equal to the 20 pieces that you first sent?—Quite so.

2954. (*Chairman.*) What further happened?—I said that I would send a few more samples if he would let those remain there for some time, so that they might have an opportunity of judging of another lot. I sent 20 or 30 pieces; they were examined and were not approved of.

2955. Had you a similar notification “not equal to pattern”?—Yes, and I followed the samples immediately.

2956. That was your third visit?—Yes; then I found that I could not get on, and I applied to Mr. Howell that the whole of the goods should be examined again. Mr. Howell, after receiving two or three letters from me, said he could do nothing in it; and I think they kept me a month or six weeks in suspense. All that time the goods were lying at Weedon. They wanted the goods, and I pressed Mr. Howell, but I could get nothing from him. Afterwards he said, “I can do nothing with it; they are rejected.” I immediately had all the goods back from Weedon, and went through the whole of them myself. I selected such as I thought were good, and kept back the inferior, the light weight ones, because light weight seemed to be one of the objections. I do not know how it occurred, but I should say 10 per cent. of them were light weight by only a quarter of a pound a-piece.

2957. (*Mr. Turner.*) A quarter of a pound in how much?—Out of 11lbs. I sent those which I selected back again, and I had some of them rejected afterwards, but the bulk of them were passed, and they ought to have been passed in the first instance. There was no real cause for the whole lot of them being rejected in that summary way. They ought to have gone through them as I did; and it caused great trouble and expense to me.

2958. Was 11 lbs. about the average weight?—11½ lbs.

2959. In manufacturing a quantity of cloth of that description can you keep them precisely to one uniform weight?—You cannot.

2960. Did any of the pieces exceed 11½ lbs?—Many weighed 11½ lbs. and 11¾ lbs; those were ultimately passed.

2961. Those could not be rejected on account of deficiency in weight?—No.

2962. As a dealer you know, I suppose, that in a large quantity of cloth it is almost impossible to attain perfect uniformity?—Quite impossible.

2963. They cannot be, as one of the witnesses said, like so many stamped sovereigns?—No.

2964. In a wholesale house a fair average is taken generally, is it not?—Yes.

2965. If some of the goods exceed the weight a little, an allowance is made for some that come a little under, but that was not the case with your goods at Weedon?—No; I sent those back to Weedon which I had selected, and the bulk, or nearly all, were passed; but I suppose I may have had 100 or 200 pieces rejected again, and those I kept for sale in the trade. There was nothing particular the matter with them, but I would not send them a third journey. I thought twice was sufficient. As serge is an article that can be sold very readily, it was not a matter of much consequence. We continually had some rejections, 40 pieces, 50 pieces, but that I did not care much about.

2966. (*Chairman.*) Did you go on with the remaining portion of your contract?—We finished it.

2967. Had you any further rejections of any amount?—No, only small rejections, which I did not care about.

2968. What was about the money value of your supplies?—About 10,000l.

2969. What was the amount of the rejections?—One third, certainly. It was in the second delivery that they were all rejected.

2970. Were those the only three occasions you were ever at Weedon on the subject of those serges?—Yes, I went afterwards when I had selected the goods and sent them down. I told them I had selected the best goods and sent them back again. I was quite sure that they were right and ought to pass. With these I also sent some fresh-manufactured serge.

2971. (*Mr. Turner.*) They knew that they were the same goods?—Yes.

2972. (*Colonel French.*) Did you dispose of the rejected goods afterwards?—Yes; I thought they knew from what I said, as 50 bales had never been opened at Weedon, but returned in the same state as delivered.

2973. And got the full price for them?—Yes.

2974. (*Chairman.*) Do you attribute the final passing of those that were passed exclusively to their being, in the unbiassed judgment of the people at Weedon, equal to pattern?—Equal to pattern.

2975. Do you attribute their passing at that time simply to the fact that they thought the objections had been removed by what you had done to the serge?—Yes; I do not think they knew a great deal about it. I explained to them that the pattern serge which we had to work by, given us by the War Office, was made by a different manufacturer to those who made for us, and we could not get two manufacturers' serges to appear exactly alike. It was merely because there was a difference in their appearance that they were rejected; not but what they were of equal value.

2976. Do you think it was simply and solely from a disinterested error of judgment on their part that your goods were rejected?—It was an error of judgment, certainly.

2977. Was it simply an error of judgment?—Yes.

2978. Have you never attributed the rejection to a less excusable motive?—I may have thought so.

2979. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you ever said so?—I thought it was very hard at the time.

2980. Have you ever said that you had reason to attribute the rejection of your serge to some other motive than error of judgment?—I have said so; but I must explain that. I think there was some one down at Weedon who looked at those serges, an opponent, who found fault with them, and that was the reason I made the remark that I thought there was another cause for their being rejected, that somebody else had interfered in this matter.

2981. (*Chairman.*) Is that the only reason why you thought they were influenced by the suggestion of some other person?—I thought so.

2982. My question points to the means taken by you to remove the objection to your serge. Was it simply by an explanation of the excellence of the serges, or was there any other inducement held out by you?—Nothing at all, more than the explanation of the matter to the inspectors; having them all back, and selecting the best goods, and keeping those back that were light weights; I saw that that was one very great objection; I kept those back, and sold them. Afterwards I never went to Weedon, nor saw any of them.

2983. I must ask you the question more directly. Did you take any means yourself to smooth the passing of the goods, except by showing them that the serges were good?—No.

2984. You never offered any money?—No.

2985. Nor suggested it?—No.

2986. Nor allowed it to be offered, with your consent?—No one had anything to do with the matter but myself. I managed the whole of it. No one could do it.

2987. You never paid any money or money's worth at Weedon to pass the goods?—No.

2988. Nor for any other reason?—No.

2989. Directly or indirectly? My question extends to loans or gifts?—None at all.

2990. I cannot say "that you swear," but that you solemnly assert?—Yes.

2991. Have you never said anything equivalent to this, that you yourself had given something to the men at Weedon?—No; I have never said so.

2992. Nor ever consciously conveyed that impression to others?—No.

2993. Nothing of the kind?—Nothing of the kind.

2994. Will you look round the room at the gentlemen on the other side of the table.

(*The witness did so.*)

2995. I understand you, without any reservation whatever, solemnly to assert that neither directly nor indirectly have you ever given or been party to giving any douceur of any sort to any individual at Weedon?—No, I have not.

2996. (*Mr. Turner.*) And no inspector or Government servant at Weedon has ever benefited in any respect from your intercourse with him?—No.

2997. (*Chairman.*) Nor have you ever said so?—Nor have I ever said so.

2998. Did you upon any of your visits ever see any of the officials at Weedon, except in the depôt?—No, never. I once saw Mr. Mallett outside the gates as I was going in; I think that is on the Government premises.

2999. Just at the entrance to the barrack ground?—Yes; I was going into the counting-house from the stores, and I met Mr. Mallett.

3000. What makes you remember that?—Simply because I had just sent the samples in, and I said to him, "How do the samples get on?" He said, "Just the same; they will not do," or something of that kind. I went into the counting-house, and saw Mr. Green, and in five or ten minutes he brought the report that they were rejected. In fact Mr. Mallett knew at the time I met him that they were rejected, but he did not like to speak to me only one or two minutes outside.

3001. Was that in the evening?—The middle of the day.

3002. Was that the only occasion on which you ever saw any officer at Weedon outside the gates, to the best of your recollection?—Yes.

3003. Were you ever at Weedon at that time?—Yes.

3004. Did you ever sleep there?—Yes.

3005. When was that?—In August 1857.

3006. Was that when you were there about the serge?—Yes; I took with me a small bale of serge,

and went down by the evening train, and delivered it in the morning, and had the goods inspected. Some five or six pieces there were.

3007. Was that the same occasion when you happened to see Mr. Mallett going in at the gate?—No; that was earlier in the year, April or May.

3008. If any body has said that you have stated that you have been at Weedon and have got your goods passed by bribery or anything like it, he has stated that which is untrue?—Yes.

3009. That you state most distinctly?—Most certainly.

3010. Have you ever said anything that could bear that interpretation?—Never.

3011. (*Colonel French.*) Did anybody ask you to dinner the day you stayed at Weedon?—No. What I had there I paid for at the "Globe."

3012. (*Chairman.*) Then you have nothing to say upon the subject of bribery?—No, nothing at all.

3013. I do not wish to appear offensive or pertinacious; but do you solemnly say that you have had no art or part in bribery of any sort at Weedon?—No.

3014. Nor ever knew of such a thing?—Not to my knowledge; I have heard of such a thing.

3015. From whom have you heard it? I do not mean newspaper reports or general rumours?—It has been the general opinion. I cannot say any one particularly. I could not give you any point. It is merely that there is a great deal of bribery going on at Weedon. I am aware that there are plenty of false rumours in that respect.

3016. Do you believe those rumours?—No, I do not. I have had to do with Government officers for a great many years; I may say for 30 years. I used to attend the depôt in Tooley Street when the goods were delivered there. All Government stores were delivered at Tooley Street when I was a young man. I have been there, to the Tower, Deptford, Woolwich, Portsmouth, Weedon, and the East India Company's stores, and I have never found an inspector open to such a thing as bribery.

3017. How do you know that they were not open to bribery?—Not so far as concerned those I had to do with. I had to do with them very largely, and I can speak for myself.

3018. To say you never found a man open, may imply that you have tried?—I never thought they were the sort of men that would take a bribe, from their appearance.

3019. To use a vulgar phrase, did you ever "try it on"?—I dare not do it.

3020. Did you ever try it on?—I should not like to do so. I should have fancied that the men would have felt insulted.

3021. Was that the reason why you did not try it?—I only give you my opinion.

3022. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have given a great many reasons why the inspectors should not be open to bribery. Your first answer to the Chairman's question was rather a dubious "no," I thought, and then you went into reasons. Do you still adhere to that "no"?—I do not believe the rumours.

3023. (*Chairman.*) Do you declare that you know of nothing in the shape of evidence upon the subject of bribery attainable through any information that you can give us?—No.

3024. With respect to the other two contracts that you said you had with Isaac, Campbell, and Company, what were they for?—Rifle cloth and Oxford cloth.

3025. Had you anything to do with their passing the inspection at Weedon?—No; nothing to do with it.

3026. You did not go to Weedon about it?—No.

3027. Had you any communication with the people at Weedon, direct or indirect, about that cloth?—Nothing about it at all.

3028. Were the cloths rejected?—Some of the rifles were rejected, and I took them again. We

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delivered no more, but Isaac and Co. supplied the deficiency themselves from another quarter, for I would not supply any more. In the Oxfords I think we had 21 pieces rejected out of a large number. Those that were rejected we kept, and he paid us for the balance.

3029. In that case nothing was rejected which was afterwards passed?—No, nothing at all.

3030. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do not you consider that there are many drawbacks to be taken into account in making a tender to the Government for the supply of cloths?—A great many, certainly, if they are to be delivered at Weedon. It is too far for us to go, and very expensive. There is the loss of time and the loss of money.

3031. Do you take those impediments into the calculation when you make a tender?—We have not done so.

3032. Do you mean to say that you would make the same offer if you had confidence that there would not be what you consider frivolous objections, or if you had the protection of an arbitration?—We should make the offer a trifle lower.

3033. Do not you think that you are subject to a disadvantage?—Yes, in the contracts we had with Weedon. We had not any previous experience of that establishment.

3034. With your present experience, would you make a tender at as low a price at the Weedon establishment, supposing they offered you one, that you would to a private establishment, where you were more likely to have the goods examined in a business-like way, and where you would have the protection of a reference or arbitration?—I should go lower to a private establishment.

3035. Then the public suffer a disadvantage from the system?—Certainly.

3036. (*Chairman.*) From the possibility of unreasonable severity in the inspection?—Yes.

3037. Do you continue to tender for Government

contracts?—Yes; I have tendered within this last week for a large quantity of cloth and serge.

3038. The objections you have mentioned do not make you refuse to have anything to do with Government contracts?—I understand that the goods are to be delivered in London which I have tendered for; that is a great advantage; we can go directly, and see what is the fault with the goods, if complained of.

3039. Have you ever had any offer of a contract from the Government which you have refused?—No.

3040. For blankets?—No.

3041. Have you ever made any tender for a contract for blankets to be delivered at Mark Lane?—No.

3042. Do you know Mr. Howell?—Very well indeed; I have known him for many years.

3043. Both the father and the son?—Yes.

3044. You never refused any contract for blankets or anything else which was proposed to you by Mr. Howell?—He never offered one to me.

3045. (*Colonel French.*) Does the good opinion which you have expressed with regard to the integrity of the officials at Weedon extend also to their capacity for inspecting the goods?—I said no. I did not think they were competent.

3046. (*Chairman.*) Do you supply many army clothiers?—I have done business with all of them. With Dolan largely; with Hebbert; with Hamburger and Rogers; with Isaac and Campbell, and with all of them, with the exception of Gilpin. I did a large trade with Gilpin in the situation I was in before for so many years.

3047. To any of the persons connected with any of those houses have you ever said anything as to cases of bribery or corruption at Weedon?—I had some conversation with Mr. Isaac about bribery. He had a charge against him as to a 500*l.* cheque. That was the only conversation, probably, I had. I said I did not believe but what he had lent the money. That only goes for an opinion.

3048. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you ever lent any money to any of the officials at Weedon?—No.

Mr. JOHN GIBSON examined.

Mr. J. Gibson.

3049. (*Chairman.*) Are you the head of the firm of Gibson and Co.?—I am.

3050. What is your business?—Army saddlers.

3051. Where do you carry it on?—6, New Coventry-street.

3052. How long have you had contracts with the Government?—We have had them for upwards of 100 years in the house for the supply of cavalry.

3053. Those supplies were made formerly through the colonels of the regiments, were they not?—Yes; through the colonels of the regiments.

3054. And of late with the Government direct?—Yes.

3055. I think we have understood that you have the largest contracts in that branch?—Yes.

3056. Have you also something like a branch establishment at Weedon?—We had an establishment at Weedon, for the purpose of fitting up some of the old trees to the new regulation pattern.

3057. Altering the trees?—Yes; it can be done better and at a cheaper rate than sending the trees up from Weedon to London, because the carriage would be so much.

3058. In your case the authorities at Weedon have done that which several of the witnesses have regretted is not done for their goods at Weedon, in order to save carriage and trouble?—Yes. We have contracts now. They make their own trees, and we fit the materials to those trees on the spot at Weedon, because it saves the carriage. The establishment is also for the purpose of instructing the men.

3059. Do you make trees?—We make them ourselves; the Government are not able to make the quantity that they require.

3060. Sergeant Brodie gave us to understand that tree-making and saddle-making were two distinct

branches, as I suppose they are; but you combine them both?—We do.

3061. Are your contracts by open competition?—By tender.

3062. Do you know other houses who tender?—There is Cuff and Son. They tender as well; and the Government has also extended the contracts to several other houses.

3063. Bevington and Morris?—They are for skins; they do not supply saddlery at all.

3064. Does your business extend to accoutrements?—To saddlery generally.

3065. Do you think the goods that you have furnished have been subjected to a stricter and more rigid inspection under the present system than they were formerly?—I really have nothing to complain of. We have certainly had rejections; but when we have looked at those rejections, I do not think they were unfairly sent back.

3066. Have the defects for which the rejections have taken place been always pointed out to you?—Yes. There are so many thousands of articles in the supply of saddlery, that there may be a flaw in the leather which you may not see before you send the articles.

3067. Have you personally reason to be satisfied with the system of inspection at Weedon?—Yes.

3068. Have you ever been to Weedon yourself upon the subject?—I have been to Weedon twice; that was for the purpose of seeing that there was a proper place for the men to work on those trees. I went down with regard to a wrong tree that they had sent up for a pattern about three weeks ago.

3069. Have you any reason to suppose that greater facilities have been given to you than to other

persons in the same business ?—I believe not. I have not heard of any complaint in our trade.

3070. Do you think that Captain Smith, who is the inspector of saddlery at Weedon, is a capable man ?—So far as I can judge, he is very capable.

3071. Do you think he is an honest man ?—I should say he is a very honest man.

3072. He has never given you any undue facility for the passing of any articles which you have supplied ?—No.

3073. Has he had any reason to do so ?—Never.

3074. Nothing in the shape of gratuities or douceurs ?—Nothing whatever. I never thought of such a thing. I am sure that Captain Smith is a man far above suspicion in that way.

3075. And did you know Sergeant Brodie ?—By name ; I have seen him.

3076. Sergeant Brodie was examined before us a short time ago, and he seemed to think that your men were allowed to repair defects in the saddlery, and that other contractors in the same branch had not the facility for doing so ?—I am not at all aware that we have that facility, and I do not see how we could have it.

3077. Do you think the system of inspection at Weedon, as far as you have had the means of seeing it, is more rigid than it ought to be ?—No ; I really have no fault to find with it. There have been rejections, but those rejections, when known to us, have been replaced by other articles.

3078. Do you think that the causes of those rejections have been at all frivolous ?—I think not ; I think we have been very fairly treated.

3079. And you are satisfied ?—I am perfectly satisfied.

3080. Are you satisfied with the present system ?—I do not like it so well as the old system of supplying under the colonels, when the goods were inspected by the regimental officers.

3081. Are your profits less than they used to be ?—Considerably less.

3082. Why ?—Because we have to compete.

3083. Do you furnish an article as good as you formerly used to furnish, at a lower price ?—Yes ; we are obliged to do so ; we must be up to the sealed pattern.

3084. Is the pattern better than it used to be ?—No, I do not think it is.

3085. Is the saddle more expensive than it used to be ?—No ; not more expensive ; it is much about the same. The tree is rather more expensive.

3086. Does the saddle cost the public more or less than it used ?—Rather less than it used to cost.

3087. And that you attribute to the system of competition ?—Entirely.

3088. So far as the public are concerned, you think the competition an advantage, although you prefer the old system ?—Perhaps the public may be benefited by it ; of course they are if they get the thing at a lower rate than they formerly paid ; but we were always responsible to the regiments for 12 months after the saddles were sent. They were inspected by the board of the regiment, and if we did not send a good article we should not have a further supply for the regiment ; we should lose our character.

3089. Have you ever had complaints from Weedon of saddlery which had been sent out and afterwards returned by the regiments ?—In no instance. There was a complaint, I remember, in the Crimean war, about some saddle-trees.

Mr. ROBERT CUFF examined.

3103. (*Chairman.*) I believe you have places of business in Cockspur-street and in Curzon-street ?—Yes.

3104. Is yours an old house for the supply of saddlery to the Government ?—Yes ; and occasionally accoutrements, but not much.

3090. Was that a complaint about the saddle-trees opening ?—Yes.

3091. Were those furnished through Weedon ?—They were furnished direct to the regiments.

3092. You furnish skins as well as saddlery to Weedon, do not you ?—We do.

3093. Do you remember about a thousand skins being furnished to Weedon, of which some 117 or so were rejected ?—Without having my books I could not say, we have so many of those contracts.

3094. This is Sergeant Brodie's statement :—"I am sure there were above 100 rejected by Captain Smith for bad places in the skin. Captain Smith ordered the man to put a stitch right through the skin, so that he would know it again, to show Gibson's where the bad places were, and I put a private mark inside one of the straps, so that I would know all the skins again if they came back. When they came back, I found all my private marks, and in fact all the stitches in them in the bad places ; I examined them myself." The suggestion is, that skins sent by you which were rejected for bad places, were returned to you, and were subsequently sent back to Weedon by you unaltered ; is that true ?—I can answer that question in a moment. I think it is only fair to the contractor that any flaw or defect in a skin should be pointed out ; if it is marked, then the skin would be repaired. You must understand that these skins are not in one piece ; they are pieced together. It is impossible to give a supply without having some defects, and I am sure they were repaired, or else they would not have passed.

3095. When several pieces are sewed together, they might, when opened, show defective places ?—Yes ; and that would be cut out with a knife, and another piece sewn in.

3095 a. (*Mr. Turner.*) You see no impropriety in that ?—Not the slightest. If you were to open the skins, you would find them in pieces sewed together.

3395 b. (*Chairman.*) Do you mean that the goodness of the skins, as you have described, would not be materially affected, or at all events that the defect might be remedied, and the skin rendered perfectly good ?—Yes.

3096. Sergeant Brodie seemed to represent that the skins were so bad that they ought not to have been sent back, and that they were sent back without alteration ?—They were not sent back without alteration.

3097. He says the skins came back the same as they were when they were opened out, and that he found his private mark upon them. Do you think that could have happened ?—I am satisfied that nothing of the sort took place, although I did not see the skins myself.

3098. Did you compete for the supply of these skins against Bevington and Morris ?—I do not know whom we competed against.

3199. Do you ever buy second-hand saddlery ?—I never did such a thing in my life.

3100. I mean with reference to Government stores which have been sold ?—No.

3101. How many regiments did you formerly supply ?—I think we had 14.

3102. Do you know any saddlers who have ever complained of the inefficiency or incompetency of the inspectors at Weedon ?—I have read the evidence in a book of some man who supplied lassos ; but I know nothing about it.

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Mr. R. Cuff.

3105. Was your house in the habit of supplying the army under the old system ?—Yes.

3106. And under the present system ?—Yes.

3107. Has your business increased or diminished under the present system ?—I should say it has increased.

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3108. Have you furnished large quantities of saddlery to Weedon?—Yes; considerable quantities.

3109. Have you ever been there yourself about it?—Never.

3110. Have you had occasion to send anybody about it?—I sent my son down about some accounts that I could not get passed. It was soon after Mr. Elliott went, and my son saw Captain Gordon about the accounts, and got some explanation, but we have not been able to get them through yet.

3111. Have you had any large quantities of rejections of your saddlery?—Not at Weedon.

3112. Where have you had rejections?—At Woolwich.

3113. Have you any reason to suppose that the inspection at Weedon is either too lax or too strict?—I think it is a very fair inspection as far as I can judge. We endeavour to keep as closely up to the patterns as we can. We have not had 5 per cent. of rejections. You must expect to have some.

3114. When there have been rejections, has the cause been pointed out to you?—There is an entry in the margin of the report of the number received, the number approved, and the number rejected, and the cause of rejection. If it is a strap they say "flaw;" if it is a sheep's skin "imperfect dye," or "badly pieced."

3115. Have you generally found those rejections to be well founded?—Yes. In the skins they generally put a stitch through to show where the imperfect dye is. When they come to turn the skin back they find that the dye does not go quite to the bottom, and they put a mark through the skin, and then we cut that piece out, and put another in place of it.

3116. You think the inspection has been a fair one; tolerably strict, but not too strict?—Yes; I think they do not pass anything that is not according to the pattern.

3117. Have you had more or fewer rejections at Weedon than you had under the old system?—More; we rarely had rejections under the old system. I should think the things are more perfect than they were; they pass a stricter examination than they used to do.

3118. So far that is for the benefit of the public and the soldier?—It is for the benefit of the public, not for the soldier, because he does not find the things.

3119. I suppose it is a more pleasant thing to ride on a good saddle than on a bad one?—Yes.

3120. Have you any knowledge or cognizance of anything like corruption at Weedon?—No, I do not know of anything. I must admit that I did offer some wine to one person, which he refused to accept.

3121. At Weedon?—Yes.

3122. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was that at a social meeting?—No; it was as a little compliment.

3123. Was it a hamper of wine?—Yes.

3124. (*Chairman.*) Was that to Captain Smith?—Yes; and he desired that the bill should be sent to him, and he paid for the wine immediately.

3125. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did you send the wine to him without saying anything?—Yes; and he desired that the bill might be sent also.

3126. Did you send him the original bill?—No; I desired the man who supplied the wine to send a fresh bill.

3127. (*Chairman.*) Did you write Captain Smith a note with the wine?—No; I did not say a word to him.

3128. How did he know where the wine came from?—He guessed; I think he must have done so.

I never said a word to him about it, good, bad, or indifferent.

3129. (*Mr. Turner.*) Before you sent that hamper of wine, had you any idea that such things were acceptable at Weedon?—I had heard so.

3130. Was not it rather a rash act to send a hamper of wine to a gentleman like Captain Smith?—Probably it was; but Serjeant Brodie, the person you have been speaking of, was my informant that such things were done.

3131. Had you heard it from anybody else besides Serjeant Brodie?—No.

3132. (*Chairman.*) Was that after Serjeant Brodie's dismissal?—No; before his dismissal.

3133. Did he suggest to you to send the wine to Captain Smith?—No; he said that he thought other persons got greater favour, and there was good reason for it.

3134. Was he referring to Gibson's house?—I suppose he was referring to Gibson's.

3135. What quantity of wine did you send?—It was either two or three dozen; I really forget now.

3136. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was it champagne?—No; sherry.

3137. (*Chairman.*) Have you in the course of your business ever purchased second-hand things?—No.

3138. Do you know anything about saddlery supposed to be fit for use which has been cast or condemned and sold?—No, I do not; I have never seen any saddlery that has been cast. I had some saddlery trees offered to me that had been rejected.

3139. Rejected at Weedon?—Yes.

3140. By whom were they offered to you?—A man of the name of Graves.

3141. Were they good, or indifferent?—He only sent me one as a sample, and I did not inspect it closely, because I said I would not have anything to say to it.

3142. Why not?—If the saddle trees had been down to Weedon, and been rejected, I did not choose to send them there again.

3143. Do not you furnish saddles to other people besides the Government?—Yes; but they are not the right pattern for any one else.

3144. Then you could only have purchased them for the Government?—I might have purchased them upon the chance of supplying them to some volunteer corps or yeomanry corps; but I do not like purchasing things on chance.

3145. Have you any place for repairing saddlery at Weedon?—No; we fit up saddles at Weedon. The trees are manufactured there, and we send the materials, and send men down to put them together. I have now three or four men at Weedon putting saddles together.

3146. Is that for your own purpose?—No; I would rather fit them up at once, but they prefer having them put together there; I do not know why. Sometimes we supply saddles complete with trees, and sometimes they supply the trees, and we supply the materials and the leather work.

3147. When you supply the leather work, you put the saddles together at Weedon?—In both cases we do so.

3148. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you put the saddles together at Weedon for the purpose of giving instruction to the soldiers?—No. I suppose it is because they can examine them more thoroughly separately than when things are put to together.

Adjourned till To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

LONDON.

Thursday, 23rd September 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Col. HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. HENRY BRACE examined.

LONDON.

Mr. H. Brace.

23 Sept. 1858.

3149. (*Chairman.*) You are a saddler, I think, at Walsall?—I am.

3150. Is not Walsall a great place for the manufacture of saddlery?—Yes.

3151. Are you in an extensive way of business?—Yes.

3152. How long have you been in the habit of supplying saddles to the Government?—For 15 or 16 years. Previous to 1855 saddlery was supplied through the commanding officers of the regiments.

3153. Did you furnish saddlery direct to them, or through clothiers?—Direct.

3154. Has your business increased or diminished since the alteration of the system?—I think it has increased under the contract system. Previously it was by contract with the commanding officers.

3155. Your business has increased since the trade has been thrown open?—Yes.

3156. How many regiments were you in the habit of supplying under the former system?—Two only.

3157. Do you approve of throwing open the supply to competition?—Yes; I have no reason to be dissatisfied with it.

3158. Are the prices at which you furnish the same articles to the Government under competition higher or lower than you charged to the colonels?—Lower; they are of a less expensive class.

3159. In what respect?—There are fewer ornaments about them; they are got up much plainer.

3160. Are the articles substantially as good?—I scarcely think they are; the saddle, I think, is very substantial; but I think some of the other parts are not so substantial as they were formerly. There appears to be a disposition to lighten the kit for the horse.

3161. Having lighter saddles would be one advantage, would it not?—Yes; but perhaps they are not quite so durable. The strapping in many instances is rather narrower. Of course the leather is equally good, and the workmanship equally good.

3162. Has there been an alteration in the pattern?—Yes. Immediately the business was removed to Weedon, sealed patterns were then prepared for contractors, and I believe all the parties who had formerly supplied the regiments under the old system were put upon the list of contractors, and in that way my name, I presume, was placed upon the list.

3163. You have from time to time tendered, and your tenders have been accepted?—Yes; they have been partially accepted. The orders for saddlery have been large, perhaps 1,000 or 1,500 sets, and they appear to have been divided amongst the old contractors. In one instance there were 2,000 sets; that was in the early part of this year; I had 500. Lately there has been, I think, something like 2,000 more, and I had 200 of them.

3164. Having relation to the alteration in pattern as being lighter and not so substantial, is the article otherwise as good?—Yes, I think so.

3165. The material and workmanship are equally good?—Equally so.

3166. Taking into account that the article is lighter, and not quite so substantial as it was formerly

(possibly, for the reasons you have given, that the pattern is changed), is the cost to the country proportionably less?—I should say it is.

3167. Have you ever been at Weedon yourself?—I have been there twice only. On one occasion it was to get a pattern tree to make my fittings to, and I went afterwards to carry that tree back, and get Captain Smith to inspect the saddle made to their sealed pattern. That is the only interview I had with any parties at Weedon.

3168. Have you had an opportunity of forming a judgment as to the capacity of Captain Smith as inspector of saddlery?—I think he is quite up to the mark; I believe he is as good an inspector as could be selected; I believe he perfectly understands every point of saddlery and workmanship in all respects.

3169. Do you think that the system of inspection as pursued at Weedon is a good one?—I have no reason to complain of it; I have heard complaints.

3170. From saddlers?—Yes; perhaps not directly. I think if there is a sealed pattern, it is your own fault if you tender at too low a price. As for myself, I have always left a margin to supply them equal to pattern. I had some few rejections. There are sometimes defects in the leather which you cannot detect, which the inspector finds out.

3171. In your judgment, have any of those rejections been frivolous?—By no means.

3172. They were well founded?—Yes.

3173. And capable of being removed?—Yes. A saddle or bridle is formed of many different pieces of leather, and it is very easy to remove a cut strap a few inches long, and substitute a perfect one. They have been returned and remedied, and in all cases have been passed.

3174. Have you heard any complaints from persons in your trade?—I cannot call any to mind.

3175. You cannot give us any names?—I can give no account of any direct complaint from any contractor.

3176. You are satisfied?—Yes; I am quite satisfied.

3177. Have you any reason to suppose that there has been anything like corruption at Weedon?—I have not; I do not think it exists.

3178. So far as your own knowledge goes, I understand you entirely to disavow the existence of corruption at Weedon?—I do entirely; indeed I have no connexion with the officials. I do not know an inspector, unless it is Captain Smith; I believe he is the principal inspector.

3179. Is there any alteration in the system which you would desire to suggest to the Commissioners?—There is not. It appears to me that the system is a perfectly fair one. As you will see by this inspection note, I delivered 100 sets of appointments on the 28th of June, and there are a few rejections in them.

3180. (*Colonel French.*) Had you many rejections under the old system?—Occasionally, I think, perhaps in quite as great a proportion as the rejections are at present.

3181. Were those rejections well founded?—They were well founded in those cases.

LONDON.

Mr. H. Brace.

23 Sept. 1858.

3182. (*Chairman.*) Did you ever under the former system send saddles to cavalry regiments abroad?—Never; they were always sent to the head quarters of the regiment, and there inspected, I believe, by a board of officers.

3183. So that the objections, if there were any, could be made previously to the saddles being taken into use?—Yes.

3184. In the same way as at present?—Just so.

3185. Has there been any delay in the inspection of your goods?—None whatever.

3186. Are you cognizant of saddlery having been cast at Weedon, and sent for sale to Birmingham?—No.

3187. Have you ever heard of such a thing?—I never heard of such a thing. Where there are defects in saddlery it is very easy to remove the part of the leather which is inferior or too thin. In some of the cases on this note you will see that the stable collar is too light.

3188. You appear to have been extremely fortunate?—I do not know that I have been more fortunate than other contractors.

3189. There seem to have been very few rejections of saddlery compared with the rejections in cloth and boots?—Out of 500 sets that I supplied, I think there might have been 15*l.* or 16*l.* worth rejected, and that was mostly for having what the trade call a flesh cut, which is a cut on the back of the leather, and it cannot always be seen when the leather is put into the article.

3190. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are you speaking of the period since Mr. Elliott left Weedon, or before?—I think previous to his leaving.

3191. Are you willing to supply to the Government your articles as cheaply as you would be willing to supply them to any private establishment?—Quite so.

3192. (*Chairman.*) The chance of rejection is not so great in your case as to render it an item in your calculation of cost?—I think there is no difficulty about it.

3193. Do you get as fair a price from the Government as you would from a private customer?—We are apt to shave it rather close when we know that there is so much competition.

3194. (*Mr. Turner.*) You think that the Government get articles as cheaply as any private buyer would?—I believe so, as far as saddlery is concerned. I have no notion what the other contractors' prices are.

3195. (*Chairman.*) Is sufficient time given to you for the performance of your contract?—That perhaps is the greatest complaint that I have to make. Lately there has been a tender out, and now four months is

given, and that is ample time for producing a large quantity of saddlery.

3196. Cavalry saddlery I suppose is an article which is used exclusively by the army?—Yes.

3197. Then it would not do for you to make those things until you were sure of your contract?—No.

3198. Therefore you cannot keep your goods in stock?—No; we have not only to make them, but to prepare the leather and all the materials.

3199. (*Colonel French.*) By whom were you nominated to supply regiments?—I think when the 1st Dragoon Guards were lying at Birmingham the commanding officer applied for prices, and from that time I had the contract. It was somewhere about 15 or 16 years ago; and the same thing happened with the 7th Hussars.

3200. How many regiments do you supply under the present system?—That I do not know. There is only one pattern for all the cavalry; the saddlery goes into the store, and is issued to the regiments that require it.

3201. (*Chairman.*) Are the saddles the same for all the cavalry regiments?—Yes; all the new issues.

3202. Is there only one pattern?—There is only one pattern.

3203. (*Colonel French.*) Are the saddles for the heavy cavalry and the light cavalry alike?—They are all alike. I believe it is contemplated to have a lighter saddle for the light cavalry.

3204. (*Mr. Turner.*) We have it in evidence that in the case of boots and cloth, when a new regulation as to pattern and quality is issued, considerable sales have been made of the articles that were not according to the new regulation. Is that the case with saddlery?—No.

3205. Then the old pattern is used up so far as it exists in stock?—Yes.

3206. (*Chairman.*) Do you make lassos?—I believe I made the sealed pattern.

3207. What is a lasso?—It is a broad girth which passes round the horse. To the girth there are two rings attached, and to those two rings rope traces are affixed, so that the cavalry soldier can hook them to a gun or anything, to assist in dragging it away. I have never seen a lasso used.

3208. Have you ever tendered for any lassos?—Yes.

3209. Did you get the contract?—I did not.

3210. We have it in evidence that the lassos of Mr. Palliser, who did get the contract, were rejected because they were not in compliance with the pattern. Do you consider that weight is one of the ingredients in the value of an article like a lasso?—I think it is, to some extent. I do not think weight would apply in all cases; in some cases it might.

Mr. ALFRED WILD examined.

Mr. A. Wild.

3211. (*Chairman.*) You are a boot maker?—Yes.

3212. Where do you carry on business?—At Windsor. My brother and myself are tanners and curriers; that is our right business, but for the last four or five years we have taken to supplying the army with boots.

3213. Had you ever been in the habit of supplying army clothiers before?—Never.

3214. Have you gone into the business because it is thrown open?—No. We have been in the business since 1852. We supplied the Grenadier Guards from 1852 to 1856, and the Coldstream Guards from 1855 to 1856. Those are the two regiments that we supplied previously to the new system. We were recommended by Colonel Wood of the Grenadier Guards and by Colonel Upton of the Coldstream Guards to the War Office, in consequence of the good report upon our boots, especially those supplied to the Guards when they were in the Crimea.

3215. Have you tendered for supplies to the army since the new system?—Yes.

3216. Have you been successful in obtaining contracts?—In 1856 we supplied 1,000 pairs of patent boots, that is, a boot with an improved double sewed seam instead of a single sewed one. From September the 5th, 1857, to September the 11th, 1858, we supplied 34,711 pairs of boots.

3217. Was that a running contract?—It was a running contract; three contracts.

3218. At what price?—The first contract was at 10*s.* 6*d.*, the second at 11*s.*, and the third at 10*s.* The last was April 24th, 1858, and the others in 1857.

3219. What quantity of boots in all have you delivered at Weedon?—34,711 pairs.

3220. Have you had any rejections?—Yes; the rejections were 738 pairs, being barely $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on the boots examined.

3221. Were the causes of rejection notified to you?—Yes. This paper will give the particulars.

The following paper was handed in :

Boots supplied to Weedon by Charles and Alfred Wild, tanners, &c., Kingston and Windsor, from September 5th, 1857, to September 11th, 1858.

Boots supplied :—

Under contract, July 30th, 1857	-	-	14,168 pairs.
Ditto Oct. 27th, 1857	-	-	13,810 "
Ditto April 24th, 1858	-	-	6,733 "

		34,711 "
Not examined	-	909 "

Examined	-	33,802 "
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738 pairs rejected, as below :—

Bad work	-	168 pairs.
Cut by workmen, and flaws	-	109 "
Loose, &c. vamps	-	214 "
Broken tip nails	-	23 "
Light inner-soles	-	9 "
Nails inside	-	3 "
Broken counters	-	34 "
Light, &c. soles	-	106 "
Odd boots	-	3 "
Bad and light quarters	-	21 "
Bad marks	-	4 "
Bad uppers	-	14 "
Stabbing of counters not far enough	-	2 "
Inspecting note missing	-	23 "
" "	-	5 "
		738 "

Not quite $2\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. rejected on 33,802 pairs examined.

3222. The defects in your boots are very specially pointed out?—Yes.

3223. Did you find that the objections were well founded?—I considered that half of them were not. I think that the rejections were severe; for instance, some of the boots were returned for what a shoemaker would term a wide feather, which does not at all detract from the value of the boot.

3224. (*Mr. Turner.*) What does a "wide feather" mean?—It means that part of the insole which is bevelled off (to allow the welt to be sewed on) left wider than ordinary; and when the viewer pushes it back it exposes the seam, and he consequently considers that it is unfair work; it is not, for the work is as solid as it was before.

3225. (*Chairman.*) Are those defects susceptible of alteration?—No; when the boot is once made it never can be altered; it must be rejected or worn.

3226. Then those are final rejections upon the first inspection?—Yes.

3227. About half of the rejections, you think, were unduly severe?—Yes; I think half of those rejections are severe, and the boots ought not to have been returned.

3228. With that exception, have you anything to say respecting the inspection at Weedon?—No; I think, with the exception of their being a little too severe, the inspection is both fair and prompt.

3229. Have you ever been at Weedon yourself?—I have been there twice.

3230. Upon what occasions?—Once in 1856, when we supplied the first thousand pairs of boots. I went down to examine the boots that were rejected, because I considered that there were a great many rejected; and this last time I went down in consequence of a question whether we had supplied the amount of boots or not. I went to see Mr. Elliott and the different clerks.

3231. Was the result of your visit satisfactory to you?—Yes.

3232. You found that you had supplied the quantity?—Yes.

3233. Was that a matter that required personal explanation?—Yes; it was merely a confusion of the

two contracts. I had written to them respecting it, and they could not understand it, and I merely wanted to explain, and get an explanation from them.

3234. Have you any reason at all to suppose that there has been anything like corruption at Weedon?—As far as I am concerned, I can positively speak that there has been none. I have no means of judging whether there has been any with other people. Personally, I should say, there has not been any.

3235. Have you ever heard any statement which you believed on the subject?—No. I never heard anything, except what I have seen in public prints, for I do not know a single contractor.

3236. (*Mr. Turner.*) Your paper varies. There are 28 pairs rejected because the inspecting note was missing; what does that mean?—That was the question that I went to Weedon about. They simply sent to me to return that inspection note; they gave the reasons there for the rejections, and I returned that note to Weedon, which they have never returned to me. You can procure that note at Weedon.

3237. Why did they send the inspection note to you until they had inspected the goods?—They had inspected the goods, and after they had inspected the goods they wrote to me to say that this inspection note, number so-and-so, did not belong to that contract. Would I return two inspection notes; one for 23 pairs, and one for five pairs?

3238. What was the result, when you explained it to them? Were those 28 pairs still rejected?—Yes.

3239. For any fault?—Yes; there were the regular faults.

3240. They did not state any fault, but merely that the inspection note was missing?—Not having the inspection note by me at the time, I could not state the reason why they were rejected. I do not want to mystify the affair at all, but I merely show you, with those two exceptions, the reasons for the rejections of all of them. In those two cases I could not give you the reasons, because I had not the papers.

3241. There were some reasons for the 28 pairs being rejected, which you, not having the note, cannot state?—Yes. They confounded the two contracts; they believed that those boots belonged to another contract, and therefore they sent for the note back again.

3242. (*Chairman.*) Will you favour us with your opinion, as an independent person, about a pair of boots we have here?—I think it is very unfair for one contractor to give an opinion upon another man's boots.

3243. You cannot object to give an opinion upon sealed patterns. Just look at those boots (*handing a pair of boots to the witness*). The seal is off, but you may take them as being sealed patterns. Are those good boots?—Certainly not.

3244. What is the objection to them?—The workmanship is very bad.

3245. In what respect?—They are badly stitched. I cannot see the insides, to ascertain whether they are properly sewn; there is the difficulty in inspecting boots, because the real work lies inside. I should pronounce them as not being good boots, and I think they are not a good sample of sealed patterns.

3246. (*Colonel French.*) What would be the value of such a boot as that?—I should think the value of such a boot as that at the present time would be about 9s. 6d.

3247. (*Chairman.*) Is there anything in that boot to show that it has been pulled about, or received any severe treatment, in inspection or otherwise?—By constant examination every time the boot is touched it would become softer and looser.

3248. Assuming that those boots have been pulled about for a year or two in that sort of way, would such manipulation alter your opinion as to its ever having been a good boot?—Certainly not; it never was a good boot.

3249. You say that the stitching is bad?—Yes, the work in general is exceedingly bad also.

LONDON.

Mr. A. Wild.

23 Sept. 1858.

LONDON.

Mr. A. Wild.

23 Sept. 1858.

3250. What do you say to the material?—The material is not of the best description.

3251. The leather you think is not good?—This has been a pattern boot for many years, and the leather consequently has got deteriorated by being exposed.

3252. Making allowance for that, is the leather good?—I do not think the leather is as good as the leather used for the army boot of the present day; decidedly not. There are veins in it, and altogether the quality of kip, in the first instance, was not of the very best description.

3253. The kip is the upper leather, is it not?—Yes.

3254. Can you tell me whether that kip is East India kip, or Petersburg kip?—It is an East India kip. Instead of that being an objection, it would be rather otherwise.

3255. When boots are made up, can you undertake to say whether the leather is East India or Petersburg?—In nearly every instance.

3256. You say that that is East India kip?—Yes. I must observe that the East India kip does not at all prejudice the boot. The East India kip is in fact the very best description of kip that can be used. I should say that more than nineteen-twentieths of kips are foreign.

3257. With respect to the soles, can you tell, now the boots are made up, whether the soles were cut from home butts or foreign butts?—It may be a foreign butt or an English butt; it would be impossible for me to tell that now.

3258. Can you tell, after the boot has been made up, whether the leather for the sole comes from the shoulder or any other part of the hide?—This is cut from the middle of the butt, the centre part of the butt. When we speak of a butt of leather, we cut off all the bellies and shoulders, that is, the neck part, and we leave the butt, so that it is a large piece of leather occupying all the back portion of the bullock. When we buy our prime butts, we cut out only a third of that butt for the army boots; the remainder is what we term "shoulder," and that has to go back again to the market to be sold. This is cut from the best part of the butt.

3259. Not from the shoulder?—No.

3260. Can you say whether it is a common butt, or a good butt?—It would be impossible for me to tell at this distance of time. I should say it was not a good butt.

3261. Can you tell whether that is a foreign butt or a home butt?—Not at this distance of time. I should say that it is foreign, judging from the appearance. But I must observe that there is no objection to having a foreign butt. When we speak of foreign butts, we do not mean foreign tanned butts; we mean a hide which is imported from abroad. The South American States send us the best salted hides, and it is only with the best description of such hides that we are enabled to get soles sufficiently good to supply the army. No prejudice ought to exist against the foreign butt, because were it not for the foreign butts we could not supply the army at all with the article which they require, and in my opinion it is a very great question whether in the course of a few years we shall be able to supply the army with these exceedingly stout soles.

3262. In consequence of the supply failing?—In consequence of the improved breed of beasts. The short-horn has not so stout a hide as the Welsh runt.

3263. Is the part of the butt nearest the shoulder best?—No.

3264. Can you tell us whether these soles were taken from the part nearest the shoulder?—Certainly not from the best part of the butt.

3265. Will you look at that boot (*handing a sealed boot to the witness*)? Is that a better boot than the other?—Yes.

3266. In what respect?—The leather altogether is better; the workmanship is better; the stitching is very much better. The sewing I cannot pronounce upon; but I should question whether that sewing is as strong as it ought to be.

3267. Are you taking into account the fact that it is a newer boot?—This is a newer boot.

3268. Taking that into account, is it a better boot? This is a better boot than the other ever was.

3269. What is the difference in value, in your judgment?—I should think this boot is worth 6d. a pair more than the other.

3270. Do your answers as to the quality of the upper leather and the sole apply to that also? Do you think that this upper leather is from the Petersburg or East India kip?—This is from Petersburg kip.

3271. Do you like that generally better than the East India kip?—No; I really do not think it is at all better; a good East India kip is good enough for anything, and quite as good as the Petersburg kip; in fact it wears softer. The only objection I see to this boot is that the front is light in proportion to the back. If that boot had got as good a vamp as it has a back I should consider it worth a shilling more than the other.

3272. Is the sole taken from the best part of the butt?—Yes. That is a foreign sole.

3273. Do you think that boots like the first pair you examined would come to pieces if they were put into water for three or four days?—I should think the sewing of that boot is the best part of it.

3274. Do you think it is a boot fit to be selected for a pattern, and fit to be issued to the soldier?—I do not think it was ever fit to be issued to the soldier, or sealed as a pattern, taking the quality of the boot as a whole.

3275. In your judgment, that is not a proper boot to have been a pattern boot?—No.

3276. Have you ever yourself had anything to do with the actual making of boots?—No. If I had known the nature of this examination, I would have brought up my practical man, who would at once have given you a far better opinion than I can, whether this boot or that boot would wear best.

3277. Will you look at that piece of leather (*handing a piece of leather in the shape of a sole to the witness*)? Can you tell from what material it has been cut?—This is cut from a foreign butt.

3278. From the proper part of it?—No. This is an inferior description of sole; it would be cut from the upper portion of the butt, from the rib to the tail, instead of cutting it out of the uppermost part of the butt; this comes towards the belly; this is not a good sole, and it is not fit to be used in that description of boot.

3279. And never was?—And never was.

3280. Assuming it has been sealed, you think that it ought never to have been sealed?—It ought not to have been sealed for this description of boot, to be worn without nails, because this boot has only brads.

3281. I presume it would not be fair to examine boots supplied under that pattern (*the pair of boots*) with this pattern (*the sealed boot*)?—No, certainly not. If that boot were shown to me as a pattern to make by, and the inspectors were to examine the boots by the other or better pattern, they would be justified in rejecting every pair.

3282. (*Mr. Turner.*) You mean to say that that being the sealed pattern in the first instance, it would not be fair to the contractor to examine the article supplied by the other pattern?—Certainly not; it would be most unjust.

Mr. ROBERT TAYLOR examined.

LONDON.

Mr. R. Taylor.

23 Sept. 1858.

3283. (*Chairman.*) You were formerly in business as a bootmaker?—Yes; the firm was Taylor and Bowley of Charing Cross.

3284. How long have you left business?—I left business last Midsummer twelvemonth.

3285. You have given evidence at some length before the Committee on Contracts?—Yes.

3286. As we have stated to other witnesses who have been examined, we do not wish to take you in detail through the evidence you have already given. I presume that you adhere to all that you then said?—Quite so. I was anxious to be examined before this Commission, from having read the evidence given by Mr. Elliott from the Tower. I wrote to Colonel Boldero, the Chairman of the Committee, stating that I should be very willing to be examined again, seeing that Mr. Elliott took upon himself to contradict what I had said. Colonel Boldero considered that it was not at all necessary, and therefore I did not appear a second time before that Committee. Mr. Elliott's evidence was sent to me, and it astonished me very much.

3287. To what particular point do you refer?—I believe in his evidence he stated that he could not consider I was competent to give an opinion upon the quality of a boot. I was sent for by Lord Panmure; it was not a matter of my own solicitation, but arose, I presume, from the prestige one had gained for one's-self. Lord Panmure wished to know whether I would go down to examine certain boots at Weedon, with respect to which there was some difference of opinion between the War Office and the contractor. Without knowing whose boots they were, I went down to Weedon, and a certain number of boots were exhibited to me. I went carefully through them, and having the specification and the sealed pattern given to me, I saw that there was a great discrepancy between the sealed pattern and the specification; that is to say, the specification required that which was really not in the sealed pattern. I therefore came back to London, and saw Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Howell upon the subject, to know whether I was to take the specification or the sealed pattern. Mr. Ramsay's reply was that I had nothing to do with the specification, and the sealed pattern was what I was to go by. I then returned to Weedon, and examined the boots by the sealed pattern, passing those that I considered to be equal to the sealed pattern, and rejecting those that I considered not to be equal to the sealed pattern. You may fancy that 2,000 or 3,000 pairs of these boots would take up a great deal of room, and I placed them in three different lots, intending to initial those that I passed, and then I should be sure that those boots that I really had passed were the boots taken into the Government stores, but for some cause (I know not why) I was not allowed to go down to Weedon to finish that which I had begun; then I was informed that those boots that I had passed would be paid for, and I was required to sign the necessary order. Before doing so, I requested to be allowed to see that those boots that I was then certifying for were the actual boots that I had passed. I am told that Mr. Elliott, who was then at Weedon, said that it was unnecessary for me to go down. I still declined to sign the certificate. It was what I really did not expect. It was a Government document for me to sign as a certificate that the contractor should receive so much money for so many hundred pairs of boots. They told me that the contractor would not get his money unless I signed it, and after some persuasion I signed it. I had written to Mr. Elliott at Weedon, telling him that I would come down at my own expense, in order to describe those boots that I had passed, and those that I had rejected; but I never was permitted to do so. I believe the contractor got paid for them. I heard from Mr. Elliott that he would as soon see Old Harry come down there as me.

3288. Did he tell you so himself?—Yes; Mr. Elliott at Weedon.

3289. You were called in as a referee by the Government?—I was.

3290. You inspected certain boots which had been the subject of suspicion at Weedon?—Yes.

3291. They thought them not sufficiently good to pass?—Yes.

3292. You went down, and compared them with the sealed pattern?—Yes.

3293. Was that the sealed pattern that you compared them by (*handing a boot to the witness*)?—Yes.

3294. And you thought the majority were equal to that sealed pattern?—All that I passed; and if I went through the same business again I am quite satisfied that I should pass the same boots, with very few exceptions.

3295. Do you concur with Mr. Wild that this is a better boot than the other (*handing the sealed boot to the witness*)?—This is a better boot.

3296. Do you think it would be fair to examine a supply which had been made in accordance with that pair of boots as the sealed pattern by the boot which you now have in your hands?—Certainly not; the two patterns are as distinct as possible. This boot is worth 6*d.* a pair more, at least, than the others, and of course, in a large number, 6*d.* per pair is a large amount. At the same time I have not the slightest doubt that this boot would wear as long as that. It does not require a very practised eye to see that it is a superior boot to the others. With regard to that subject to which the last witness referred, namely the article of which the soles are made, you will find in my evidence that there was something said about the belly part. The viewers at Weedon told me that the reason why they rejected these boots was that the insoles were made of bellies instead of shoulders. Now you will understand that the shoulder is the part the insoles are made of, and the butt is the part that the outsoles are made of. Very often the belly, which is a very large part of the animal, is very soft, and in some of the cheap slop shops they make the insoles from that, and when this boot was shown to me, one of the viewers at Weedon stated that it was a belly insole; and I told him that I considered that he must know more about the business than I did, if he could tell, after the boot was manufactured, whether it was belly or shoulder. If it was solid, it was impossible for him to tell. Some parts of the belly are nearly as solid as the shoulder; but he gave that as the reason why he had rejected some of the boots. I considered the boots that I passed were equal, and many of them superior, to the sealed patterns that were placed in my hands.

3297. Have you heard what Mr. Wild has said upon the subject? Do you consider that sealed pattern is a proper boot for soldiers' boots?—It would be a proper boot at the price. I understand from Mr. Ramsay or Mr. Howell that the price of this boot was about 8*s.* 6*d.*, and if so it was a very superior article at that price.

3298. My question is, in your judgment is that a proper pair of boots to have as a sealed pattern for soldiers' boots?—I think that I must say it is rather an inferior pattern to have; at any rate it is not such a pattern as I should have found if I had been asked to examine the patterns before they were sealed. I should have selected a better pattern than this boot; still I am quite satisfied that that boot would wear very well for a soldier.

3299. There were some of Mr. Dowie's boots that you examined that were inferior to that pattern, and those you rejected?—Yes; 700 or 800 pairs.

3300. (*Mr. Turner.*) You rejected them as being inferior to that pattern?—Yes; and they were sent back to Mr. Dowie.

LONDON.

Mr. R. Taylor.

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3301. If you had examined them by this improved pattern, would you not probably have rejected the whole?—Not the whole; there were many of those boots that I passed quite as good as this pattern.

3302. Did you see any other boots except Mr. Dowie's at Weedon?—Yes; it was not my business to see them, but Mr. Elliott took me round the stores.

3303. Did you see any boots that were inferior to that sealed pattern?—I saw some quite as bad. Perhaps I may state that I presumed the plan of the Government was to have a pattern made by some bootmaker, and seal it, and then that that pattern was to be worked to by the contractor. I have since learned that each contractor supplied the pattern to be sealed. I never dreamed that that was the case. This pattern was put before me, and I had to examine 2,000 pairs of boots by it, and say whether they were equal to that pattern. Those that I considered equal I passed, and those that I considered not equal I rejected. At the same time I stated in my report, that many that I rejected were nearly as good as the sealed pattern.

3304. (Mr. Turner.) You think there was an error on the part of the Government in sealing an unsuitable pattern?—Yes.

3305. After they had sealed it, and expressed their satisfaction with that pattern, ought it to be expected that the contractor should supply a better article?—Certainly not; if he supplies as good an article he completes his contract.

3306. (Chairman.) Is there anything more that you wish to add?—I think not. I have never had any opportunity of seeing the boots at Weedon again. I have heard that the boots that I rejected were sold to the army, and have been reported upon as being good. If it turns out that those boots left at Weedon are very inferior, the wrong goods must have been sent up to the contractor.

3307. (Mr. Turner.) You were anxious to repeat your visit to Weedon, to identify the lot of boots that you wished to have passed?—Yes; before I certified for their payment.

3308. I understand that you were not allowed by the authorities at the War Office to go to Weedon?—I was not allowed by Mr. Ramsay, through Mr. Howell, to go down again.

3309. Have you seen any of the boots in Mr. Dowie's possession that were returned from Weedon?—No, I have not.

3310. You are not aware that Mr. Dowie believes that the best boots were returned, and the worst boots kept?—I do not know that; it might have been done by a blunder. I will not insinuate for a moment that it was done intentionally, but that might have been the case. I never could understand why it was, having been sent for by the Secretary-at-War to do a certain act, namely, to examine those boots, and report upon them, I was not allowed to complete it. I made merely a preliminary examination, and before I positively passed them I wished to have an opportunity of going again to initial them. My applications to

Mr. Howell to be permitted to go to Weedon before I finally closed my report are now in existence, and I never was allowed to go. I presume it was considered by Mr. Elliott unnecessary.

3311. (Colonel French.) Would it not be satisfactory to you to see those boots again?—It might be satisfactory to me to ascertain whether they were the boots I rejected or not.

3312. (Chairman.) Could you undertake to say positively, when you see the boots; whether those that are left at Weedon are those that you rejected or those that you passed?—Yes, I think I could.

3313. Those that were rejected were returned to Mr. Dowie?—Yes.

3314. (To Mr. Dowie.) After Mr. Taylor's inspection of your boots, how many pairs did you receive back?—704 pairs of the first contract.

3315. (To Mr. Taylor.) I think you said there were three piles of boots?—Yes. There were some that were torn out in the heel. They were capital boots with respect to the material of the upper leather and the soles, but in the mode of examination they have unnaturally forced the workmanship. They succeeded in many of those boots in forcing the stitches away in the heel; and I stated that if the contractor was allowed to have those boots back to restore them, which he could do at 6d. or 9d. a pair, they would be considerably better boots than the sealed pattern.

3316. What were the three piles of boots?—One pile consisted of the boots about which I had no doubt; the middle pile consisted of a few pairs between the two, which I meant to examine over again before I positively passed or rejected them.

3317. How many pairs were there in the middle pile?—About 50 pairs, I should think.

3318. (Mr. Turner to Mr. Dowie.) Mr. Taylor says that he has not seen the boots that were returned at your place; could you enable him to see them?—They are all sold.

3319. Did not you produce some of them the last time you were examined here?—I had one or two pairs. I sold them at once to various army clothiers, and I am happy to say that I have received reports from three or four regiments that those boots have worn well.

3320. (Chairman.) They were sold to the militia colonels?—They were sold as free kits, and paid for by the Government direct.

3321. We have had it over and over again that the Government had to pay for them, but that the Government inspectors did not pass them a second time?—The inspectors at Weedon did not pass them.

3322. (Mr. Turner.) You were lucky enough to sell them to the militia colonels?—Yes.

Mr. Dowie stated, That he was desirous of proving the description of material of which the pattern boots were made, and for that purpose he tendered the currier from whom the leather was purchased, and the foreman who superintended the manufacture of the boots, for examination by the Commissioners.

MR. WILLIAM HENRY JONES examined.

Mr.
W. H. Jones.

3323. (Mr. Turner.) What are you?—I am a currier and leather dresser.

3324. Do you know Mr. Dowie of 445, Strand?—I do.

3325. Is he a customer of yours?—He is.

3326. Have you sold him leather at various times?—I have.

3327. Did you sell him in August 1856 a quantity of English butts?—Yes.

3328. Did you sell him one butt as a sample, from which he wanted to make a boot as a pattern?—He called upon us to say that he was putting in for a contract; he looked over our sole butts, and he said, "I will have that. Let that come in as a pattern; and you will understand that I am likely, if I get the contract, to want a quantity."

3329. Did he, on the 3d of September, adopting that butt as a sample, buy from you a quantity of leather for the purpose which he had explained?—He did.

3330. Can you say that that leather is part of the butt (*handing a sole to the witness*)?—I cannot. I was surprised to hear Mr. Wild say that it was foreign leather.

3331. Will you look at the upper leathers of this boot, and tell me from what they are cut?—I tanned the leather myself. That is a Cape skin, the best upper-leather leathers that can possibly be produced by any house whatever. There is no better leather.

3332. Can you say what the inner sole is cut from?—No.

3333. Is that the best leather?—It is very excellent leather, and I think it would show itself to be Cape skin.

3334. Is not it faulty?—In a skin there are inferior parts, as well as others that are better. This has been cut too close.

3335. You only prove that you sold Mr. Dowie a

quantity of this material?—That is all I prove. I prove, in contradiction to what has been stated, that this is English leather (*referring to the sole*). I do not think any man would venture to say that he could detect that it was part of the shoulder or part of the belly when it was once inserted. If the shoe was cut to pieces it might be ascertained.

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Mr.
W. H. Jones.

23 Sept. 1858.

Mr. ISAAC QUENBY examined.

Mr. I. Quenby.

3336. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are you a foreman in Mr. Dowie's employ?—I was, from 1856 to 1858, during the time he had the contracts.

3337. Did you make those pattern boots?—I did not make the boots. I cut them out, and closed them. I gave them out to make, and they were made at the factory at Queenborough.

3338. From what was the leather cut?—From leather that came from Mr. Jones's kip; and English butt.

3339. You made this pattern for Mr. Dowie to take to London?—Yes.

3340. What is the inner sole made of?—English butt and good shoulder.

3341. Is the shoulder better than the belly?—For strong work, I should think good belly would be the best.

3342. Is that inner sole shoulder or belly?—It is shoulder insole.

3343. Is shoulder better than belly?—I should say not, for a stout boot.

3344. Are you speaking from recollection, or from your judgment by looking at the boots now?—From cutting the leather. I could not tell now myself, if I had never seen the boot before. I know I had nothing else to cut it from. I had no belly.

Mr. WILLIAM HAIGH WHITHAM examined.

Mr.
W. H. Whitham.

3345. (*Chairman.*) Were you ever employed at the establishment at Weedon?—I was there 15 months.

3346. When did you go there?—I went in May 1856.

3347. And left when?—In July 1857. I resigned my situation in July.

3348. What did you resign for?—I resigned because they would not raise my wages.

3349. What were you?—A packer, and the manager of the presses at Weedon. I was engaged by Messrs. Hayter and Howell during the Russian war; and Mr. Elliott offered me an engagement at Weedon, stating that there was a foreman appointed, but he wished to engage a practical man, as the foreman was not a practical man himself.

3350. Who was the foreman?—His name is Daley. I went down, and superintended the putting up of the presses, and fitting them up in a workmanlike manner, and teaching the men their business.

3351. You had only half-a-crown a day, and you expected promotion?—Mr. Elliott promised me verbally when I went down at first that I should be promoted as soon as ever the presses were put up, and several letters passed with me. I sent a letter to Sir Thomas Troubridge through Mr. Elliott.

3352. Asking for promotion?—Asking for promotion. I found out, after I left, that my name was on the list for promotion. I applied to Lord Goderich, and Mr. Elliott sent word up to Mr. Ramsay that I left Weedon of my own accord.

3353. And you did so, did you not?—I sent in a written resignation; but he said that I had left without leave. I had good testimonials from the officials.

3354. What did you expect to be promoted to?—I applied for a situation as a cloth viewer.

3355. Was there any such situation vacant at that time?—There was not any such situation vacant at that time. There was going to be a revision of the establishment, and it has taken place since.

3356. Up to the time that you left, was there any vacancy to which you imagined you had a claim to be promoted?—There was.

3357. How was that occasioned, and when?—Because they were going to create a staff of viewers which did not exist at that time.

3358. Did they create that staff before you left?—Not till a fortnight after I left.

3359. I asked you whether there was any vacancy to which you could have been appointed before you left?—No.

3360. You thought you had waited long enough?—I had waited 15 months. Mr. Elliott promised me promotion when I first went down.

3361. Had you anything to do with the fitting up of the hydraulic presses?—I superintended the whole affair.

3362. Was not there a clerk of the works?—None of them had seen an hydraulic press before.

3363. Was there not an engineer?—An engineer came from Birmingham after the presses were put up. There were adjuncts, which we term journeymen. I drew out the plans, and laid the sites for them, and told them which would be the most convenient, and everything.

3364. Who was the civil engineer?—There was only a clerk of the works there.

3365. Who was the contractor for putting up the presses?—Thornton of Birmingham.

3366. Did he not send his engineer?—He only sent his workmen.

3367. Did he not send an engineer?—I never saw one.

3368. What did you actually do when you were at Weedon? Pack and press?—Yes.

3369. Who was chief packer?—Daley. He was appointed by Mr. Elliott, through Mr. Hoile.

3370. Was Daley there when you left?—Daley was there when I left.

3371. Did you say that you conducted the instruction of the men?—Yes; I conducted it entirely myself.

3372. (*Mr. Turner.*) When you went down to Weedon, in what capacity did you go?—I had served as a clothmaker all my life, and I had been in a shipping house.

3373. You went down as a packer?—Yes.

3374. Had you been brought up to that business?—It was one portion of my business.

3375. Were you a practical packer?—Yes.

3376. Where had you worked?—At Messrs. John Haig and Co. of Huddersfield. I received 3*l.* and 4*l.* a week from Messrs. Hayter and Howell during the Crimean war.

3377. As a master of a press?—As a packer.

3378. Did you command a press?—I was there in that capacity.

3379. Had you labourers helping you?—Yes.

3380. The person who takes charge of the press is the master packer. Did you take charge of the press?—I took charge of the press.

3381. There was one foreman of packers?—Yes.

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Mr.
W.H. Whitham.
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3382. How many presses were there?—Six, at Weedon.

3383. Was not there a principal man at each press?—Yes.

3384. Were you head man at any one of the presses?—I was the head man at all the presses.

3385. The foreman of packers would be that, would not he?—When I went down to Weedon, at first, I had all these men to instruct; every one of them.

3386. Do you mean to say that there was not a single man, either master packer or worker, at the presses, who understood anything of an hydraulic press?—They never had been working at one before; none of them.

3387. You were sent down to instruct them, you say?—Yes.

3388. That does not at all correspond with information before us?—I do not know what information you have received.

3389. How came you to be willing to accept the wages of a labourer, 15s. a week, having the actual charge of the presses, and the instruction of those who were working at six hydraulic packing presses?—When I went down to Mr. Elliott first, he stated that there was not a vacancy as a foreman of packers; and the presses were not up, and that he could not offer me a better situation, but that he would give me a better situation in the packing room as the instructor of the men, as soon as the presses were put up. I told him I would take a few days to consider it. I left Weedon, and went to London, and stopped six weeks; then I returned to Weedon, thinking by that time the presses would be up. I did not intend to accept such a subordinate situation at the beginning, and Mr. Elliott put me off from time to time till I gave in my resignation.

3390. What were your qualifications as a cloth viewer, to which office you aspired?—I supplied testimonials from some of the largest houses in Yorkshire, because I had worked in every practical part of the business.

3391. In the cloth business?—Yes.

3392. As well as packing?—Yes.

3393. Did you apply, after leaving Weedon, to be reinstated?—I did.

3394. When?—As soon as ever I heard that my name had been sent down for promotion.

3395. You found afterwards that your name had been on the list for promotion, but you had left before you knew of that; then you applied to be reinstated, and were refused?—I was refused, on the ground that I had left Weedon without leave.

3396. What are the points upon which you desire to give us information?—On the general inefficiency of the inspectors at Weedon. I should prefer giving my evidence to-morrow.

3397. The inefficiency of what inspectors?—The cloth inspectors.

3398. Do you mean Mr. Hoile?—Yes.

3399. Mr. Hebdon?—Yes; Mr. Mallett, Mr. Watson, and George Cook, a foreman.

3400. Are there any other points upon which you desire to give evidence?—On bribery.

3401. Can you tell us the names of the persons bribed?—Grove, the boot viewer.

3402. Have you any other case of bribery?—I have no other case.

3403. Have you any additional evidence to give on that case of Grove?—I do not know what evidence has been given.

3404. Are you aware that Grove was suspended?—Yes, and afterwards reinstated in his situation.

3405. Do you know of any other case of bribery?—Not to my knowledge.

3406. Or attempt at bribery?—I have never heard of any.

3407. Are there any other subjects upon which you wish to give evidence, besides the incompetency of the persons you have mentioned, and the bribery of Grove?—I should like to give evidence upon the great disparity which the officials make between themselves, the head officials, and the labourers. They make minor points of etiquette of more importance than the good of the service. I have been brought up myself before a jury of third-class clerks, and had to leave my work on purpose to go, because I have not saluted them on Sunday, when I met them in the street.

3408. Did they send you to Coventry, or fine you?—No; they did not do that.

3409. (Mr. Turner.) In what way did you suffer for the neglect of these little ceremonies?—I never suffered myself.

3410. (Chairman.) Did the public service suffer from these arbitrary proceedings of the jury of clerks?—I do not think it did.

3411. As you prefer it, we will defer your examination till to-morrow; but will you just mention any other point upon which you wish to give evidence?—I should like to offer an opinion respecting a difference being made between contractors generally and Government officials; I mean between the army contractors and the Government who issue out the contracts.

3412. What difference do you mean?—I think there ought to be a difference of inspection at Weedon adopted altogether.

3413. You think the inspection is not good?—I do.

3414. In what respect is the inspection at Weedon bad?—The inspection is bad, from the fact of the inspectors themselves not understanding their business. They reject some cloths, and they pass others; I have had a good deal of experience in these things, and I have known the best goods rejected and the worst passed.

Mr. JOHN COSTEKER examined.

Mr.
J. Costeker.

3415. (Chairman.) What are you?—I am now retired from business; I was 30 years in the wholesale woollen business.

3416. When did you retire?—In the year 1854.

3417. Before the Weedon dépôt was established?—Yes.

3418. Do you know Thomas Daley, the chief packer at Weedon?—I know Daley exceedingly well. He lived in my service and my father's for ten years. He was in the service of my partner, Mr. Puckle, the magistrate of Surrey, for 15 years.

3419. What was he?—Head packer.

3420. Had you an extensive business?—Very large; one of the oldest in London.

3421. What is your opinion of Daley's qualifications as a packer?—I consider him a most perfect man;

an excellent packer, and a most intelligent active man.

3422. (Mr. Turner.) Does Daley understand hydraulic presses?—Any man who can pack with a screw press can pack with an hydraulic press as well. It is much more easy to pack with an hydraulic press than a screw. He worked under me with a screw; but practically the packing is the same. The hydraulic press was instituted to save labour.

3423. (Chairman.) Are you aware that Daley is chief packer at the Weedon establishment?—I know that he went down to Weedon after I left business. I took a great interest in him, and kept him after I retired from business for two years nearly. He heard that there was a vacancy at Weedon, and I gave him a letter of introduction, I think, to Mr. Howell, and he instantly got the appointment.

3424. He has 7s. a day?—I do not know his pay.

3425. Do you think he required instruction in packing?—No; he understood it as perfectly as any man in London. I never had a more perfect man in my employment as head packer.

3426. I believe you are here entirely by accident?—Entirely. Hearing the name of Daley, a man I felt interested in, I handed a note to the Secretary.

3427. In your judgment Daley thoroughly understands his business?—Yes.

3428. And is altogether a person who would not require any instruction?—Certainly, he would not. I employed him as head packer, and found him a most competent man.

3429. (*Mr. Turner.*) How many men had Daley under him in your establishment?—I think occasionally five or six; the number varied. I have also heard the name of Mr. Hoile mentioned, and it might be worth while for me to lay before you what I know of that gentleman. He also lived in my service for nearly twelve years, and had a very great deal of experience. He was a man in whom I placed the greatest confidence, and whose judgment I considered very good indeed.

3430. (*Chairman.*) He is now chief inspector of clothing at Weedon?—I do not know whether he is chief inspector; he was appointed inspector of cloth at Weedon.

3431. How long have you known Mr. Hoile?—I have known him for 25 years.

3432. And you think Mr. Hoile a capable man?—I think him a very capable man, indeed. It was only his knowledge of the business that induced me to give him a letter of introduction.

3433. Had you any influence at all of a personal character with the Government?—Not the slightest.

3434. I ask the question, as two persons were appointed at Weedon from your establishment?—I am not connected with the Government in any way. It arose merely from the fact of my giving up business. Just at the time when I retired from business, I think the difficulties of the war with Russia led to certain alterations; and Mr. Hoile applied to me. He said he understood that there were vacancies in the Government departments for inspectors of woollens, and having lived so long in my service, if I would give him a letter of introduction, merely stating what I have named to you, it might be useful to him; and it was, for he got the appointment.

3435. And you thought him thoroughly capable?—I thought him thoroughly capable and thoroughly conscientious. I trusted to him implicitly, and he conducted my town house in my absence; and I thought, as I should not be at Weedon, it might be advantageous if I were to state to the Commissioners my knowledge of those two men.

Adjourned till To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

LONDON.

Friday, 24th September 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. WILLIAM HAIGH WHITHAM further examined.

LONDON.

Mr.
W.H. Whitham.
24 Sept. 1858.

3436. (*Chairman.*) I think you stated yesterday that you were prepared to give some evidence on the subject of bribery. Will you tell us, not rumours, but what you know on the subject?—When I went down to Weedon at first there was a man employed in the packing-room as a labourer of the name of Grove, and in a conversation which I had with him some time afterwards he told me that he had been the principal, both inspector and foreman, in the boot room,—that was prior to Messrs. Watson and Folkerd being appointed,—and that he had been suspended for a few weeks from the stores altogether, and that, owing to the intercession of his wife with a Mr. Pew who lived at Camberwell,—it appears that Mr. Pew interceded with Mr. Elliott,—and he got first reinstated as labourer in the packing-room, where I was afterwards, and there he was reinstated in his old situation as viewer. He said that he had received bribes on more than one occasion, and when he was drunk he told a labourer of the name of Holmes, and this Holmes had told Mr. Elliott, about his being bribed.

3437. Your information upon the subject was from Grove himself?—Yes.

3438. What is his Christian name?—James Grove.

3439. Is he now at Weedon?—He is, I believe. He and I lived together in the same house.

3440. Can you give us the date of this?—I should think it was about July 1856 he told me. That was after he had got reinstated in his situation as boot viewer.

3441. That was the first time you knew it?—No; it was a fact patent throughout the establishment.

3442. What was patent throughout the establishment?—That Holmes had been to Mr. Elliott, and told him that Grove had been bribed to pass boots.

3443. How do you know that Holmes had been to Mr. Elliott, and charged Grove with bribery?—I only know from what I was told by several parties, and by Grove telling me himself.

3444. Is Holmes still in the service?—No; he was discharged.

3445. When?—He was discharged two or three months after that. I believe Holmes was a very drunken ill-conducted fellow.

3446. Grove told you, after his reinstatement, that he had taken bribes before Mr. Folkerd and Mr. Watson came?—I do not know whether he took them before they came or not. I said he was inspector and chief viewer at Weedon before Mr. Folkerd and Mr. Watson were appointed.

3447. Did he mention the dates?—He did not. He only told me he had been up to London for some money, and that they had been at Weedon.

3448. Who?—He did mention to me the name of the boot contractors, but I forget it. I have been trying to find it out, but I cannot.

3449. One, or more than one?—Not more than one contractor, but he had received bribes more than once.

3450. Grove told you so?—Yes.

3451. You cannot remember the contractor's name?—I cannot.

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Mr.
W.H. Whitham.

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3452. Nor the amount?—I think he mentioned that he had received two sovereigns in London. On one occasion he mentioned a sovereign that he had received at Weedon.

3453. You are probably aware that Mr. Elliott utterly denied ever having heard from Holmes anything of the kind?—I was not aware of it until I looked into the blue books last night.

3454. Are you prepared to face Grove upon this subject?—I am.

3455. Was Grove in the habit of drinking?—He was not habitually addicted to going to any excess. I believe him to be a good practical workman, and an intelligent man in his profession.

3456. The only evidence you have upon the subject is the statement of Grove himself?—Yes.

3457. Is that capable of confirmation in any way, unless we can get the name of the contractor who is said to have paid it? Are you aware whether he ever said so to any other person?—I am not aware whether he ever said so or not; but if I was at Weedon I think I could furnish corroborative proof that he did say so, and that the fact was known not only to Mr. Elliott himself, because the complaint was carried to Mr. Elliott.

3458. Did Grove tell you that Holmes had complained to Mr. Elliott?—Grove told me this, that Holmes had split of him to Mr. Elliott; that was his term.

3459. (*Mr. Turner.*) Where is Holmes now?—I do not know.

3460. (*Chairman.*) You know the account that has been given of what Holmes did complain about?—I have not seen anything of Holmes's statement.

3461. You know what Mr. Elliott says Holmes said to him. You have read the blue book, you say?—I read one portion, where Mr. Elliott states that no charge of bribery had been brought against Grove.

3462. Was Grove a short-sighted man?—He was.

3463. Was not there a complaint against Grove for passing things too easily, and was not his defence that he was short-sighted?—I never heard of that being brought against him. Grove told me the cause of his being suspended; he likewise gave me a long detail of the privations he underwent in being in Weedon so many weeks without money.

3464. There is no question that he was suspended. The question is, what was he suspended for?—He was suspended for bribery. His wife was living at Camberwell, and he told me that Mr. Pew had got him his situation in the Tower, prior to his going down to Weedon, and that his wife had made intercession with Mr. Pew for him.

3465. Did Mr. Folkerd or Mr. Watson, as far as you know, ever hear of anything of this kind?—I cannot vouch for it, but I should think they did.

3466. They were over Grove?—They were over Grove.

3467. Are you aware that Watson has most positively denied ever hearing anything of the kind?—I have not seen Mr. Watson's evidence.

3468. You agree with Mr. Elliott that Holmes was an ill-conducted man?—I do.

3469. You still say that Grove himself told you that he had been bribed more than once?—It was from himself that I heard of it. I should think that Mr. Elliott had not the power to suspend the man without giving the reason at head quarters, and I should presume that the letter still exists, with Mr. Elliott's reason in it for suspending Grove.

3470. Mr. Elliott had power to suspend, and he did occasionally suspend. Do you remember Tiffin being suspended?—Not when I was there. There was no one suspended when I was there. Grove's position at Weedon prior to this had been a very onerous and a very responsible one; and he told me himself that Mr. Elliott often wished him not to view at all, but merely to see that the other men did their work properly; and I believe the appointment of the inspectors at Weedon made a difference to him in his situation.

3471. Made it better or worse?—Made it better, on account of the responsibility being taken from his shoulders; but still he had not that power or authority; his wages were the same. I have often heard about Grove being reduced; but I never heard that plea given before, that he had ever made any fault in the inspection himself, or that his eyesight was the cause of his being reduced.

3472. Was anybody called before Mr. Elliott to prove the charge?—You must remember that I was not at Weedon at the time.

3473. Not when he was suspended?—No. When I went to Weedon Grove was employed in the packing-room; he had been out of employment, but was then sent as a labourer into the packing-room.

3474. You heard it all from Grove afterwards? Did Grove tell you he had been called before Mr. Elliott?—Grove told me he had been called before Mr. Elliott.

3475. Did he tell you whether anybody was called before Mr. Elliott to prove the charge against him, or whether he admitted it?—He did not tell me.

3476. He did not tell you whether he confessed the charge, or whether it was proved against him?—He never told me whether he confessed it. I thought that he presumed upon it as a fact that Mr. Elliott dismissed him for it.

3477. (*Mr. Turner.*) You say Grove's wife interceded with Mr. Pew to speak to Mr. Elliott in order that her husband might be reinstated?—So Grove told me.

3478. Would she explain to Mr. Pew the reasons of his suspension, do you think?—I do not know.

3479. (*Colonel French.*) Was Grove suspended at the time he gave you that information?—No; he was employed as a labourer in the packing-room.

3480. Why did he give you that information?—Of course I had often heard about it. I never questioned him about it until one night he and I were talking in the bed-room at home; I lived with a Mr. Robert Eary, and Grove lived with me; I asked him if it was correct, and he told me all about it. Eary is employed on the works as one of the artificers.

3481. You said he drank sometimes. Was he perfectly sober when he gave you that information?—I believe he was; he and I had been out.

3482. Drinking?—We had one or two glasses, but nothing to cause any intemperance.

3483. (*Chairman.*) Is that the only case of bribery you ever heard of at Weedon?—That is the only case of direct bribery. I do not know whether the fact of the boot viewers at Weedon being employed in their after hours in making boots for the army contractors at Northampton would come under that head.

3484. Was not that practice put a stop to as soon as it was known?—There were orders for it to be put a stop to. It was not put a stop to.

3485-86. Tell us the names of any boot viewers who worked for contractors?—William Walter and Charles Martin and Coates, and a man of the name of Thwaites. Those men were employed as bootmakers, and I believe had been apprenticed to the business. They were employed as labourers at Weedon, and when they were busy they were employed as supernumerary boot viewers; they had all the responsibility of that duty, without any advantage of pay for so doing.

3487. (*Mr. Turner.*) Their opinion, when they were employed as supernumeraries, influenced the decision as to the boots?—I was told so,—whether the boots were rejected or passed.

3488. And they worked over-hours as bootmakers for some of the contractors at Northampton?—Yes.

3489. (*Chairman.*) Do you know for what contractor they so worked?—I do not know; I can get to know it. It came out in this way: those viewers had been making those boots, and the contractor that

had them made sent the boots into Weedon, and the very boots that had been made by the boot viewers at Weedon were actually rejected.

3490. Did they reject their own boots?—That I cannot say. Perhaps some of the boot viewers had got the boots that were made by the others.

3491. (*Mr. Turner.*) Could it be of much importance to a person who contracted for a large number of boots to employ those viewers for the very short hours they could be employed upon boot making after they had done their duty for the day at Weedon?—It was merely a matter of benefit to the viewers themselves.

3492. Do you know the amount of wages they received at that work?—I do not.

3493. You never heard?—I do not suppose they would get more than the ordinary rate of pay which would be paid to other workmen.

3494. (*Chairman.*) Did the public suffer by it, if the boots were rejected?—The public did not suffer in that case.

3495. (*Mr. Turner.*) The public did not suffer in the case of those particular boots; but is it not possible that they might suffer from the influence on the viewers' minds by being so employed?—The only inference I can draw is, if the contractor was to give to those viewers a large supply to make, and perhaps in a pecuniary point of view pay them better than they were paying ordinary workmen, which I cannot say they did, perhaps when the supply came in from that contractor it might influence the viewer to pass goods which they might reject in case it was *vice versa*.

3496. (*Colonel French.*) They can hardly have done that, since you have stated that they rejected their own work?—I do not say that they themselves rejected it. Perhaps it went through the hands of other viewers; perhaps it went through their own hands.

3497. (*Mr. Turner.*) I presume the quantity of work which those viewers did with their own hands in the way you have described would be very small indeed?—I should think it could not be very much. I believe, taking the viewers all together, they are a first class set of intelligent practical shoemakers and good workmen.

3498. (*Chairman.*) I think you said that the viewers had exclusively the passing of the boots; was that so?—Subject to the approval of the inspectors.

3499. The inspectors were Folkerd and Watson?—Yes; and a great deal of discontent was caused by the eccentricities displayed by the two inspectors. For instance, a boot viewer inspects a hamper of boots; those that he passes he lays on one side, and those that he rejects he lays on the other side. The inspector may come, and if he is a favourite contractor he may put in the rejected boots, and lay them all by to pass. The other inspector, when he has passed the rejected ones, will come and tell the viewer to reject all. The viewers have complained to me on many occasions of that very thing, that their decisions are completely nullified.

3500. Is not the object of having a superior officer that that superior officer may revise, and, if he chooses, reverse the decision of his inferior?—Yes; but one inspector reverses the decision of his colleague.

3501. Do you know that to have been the case as between Mr. Folkerd and Mr. Watson?—Very often.

3502. (*Mr. Turner.*) On those occasions when the inspectors ordered goods either to be passed or rejected after the viewers had passed them, did they sufficiently acquaint themselves with the quality of the goods before they so decided?—That I cannot say.

3503. (*Chairman.*) You were not in the boot department?—No.

3504. Are you giving information that you have received from boot viewers, or from your own personal knowledge?—I am not speaking of my personal knowledge. I know the viewers have represented the hardship of having the responsibility of putting their initials upon the goods that they pass, whereas it is

entirely at the option of the inspector whether the goods pass or not. One inspector will come and pass a lot of goods, and another inspector will come and reject the same goods.

3505. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are both the inspectors in point of rank and authority equal?—That of course I cannot say. I believe they receive the same pay.

3506. (*Colonel French.*) Were the viewers on good terms with each other?—The viewers generally were on good terms with each other. I believe one inspector passing boots rejected by the other has been the cause of bickering between the two inspectors as to which should have the dominant power. The men have complained to me of it very often.

3507. (*Chairman.*) Who has complained to you?—Grove has complained to me, and Mansbridge, another boot viewer, and Coates, and Martin, and Thwaites. They have complained to me, they themselves knowing so much about the business, and the inspectors not knowing anything at all about it.

3508. Have you ever heard any observations as to which of the two inspectors was the more lenient, and which the more rigid?—Each inspector had his own favourite protégé.

3509. I ask you whether you ever heard any observations as to which of the two inspectors, if either, was the more lenient, and which the more rigid?—I cannot answer that question.

3510. Do you mean to say that the inspectors severally favoured various contractors?—I do not say that.

3511. You said something about protégés; what did you mean by that?—I thought you were asking me the question as to the view which the viewers took of the capabilities of the different inspectors. For that reason I said that the inspectors had their favourite protégés amongst the viewers, and those viewers gave their own inspector a more favourable opinion than the other. They said that their own particular favourite inspector had more knowledge of his profession than what the other had.

3512. Then there was a difference of opinion among the viewers as to the capacity of the inspectors?—Yes.

3513. How did that lead the inspectors to favour the viewers, if they did so? You said that there were protégés, and that the inspectors were eccentric. In what way did they show that particular viewers were protégés of theirs, or that they were eccentric?—They showed that particular viewers were protégés, because they sent in to Mr. Elliott a statement that such a man ought to be promoted, and have better wages; that he was a better man than the rest, and he was fitted for a better position. They showed that they were eccentric, because when a viewer had passed a lot of goods one inspector might come and reject those that the viewer had passed, and the other inspector would come after, and tell him to pass the ones that had been rejected.

3514. Do you know that fact of your own knowledge?—No.

3515. From whom did you receive information that that ever happened?—From Grove, from Mansbridge, from Coates, and Martin, and Thwaites.

3516. Cloth, I believe, was more immediately in your line?—Yes.

3517. What do you wish to state as to the system of inspection pursued at Weedon with regard to cloth?—I consider that the inspectors were inefficient for the duties, because of their antecedents, and because of the fallacy of the tests which they employed as to whether they should pass or reject a piece of cloth.

3518. Of whom are you speaking?—I am speaking of the three inspectors generally, Mr. Hoile, Mr. Mallett, and Mr. Hebdon.

3519. What tests did they employ?—They had only one test, that is, muriatic acid or spirits of salt for colour, and Hebdon's machine for texture.

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3520. Does not the eye enable you without tests to see whether cloth is properly dyed?—The eye will not tell the strength of it.

3521. Cannot you in many cases tell whether cloth is spotty, or unequally or badly dyed, from inspection, without applying any test at all?—No contractor would send in a piece badly dyed, if it was spotted.

3522. I ask you whether faults in the dyeing may not in many cases be detected by the eye without any muriatic acid or other test?—They may.

3523. We have had it in evidence already in this room that such faults have been so detected. Do you confirm that statement?—Yes.

3524. To ascertain whether the dye was fast or good, you would apply some chemical test, I presume?—Yes; I would apply a chemical test.

3525. (*Mr. Turner.*) To what colour would you apply muriatic acid?—It is only fit to be applied to opaque colours and woaded cloths. Muriatic acid will only prove when the cloth is woaded by taking the bloom from it.

3526. By “woaded” we have understood the use of indigo before the black colour is put on the cloth; is that so?—The cloth is put into the woad vat. Woad is a leaf gathered in the fields.

3527. Is not indigo always employed before the black dye is used?—It should be.

3528. You mean that indigo is used, when you speak of woaded cloth, do not you?—Yes.

3529. Supposing the indigo has not been used, the muriatic acid will test that fact, will it not?—It will not test that fact.

3530. What effect will the muriatic acid have upon the cloth in distinguishing bad dye from good dye?—It will take the colour out of it, and turn it into a dirty red yellow.

3531. In what case would muriatic acid not turn the dye into a dirty yellow?—In case it had been properly woaded.

3532. Upon indigo?—Yes.

3533. Then muriatic acid applied to a cloth which has been first indigo dyed and woaded, and then the black dye put upon it, or a dark or opaque colour, will not show that defect?—It will only take the bloom off from the colour, and show the blue of the indigo.

3534. It will never touch the bloom of the indigo?—It will take the bloom away.

3535. It will never take the solidity of the colour out?—No.

3536. If the cloth has been died indigo, what effect has woaded?—It sets the indigo.

3537. Does the indigo require setting in woollen?—Certainly.

3538. Applying black or opaque colour upon the indigo without the woaded would not fix it?—It would not fix it.

3539. And the muriatic acid tests that?—It will test that.

3540. (*Chairman.*) What is it that muriatic acid does not test? I understand it tests whether cloth is woaded or not?—It is not an efficient test; it takes the colour out of all the other cloths, irrespective of the strength of the colour, and it is not fair to the manufacturer or contractor. At Weedon they have their muriatic acid all of one strength, irrespective of the price of the cloths which come in. Therefore those contractors who contract for cloth of a low quality cannot go to the expense of having expensive dye, and they have to submit their colours to the same test as a fine woaded cloth.

3541. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would muriatic acid remove colour from cloth that had been dyed indigo and woaded?—It would not.

3542. Therefore the test at Weedon is a good test to ascertain that fact?—It only tests the woaded cloth; but five sixths of the cloth that goes into Weedon is not woaded at all.

3543. (*Chairman.*) What is the test at Weedon applied for?—It is applied in all cloths.

3544. What for?—To test the colour.

3545. I understand you say that it does not test the colours, because it takes them all out?—It takes the colour out of all of them.

3546. Did you ever hear of any manufacturer complaining of the result of the application of the muriatic acid as a test?—I do not think the manufacturers know that there is that absurdity existing.

3547. Did you ever know a manufacturer complain of the improper rejection of his cloth by reason of an improper test being applied to the dye?—I know a manufacturer who sent in a large quantity of cloth.

3548. What is his name?—His name is Parker. He is the principal buyer of blankets in Messrs. A. and S. Henry and Co.'s house at Huddersfield. That is a very extensive shipping firm in Yorkshire. Mr. Parker sent in a vast quantity of goods; one half of them had been dyed improperly; the colour was loose and bad, and the goods were spoiled with the dye; the other half of the goods had been dyed properly; but, however, he thought he would risk the lot. He sent the lot in, and the goods that had been dyed fast, and were better altogether, were rejected, every piece, and those that were dyed loose were kept and passed.

3549. From whom did you know that?—From Mr. Parker himself. I told him that I should state this before the Commission; and he said he would be glad to give evidence upon that point.

3550. Were you at Weedon at the time that cloth was passed?—I was not, that I am aware of.

3551. Do you know when it was?—I do not.

3552. Do you know whether any complaint was ever made by the regiments of the badness of the dye of that cloth which had been so imperfectly dyed or otherwise?—I do not. I should think it showed of itself.

3553. If it showed of itself, would not the regiments very soon complain of it?—It has the same effect upon the cloth as weather and wear; which I told Mr. Elliott it would have.

3554. What are you referring to?—The dye itself, which is put on to the scarlets and drummers' reds. It is not capable of standing any wear or inclemency of the weather; the sun is sure to damage the colour of the dyes in army cloths at the present time, both in scarlets and drummers' reds.

3555. Has any complaint, so far as you know, been made of the bad colour of scarlets and reds?—I never heard any complaint.

3556. Have you any test of your own which you think would be better than muriatic acid?—Yes; I can test in half a dozen different ways.

3557. Is that a secret possessed by others besides yourself?—I believe that I have a test which is known to very few, but it is known.

3558. If you have not registered it, perhaps you would rather not make it public?—I have no objection to do so.

3559. (*Mr. Turner.*) I do not wish to ask you what your test is, but what is it to be applied to? Will it ascertain whether the cloths have been properly dyed with indigo, and woaded before they are dyed?—If I wanted to ascertain that I should use muriatic acid.

3560. Do you know whether it is a condition in the contract that all cloths are to be dyed with indigo and woaded?—I think not.

3561. Are not cloths sometimes received under contracts when it is not specified that they shall be woaded?—That I cannot speak about. I can only say that five sixths of the cloth that is sent down to Weedon is not woaded.

3562. Then the muriatic acid will test it?—It will test it.

3563. So far muriatic acid is a good test?—It is a test whether a piece of cloth is woaded or not.

3564. To apply muriatic acid to a piece of cloth which, according to the contract, was not required to be woaded, would be a bad test?—It is no test at all.

3565. I think, in answer to a question put to you by the Chairman, you said that muriatic acid would take

the colour out in any case?—Any cloth that is unwoaded.

3566. (*Chairman.*) If I understand you rightly, muriatic acid will have a different effect upon woaded cloth and unwoaded cloth?—Yes.

3567. It is a test whether the cloth is woaded or not?—Yes; the only test. My drift is this: I do not think that, except in certain qualities of cloth, it is required to be woaded; and I know myself, from my own personal experience and observation, that five sixths of the army cloth now in use is not woaded.

3568. (*Mr. Turner.*) If the cloth that goes down to Weedon is to so large an extent supplied unwoaded, and they apply the test of muriatic acid, how does it ever happen that they ever pass a piece of cloth at all, because, according to your statement, the colour would be all discharged?—They must try something.

3569. Having discharged the colour with the test which you say is invariably applied, how is that consistent with your stating that the great proportion of the cloth is supplied unwoaded?—They do apply that test.

3570. Then how is it that they ever pass a piece of cloth at all?—That is the reason why I say they are inefficient inspectors.

3571. They cannot apply the test?—They do apply the test.

3572. And it discharges the colour, as you say?—Yes. It is a mere matter of form, in my opinion.

3573. If they prove the cloth by a test which you say is invariably used, and invariably discharges the colour, how do you account for the circumstance that any cloth is at all passed?—They cannot reject it all; they must pass some. Muriatic acid is not a test for unwoaded cloths; it will tell whether a cloth is woaded or not.

3574. It will discharge the colour?—Yes; in any unwoaded cloth. You ought to have a test that will take the colour out up to a certain pitch. There is a certain strength of dye required in unwoaded cloth which ought to stand the test up to a certain pitch. If you have a test of that description, and the dye will stand that test, pass it, but if that strength will take the dye out, then of course reject it.

3575. Although I do not understand woollen cloth, I know something about cotton cloth. In my establishment we have immense quantities of blue cloth from the dyers professedly dyed with indigo. They endeavour to deceive us sometimes by putting a basis of indigo, and what is technically called "a top," that is, finishing off with logwood; do you understand that?—Yes.

3576. Every piece of cloth or every lot of cloth that comes into my warehouse is tested by a slight solution of sulphuric acid, and if there is logwood in the dye of that cloth it will what is technically called "bleed." The vegetable of the logwood will come out in a red liquid, and the residuum will be only the basis of indigo. Does not something of the same kind take place in the dye of woollen cloth?—Yes; but you must dye it all indigo or all logwood in woollen cloth.

3577. In case it is dyed with logwood, will muriatic acid discharge the colour?—It will take it out in a minute.

3578. You say that that is the test invariably applied?—Yes.

3579. Why should cloth so tested ever be passed at all?—There is their fallacy; it shows the inefficiency of the test which they use.

3580. Your evidence goes, not to show the inefficiency of the test, but the defiance of the test on the part of the inspectors?—Their test ought to be the dilution that you use in your establishment.

3581. The sulphuric acid?—No; the test ought to go up to a certain pitch. If the unwoaded cloth will stand the test up to that pitch, well then by all means pass it. I am not speaking of woaded cloths. If the dye will stand up to that test, then I should pass it, because it is dyed well, but if it will not, I should reject it on account of its being badly dyed.

3582. If a contractor engages to supply woaded cloth, muriatic acid is a good test, but if he does not contract to supply woaded cloth, then the test is a bad one, and in your opinion ought not to be applied?—It ought not to be applied.

3583. Do you know whether cloth is rejected on that ground when the manufacturers have not contracted to supply woaded cloth?—I do not think that they reject goods with sufficient foundation on account of the dye; not from their own personal experience of the justice of the foundation of the rejection.

3584. (*Chairman.*) Do you think that army cloth is not sufficiently well dyed, as in the instances you gave of the cloth from Parker of Huddersfield?—I have packed thousands of yards of cloth that had not been sufficiently well dyed.

3585. In your judgment?—In my judgment.

3586. Have you ever called the attention of your superiors to that matter?—Very often.

3587. Whose attention have you called to it?—I have told Mr. Hebdon and Mr. Mallett of it myself.

3588. Did you ever speak to Mr. Hoile about it?—I never did; I never spoke to Mr. Hoile upon the subject at all, excepting once in the presence of Mr. Elliott, when I said that there ought to be a better system adopted.

3589. A system of tests for dyeing?—I never spoke to Mr. Hoile upon that subject.

3590. You think that you know a great deal more about cloth than Mr. Hoile, Mr. Hebdon, or Mr. Mallett?—I have had a great deal more experience.

3591. More than Mr. Hoile?—Yes.

3592. Did you hear the statement that was given by Mr. Costeker after you were examined yesterday?—Yes; but there is a vast deal of difference being employed in a woollen draper's warehouse to what there is being employed in the practical branch of the business.

3593. You think that you have had more experience than Mr. Hoile?—I feel confident of it.

3594. Have you anything more to add on the subject of the dye?—No more.

3595. (*Mr. Turner.*) You heard Mr. Costeker's evidence with regard to the head packer, Daley, also, did you not?—Yes.

3596. Are you still of the same opinion, that you have had a great deal more experience than Daley, the foreman of packers at Weedon?—If you ask anyone at Weedon as to what I did you will find out the correctness of my statement. I have nothing to say against Daley, the chief packer. He is a man of the most untiring energy, and had it not been for him many of the inspectors would have suffered seriously, from their misconceptions, counting goods wrongly, and so on.

3597. I thought yesterday, before Mr. Costeker came forward, you spoke very disparagingly of Daley also?—As a packer. He kept the packing books and counted the goods up that came in.

3598. (*Chairman.*) Did you hear Mr. Costeker say that his was one of the most extensive houses in London, and that Daley had been his packer for ten years?—Yes.

3599. You think that your experience in packing is superior to Daley's? You gave us to understand, before Mr. Costeker was examined, that you had to instruct Daley in his business?—Daley has not been employed in any shipping packing house in London. I was in a shipping packing house.

3600. (*Mr. Turner.*) You mean that Daley was inexperienced in the use of hydraulic presses?—Yes; he was what is termed a hand packer, which is a very different thing from shipping business.

3601. (*Chairman.*) Have you anything to say as to the efficiency or inefficiency of the inspectors at Weedon with respect to the texture of the cloth?—I think that Mr. Hebdon's machine is an inducement for Government contractors to put in inferior qualities into the cloth, and that it is not a test at all; any manufacturer can completely defeat the purpose of that

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machine, and still put any inferior articles he likes into his cloth.

3602. Mr. Hebdon does not say that his machine will test everything; but does it not test the strength of the cloth?—There is a process now by which they can amalgamate cotton with wool.

3603. Cannot that always be detected?—No; they can scribble it together now, which they could not do at one time, so that it is very difficult to detect; you can detect it by camphor and by fire; that is the sole test.

3604. There may be certain things that the machine will not do. My question is, whether Mr. Hebdon's machine is not useful to ascertain the strength of the texture?—It will ascertain the strength of it.

3605. One ingredient of the strength or weakness of cloth may be shoddy or cotton; although the machine may not detect the material which causes the weakness, will not it detect the fact that the cloth is weak?—It will.

3606. So far is it not useful?—It is useful so far; but the contractor can defeat that by spinning his warp and weft a little tighter.

3607. (Mr. Turner.) By harder twisted yarn?—Yes.

3608. (Chairman.) Does that make the cloth stronger?—It does.

3609. Does it make the cloth worse in other respects?—It makes it more liable to break.

3610. Although it is stronger?—Yes; it will break before it is properly worn out.

3611. What would you suggest as an improvement upon the system at Weedon as regards the inspection of cloth in the matter of texture?—I should suggest that a properly efficient staff should be employed who have served in the manufacturing of cloth.

3612. What is the alteration in the inspection as regards the fabric that you would suggest? Supposing you had to teach these men, what would you have to teach them to do?—I could not teach them.

3613. What would you do, if you were in Mr. Hebdon's or Mr. Mallett's place, as regards testing the texture of the cloth?—I should test, first, the dye, and then see if there was any shoddy in the cloth; I should test the quality of the wool, and then have it measured in width and length, and see the amount of damages.

3614. How would you test the cloth in a different way from that in which it is now tested with respect to texture?—I would take my pattern cloth, and I would pull out a warp web and a weft web (threads you may term them), and I would test the cloth as to the presence of shoddy, and to what extent; I would then try the strength and the quality of the cloth.

3615. Do not you know that pulling out a warp web and a weft web, a thread, or whatever you call it, is one of the modes which has been pursued? Did they not adopt that test while you were at Weedon?—That I cannot speak of. I do not think there is an inspector at Weedon who can tell as to whether there exists 10 per cent. or 80 per cent. of shoddy in the goods which they inspect.

3616. I am asking you in what respect their method of inspection upon these points is defective. What did they not do that they ought to have done, and what did they do that they ought not to have done?—I have sent goods back which have been rejected which were better than the goods which have been passed. I remember packing some goods which came from the Tower, and had the Tower seal set upon them.

3617. (Mr. Turner.) Do you mean better in respect of dye or fabric?—Fabric.

3618. Did you test those goods by pulling threads out?—I did.

3619. And you found that the rejected goods were better than those that were passed?—Yes; that was during the fore part of my engagement at Weedon. Afterwards there was a person employed to pack nothing but the rejections; some party in the village.

3620. (Chairman.) You say that good cloths were rejected, and bad ones accepted. Can you state what they did, or what they left undone, which occasioned that result?—I remember the goods that I spoke of had a very good face upon them, but it was a burnt face in the pressing; it was a face that the first rainy day would completely take off, and at the same time the cloth would be the worse for being burnt in the press; the other cloths had not been pressed enough, and they had not been cold-flatted, and they were rejected upon that account. They had not a good face upon them. If those goods had been passed and supplied to the regiments no rain would have touched them. They would have stood the sun, and the dye would have stood better.

3621. Do you remember whose goods those were?—I believe they were some of Pollard's of Halifax.

3622. Do you remember when that took place?—It was in the early part of my time at Weedon, in 1856; perhaps it might be July or August.

3623. Was the supposed defect remedied, and the cloth sent back?—I cannot speak to that.

3624. Was it a defect that might have been remedied?—Very easily; it was no defect at all.

3625. We have had Mr. Pollard's manager here, and examined him about the rejections, and he has stated that the defects pointed out were remedied, and the cloth sent back?—I cannot speak to that.

3626. (Mr. Turner.) You think that too much importance was attached to the appearance of the face derived from pressing, and that the goods were sent back from a defect of that kind, which in your opinion was not of much importance?—I think the goods that were passed were worse than the ones that were rejected.

3627. (Chairman.) Are you not aware that the inspectors always have patterns by which to inspect the goods?—Yes; sealed patterns.

3628. Did you ever know cloth rejected which was in every respect equal to the pattern?—I do not know.

3629. Surely that is a very material question? Did you ever know cloths rejected that were in every respect equal to the pattern?—I cannot speak of that.

3630. Did you ever know cloths passed that were inferior to pattern?—I cannot speak to that. I can only speak in this way; I have had cloths through my hands which have been worm-eaten; just the germs of the moths were coming out, and they ought to have been rejected, whereas they were passed.

3631. Did you see the patterns in these cases?—No; but no patterns ought to have been worm-eaten.

3632. You are probably aware that the main duty of the inspectors was supposed to be to pass cloths and every thing else according to pattern?—Yes.

3633. Do you know whether the inspectors had the right of exercising an independent judgment on the merits of the pattern?—Of course they could exercise an independent judgment.

3634. If the pattern was bad, and the cloth also bad, if the cloth was equal to pattern they had to pass it, had they not?—Yes; but they had an independent judgment, and they could reject that cloth if they thought proper.

3635. Have you any thing more to add on the subject of inspection?—I believe in the finer qualities of the cloth that the more shoddy they put in the better chance they had of getting them passed.

3636. Did you ever know cloth with a large proportion of shoddy in it passed, as a matter of fact?—I have packed cloths myself which I have no hesitation in saying had from 40 to 50 per cent. of shoddy in them.

3637. When?—In the latter part of 1856. I will not speak exactly to the date.

3638. Do you know from whom those cloths came?—I do not; they came from the Tower, and they had the Tower seal on them.

3639. (Mr. Turner.) Are you aware that shoddy is not absolutely forbidden in all contracts?—I do not

know that. I believe it is forbidden in some of them.

3640. (*Chairman.*) Are you aware that the cloth which came from the Tower was not originally delivered under the system into which we are now inquiring?—It came from the Tower. I can tell you nothing more upon that subject.

3641. When goods were taken over from the Tower, the inspectors had nothing to do but to certify the quantity. Do you know whether the inspectors looked through the cloth that came from the Tower?—This cloth underwent an inspection at Weedon.

3642. By whom?—By the inspector. I believe that branch came under the immediate supervision of Mr. Mallett.

3643. Do you remember the colour of the cloth?—Grey.

3644. Was it passed?—Yes; packed and sent into store.

3645. Do you know what became of it?—I cannot tell.

3646. Can you tell the quantity?—I think it would be some 10,000 yards.

3647. Do you know whether it was used afterwards, or whether it was sent for sale?—I do not know.

3648. Was it Oxford grey?—Yes. If a contractor was to make a piece of cloth of wool without shoddy or without mungo, it would not stand any chance of passing at Weedon.

3649. What is mungo?—It approximates closely to shoddy. It is the refuse that comes from the engine, the flock, and everything, in the making of cloth.

3650. If you had heard Mr. Ellis in his examination state to the Commissioners that he had never put anything of the sort in his cloth when the Government required that nothing of the sort should be used, would you have contradicted him?—If he had said that the cloth was made of pure wool, I should certainly have contradicted him.

3651. Although the contract with the Government was that the cloth should be made of pure wool?—Unless they put shoddy or mungo in the wool out of which they made Government cloths they could not finish the face upon it so that it would pass at Weedon.

3652. Do you mean to assert that all the manufacturers of Yorkshire and Gloucestershire, who have contracted to send in cloth made of wool, have been unanimously deceiving the Government?—I believe that no piece of cloth ever comes into the Government stores that is made wholly of wool.

3653. (*Colonel French.*) Can you give the name of any contractor whose cloth had shoddy in it?—Joshua Ellis; I knew it by seeing his seal upon the cloth. I have had some of his goods which I have packed which have had a good portion of shoddy in them.

3654. (*Chairman.*) Which he contracted to furnish without shoddy?—That I cannot say.

3655. Are you not aware that a great many of the contracts for the delivery of cloth at Weedon contain a stipulation that no material but pure wool shall be used?—I have not seen the specifications.

3656. Do you mean to state that you never saw any cloth passed at Weedon that had not shoddy or mungo or other base material in it?—I never tried all the cloths. I am only stating my belief.

3657. We want to know the grounds of your belief. Did you ever see any cloth at Weedon passed but what had shoddy or mungo or some base material in it?—I do not think I ever did.

3658. (*Mr. Turner.*) If it is proved that cloth actually exists at Weedon in store that is perfectly pure, and has neither shoddy nor mungo in it, your opinion would prove to be good for nothing, would not it?—I should consider that my opinion fell to the ground altogether.

3659. (*Chairman.*) Do you wish to state any other facts?—There is another thing about packing. I have packed cloths many and many times which have not been fit for packing; they have been damp and

wet, and those cloths have been undoubtedly spoiled when they came to be opened.

3660. Did you ever remonstrate against doing so?—I did.

3661. To whom?—To Daley.

3662. What did he do upon that?—Sometimes we have packed them up, and at other times we have let them stop out opened, on purpose to get dry.

3663. Did Daley ever direct you to pack them, notwithstanding the defect you have mentioned?—He never directed me in anything. I had everything under my own control.

3664. (*Mr. Turner.*) How do you suppose that the dampness arose? Before the cloths were delivered by the manufacturers, or were they damped at Weedon?—They could not be damped at Weedon. I think they came damp from the contractors.

3665. If they came damp into the place, they would come before the viewer or inspector in a damp state?—Yes.

3666. Was not one of the modes of examining cloths by drawing them over a perch as it is called, and passing them through the air?—Yes.

3667. Would not that exposure have a tendency to remove dampness?—It would remove a great deal.

3668. A considerable portion of it?—Yes; a very considerable portion of it.

3669. If the cloths were so damp as to make you aware of the fact, after being remade up and brought to the press to be packed, must they not have been in a very bad state when they came over the perch?—They must have been wet when they came in.

3670. Would not the wet be obvious to the inspector, without his having any great skill as to the texture of the cloth or the dye or anything?—Yes; any one, the most ignorant, could tell that they were wet.

3671. Is it likely that the inspectors would be so perverse as to pass wet goods?—They have passed them.

3672. (*Chairman.*) Is it a bad thing to pack goods wet?—Yes.

3673. You had the sole control, you say?—I had it under my supervision.

3674. You said that Daley did not direct you in anything; and that you had everything under your control?—I had.

3675. If you had everything under your own control, and it was a bad thing to pack wet cloth, why did you pack it wet?—I was ordered to do so.

3676. Who ordered you?—The goods come down from the cloth-room, and they must be packed and sent into store the same day.

3677. I thought you said that you had it under your own control. If you had it under your own control, and it was a bad thing to pack wet cloths, why did you so pack them?—I had it under my control in this way; Daley never directed me as to how or what I should pack. Of course Daley was my superior officer, and as the goods came down, he used to take the lengths, and enter them in a book, and look after the general issuing out of the packing-room. Respecting the packing part of it I had the control.

3678. For the third time I ask you, if it is a bad thing to pack goods wet, and if you had the packing under your own control, why did you pack them wet?—There was no other option left for me.

3679. Explain why you had no option?—I have said to Daley, "These goods are wet, and they ought not to be packed," and he has said, "Well you must pack them; never mind."

3680. I thought you said that Daley never directed you?—He directed me so far.

3681. Do you mean to say that Daley directed you to pack wet goods?—Yes.

3682. (*Mr. Turner.*) What do you suppose was the object of the contractor in sending in wet goods?—I should say his object was to get the cloth up to the proper weight.

LONDON.

Mr.
W.H. Whitham.

24 Sept. 1858.

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3683. Is it the fact with woollen goods, as it is with cotton goods, that the colour looks rather better when the goods are wet than when they are perfectly dry?—Yes; a great deal better.

3684. (*Colonel French.*) Might not it have arisen from the contractor being hurried in furnishing the goods?—No; it could not be that, because they sent their pieces on out of the press to Weedon.

3685. (*Mr. Turner.*) I suppose that the damp was so evident that it must have been added wilfully, and did not arise in finishing the goods, but rather the contrary?—If the piece was too wide or too thin, they would damp it on purpose to get it to its regular width and proper thickness; damp will make pieces of cloth thicker and narrower; it shrinks all woollen goods, and they might do it for that purpose; if the cloth was light they might damp it on purpose to make it up to its proper weight.

3686. At the risk of being detected by the inspectors, and having all the wet goods, perhaps, returned on their hands, or at the risk, if the goods passed the packer, who must be directed, as you were, by some one in authority over you to pack them wet, of their being opened in a rotten state?—It would take a long time to make the goods in a rotten state.

3687. How long would it take?—That would depend upon the situation they were placed in; they would mildew, and be eaten by moths; that is, if they were kept close.

3688. Was not it a great risk to run on the part of the contractors for the sake of a trifling advantage?—It was a risk.

3689. (*Chairman.*) Can you name any contractor who has sent in damp goods?—I cannot.

3690. Was it a general thing?—No; it occurred but a very few times.

3691. Does not that make it easier to name a person who has been guilty of such a knavish trick?—I do not know any contractor; it happened but very seldom.

3692. You said only five minutes ago that you had packed damp cloths many and many times; can you remember the colour of the cloth?—I had it both in drummers' reds and Oxford greys.

3693. If the cloths were packed in this damp state, having to be issued pretty soon, would not they go to the clothiers to be made up into garments in that condition?—They would; at least they might dry in the interim; it is very possible they would.

3694. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you think they would dry in the bale?—I do.

3695. Would they not be more likely to rot in the bale?—They would dry and mildew.

3696. (*Chairman.*) Do you wish to say anything about saddlery?—I do not know anything at all about that.

3697. Or about the qualifications of any other of the persons employed at Weedon?—I have very often seen the viewers at Weedon make a damage into the cloth, thinking in their own judgment that a damage had existed there before, not wilfully, but they have made a damage where a damage ought not to have been made.

3698. What viewers have you seen do that?—I have seen Perry and Stocker.

3699. What sort of damage have they made?—In cloths there very often would be what we term "work threads."

3700. (*Mr. Turner.*) What do you mean?—One thread thicker than the other in the warp. If they were to see one they would cut a hole in the cloth with the needle, and then put a damage tab, and of course the contractor would lose a certain sum for every hole they cut in the cloth in that way.

3701. You mean a thicker thread running down than usual, which would make an ugly place in a man's coat?—I am not speaking of a very thick thread. It is a damage then. I have seen them cut holes where they thought there was a draw thread. In cloth making they have fine drawers who draw

the holes, and they can make them very difficult to detect.

3702. (*Chairman.*) The viewers considered those things defects without sufficient ground? Is that the substance of what you mean?—Yes.

3703. And they signified that in some way?—By putting in a needle, and cutting a hole in it.

3704. (*Mr. Turner.*) What is the object of cutting a hole if they intend to reject the piece?—The piece would pass. The cloth goes over the perch, and if there is a damage of that sort, it does not necessarily make the piece any the worse; but they cut the hole, and put in a piece of string, and it is charged against the manufacturer, perhaps a quarter of a yard or half a yard.

3705. (*Chairman.*) Would that come under the head of what is called "allowance"?—Yes. I have seen them do that very often.

3706. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is it not an unwise thing to make a worse damage than existed before?—It would be to the benefit of the clothier, because he would have wisdom sufficient to see that it was not a damage, and that he could put it into the tunics, and save so much.

3707. (*Chairman.*) You would object to its being put in the column "allowed"?—I should. It is a dead loss to the contractor.

3708. Have you any other statement to make?—When I was at Weedon I have been for weeks together and had no canvass to pack clothing in. I had to use canvass that was unfit for service, and I have had no paper to wrap the goods in, to the detriment of the goods which were packed within it.

3709. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you refer to goods going into store, or going a journey?—Both.

3710. Is not packing goods that are merely wrapped for going into store, where you merely wish to preserve them from the dust, a very different thing to packing bales that are going abroad or to a different station?—Yes; but there ought always to be paper round woollens. I have had to pack shipping bales that have had to be shipped off without being made waterproof.

3711. How did you pack bales that had to be shipped?—Just in canvass and paper.

3712. With single wrappers, or double wrappers?—Single wrappers.

3713. What did you put round the goods in the press, first of all?—Paper.

3714. A single wrapper?—Yes.

3715. And rope?—Yes.

3716. And nothing else?—No.

3717. Do you think that a good way of packing?—I call it a very bad way.

3718. I suppose you are aware that carriers' porters have hooks which they use for laying hold of bales, and that they stick those hooks very frequently into the bales?—They ought not to use hooks at all. I know they do.

3719. Would not proper packing protect the bale from being easily damaged by hooks or any other rough usage?—Yes.

3720. Was any oiled cloth or tarpaulin put under the wrapper?—Nothing.

3721. If such bales were exposed to a shower of rain, would they not get considerably damped?—Undoubtedly; and they could not be exposed in the hold of a ship, in going out to hot climates, without getting damaged.

3722. (*Chairman.*) Did you ever hear of any bales of cloth going out by ship since the establishment of Weedon?—I have packed cloth for China.

3723. In the shape of cloth?—No; clothing.

3724. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did you pack that made-up clothing to go to China in single wrappers with only paper?—Single wrappers, and single paper; we could not get anything else.

3725. You had been in a shipping establishment as a packer, had you not, before you went to Weedon?—Yes.

3726. Did you ever pack bales for China?—I have packed them for all over the world.

3727. For the East generally?—Yes.

3728. How are those bales generally packed?—With double canvass, tarpaulin, straw, and double paper.

3729. (*Chairman.*) How many yards of canvass, if you had it, ought to be used for such a bale as you are speaking of?—If I was packing 100 trousers I should pack them in a bale with, I should say, $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards of canvass.

3730. Do you happen to know what the allowance of canvass was while you were at Weedon for that very purpose?—I do not. There is a difference in the size of the bales, and I used to cut the canvass off according to the size of the bales. There were some bales which would take perhaps five yards, and others not more than a yard and a half.

3731. I have a statement here of the number of bales packed in 1856, and the particulars of where they went to, and it says that 8,837 bales were packed at Weedon, and that 22,000 yards of canvass were consumed, being an average of $2\frac{1}{2}$ yards for each bale; would that be a fair average, as nearly as you can judge?—There was a great deal more canvass than that used, presuming there were as many bales packed.

3732. Presuming there were as many bales packed, would that be a fair average?—It would not be a fair average. I should think, to take every bale, one with another, it would require four yards of canvass.

3733. (*Mr. Turner.*) What is the width of the canvass?—We used to have 36, 42, and 45 inches.

3734. Would it not be a very small bale that only required $3\frac{1}{2}$ yards of 36-inch canvass?—Yes; we used to put 25 great-coats together, and that was a small bale, and 100 pairs of trousers.

3735. (*Chairman.*) You cannot remember the quantity of bales packed?—I cannot.

3736. When was it that you found a scarcity of canvass?—We were short of it four or five times; a period of every two or three months or so. I have been for six weeks together and never had a yard of new canvass in the place.

3737. Have you asked for canvass?—There has been requisition after requisition sent in for canvass.

3738. (*Mr. Turner.*) Where did you get old canvass?—There was a lot of old canvass that came from the Crimea that was rotten and valueless, and we had to stitch together anything we could find.

3739. In such cases as that, when you used old rotten canvass, and stitched it together, was there only a single wrapper and paper round the bale?—Nothing but a single wrapper. I am not speaking of shipping bales now. I do not know that I sent anything for shipping; it was for stock, and sending off to the clothing contractors.

3740. For carriage by rail to other contractors?—Yes.

3741. Were some shipping bales packed up with only that wrapper?—Some were; a great many.

3742. You do not know what quarter of the globe they went to?—I only know that some went to China. I was working over-time, late at night packing, and there was a telegraphic message came down for them.

3743. To be sent to China?—Yes; they said the bales were for China, and that is all I know.

3744. Were they packed in a similarly defective

manner, with a single wrapper?—Single wrapper and single paper.

3745. It has been stated that goods for the East Indies, the Mauritius, the Cape, and Australia, were packed with three yards of oiled canvass or tarpaulin besides the single wrapper?—I was at Weedon for 15 months, and there never was a yard of oiled cloth or tarpaulin in the establishment used; such a thing was not in existence there.

3746. (*Chairman.*) Do you know that there was a sudden and unexpected demand for a large quantity of clothing to be sent to China and the East Indies?—Yes; and I had impressed upon them the necessity of having proper things to pack with.

3747. Upon whom had you impressed that?—Daley and Mr. Hoile.

3748. (*Mr. Turner.*) Within what period of time had the goods to be dispatched in that hasty way?—I think we had two days to pack them in.

3749. I suppose you are aware, as a packer, that if an order was sent to Manchester, any quantity of oiled canvass could be sent by return?—You could have a warehouse full by return.

3750. (*Chairman.*) Has there been time to ascertain whether any damage resulted from the bad packing of those goods?—Not that I am aware of.

3751. Have you any other observation to make?—I know at one time we had a supply of canvass in for three weeks, and we made a requisition for another supply, and we were six weeks before we got any.

3752. Can you give the dates at all?—I have a good many of those dates down in my diary, but I have not got it with me.

3753. I think you said that you would not take a Government situation again?—I would not.

3754. When did that feeling come over you?—After I had seen Mr. Ramsay.

3755. When?—It is 12 months ago now.

3756. You left Weedon in July 1857?—Yes.

3757. You applied to be reinstated in August?—Yes.

3758. Your application was refused?—Yes.

3759. And in September you determined that you would not take a Government appointment?—That is my feeling now.

3760. (*Colonel French.*) In your evidence with regard to boots, you made some reflection upon the capacity of the inspectors, and I think you stated that goods that were passed by one inspector were afterwards rejected by another?—Yes.

3761. Are the inspectors in the same room?—They are.

3762. Is there not a certain number of viewers told off to each inspector?—I believe there is an arrangement of that sort now; but that did not exist at the time I am speaking of.

3763. Do you mean to say that one inspector would take upon himself the labour of another, as if he had not sufficient duty of his own to do?—They have done so.

3764. After doing their own duty they have taken the duty of another inspector, and inspected the goods twice over?—They have.

3765. What is their mode of inspecting after that of the viewers? Is it with the same minuteness?—No; it is casual. They come to a pile, and look at two or three pairs, and from those they might pass or reject the lot.

Mr. WILLIAM HEBDON examined.

3766. (*Chairman.*) Have you been in the room during the examination of the last witness?—During a part of it.

3767. You were formerly one of the inspectors of cloth at Weedon?—Yes.

3768. Did you go there at the commencement of the establishment?—Yes.

3769. And you remained at Weedon till when?—Till the 16th of August this year.

3770. You are now transferred to Hayter and Howell's in Mark-lane?—Yes.

3771. May I ask your age?—35.

3772. What was your previous employment through life?—An army and general clothworker.

LONDON.

Mr.
W.H. Whitlam.

24 Sept. 1858.

Mr.
W. Hebdon.

LONDON.

Mr.
W. Hebdon.

24 Sept. 1858.

3773. Your duty was to inspect cloth at Weedon?—Yes.

3774. The tunic cloth, I believe, for all the regiments?—Yes; and I assisted my fellow inspector, Mr. Mallett, in the trousering cloth.

3775. I will not take you through the evidence which you gave before the Contracts' Committee, because we have had an opportunity of reading it. As we have said to other witnesses, may we take that evidence as repeated before us?—Exactly.

3776. I think I gathered from that evidence that practically you had the chief inspection of cloth at Weedon?—My judgment was acted on, as I stated in my former evidence.

3777. Was Mr. Mallett a younger or an older man than yourself?—We were as nearly of the same age as possible.

3778. I believe your salary was only 100*l.* a year?—That is all.

3779. I hope it is raised?—It is not.

3780. Are you married?—I am.

3781. Have you any private means?—Nothing, excepting my machines.

3782. Have you any allowance from your father or anything of that sort?—Nothing whatever. I had a few pounds previously to entering the service, which I have been compelled to live upon. The pittance I receive would not be sufficient to support me.

3783. When did you invent your machine?—Some two years ago.

3784. Is it patented or registered?—I did partly patent it, but I did not go on with it.

3785. Then you have not the exclusive right to it, anybody might make it?—Yes.

3786. I believe you have invented two machines?—I have invented several, only one for detecting shoddy, or shoddy preventer as you may term it.

3787. What is the price of the shoddy preventer?—The average price is 30*l.* I have lately had some made much cheaper.

3788. Have you sold a good many of them?—A great number of them.

3789. In all parts of the country?—Yes; in Scotland and Ireland, and I believe some have gone over to America.

3790. Then the sale of the machine has been a pleasant addition to the small income you have mentioned?—Exactly.

3791. Can you state about how many machines you have sold?—At an approximate calculation I should say 100.

3792. Is there a considerable profit upon each machine?—The first machine cost me more than the money I charged for it, it cost me 32*l.*, as I have the bill to prove, but afterwards the average price was about 16*l.* I am referring to the 30*l.* machine.

3793. Without appearing to be inquisitive, may I ask whether you have realized a profit of a thousand pounds by this shoddy preventer?—I should say I have very nearly, not quite 1,000*l.*; 800*l.*

3794. You have probably seen a report of the examination that took place at Weedon?—Yes.

3795. One gentleman was asked by Messrs. Garrett and Baker "Have you observed during that time in any parties belonging to the depôt a style of living incompatible with their official incomes? Never, except in one instance, and that exception was seeing two cases fall off a railway truck, exposing to view a handsome pianoforte and pier glass, about to be deposited in the quarters of Mr. Hebdon, an inspector, whose salary I know to be only 100*l.* per annum."—That caused suspicion, no doubt.

3796. You account for your being able to purchase these articles, I presume, by the profit you realized upon the sale of your machines?—Yes; the Government gave me permission to dispose of the machines.

3797. And the Government gave you a gratuity of 200*l.*, I believe?—Yes.

3798. Have you gone into Scotland and Ireland and other parts for the purpose of making the merits of your invention known?—I employ an agent.

3799. Have you ever gone yourself?—I have been to some parts. I have been to Leeds and London. I do not think I have been anywhere else.

3800. Have you been more than once into Yorkshire on that or any other subject?—I have been in Yorkshire, I dare say, 20 or 30 times.

3801. When you have been in Yorkshire of course you have spread the merits of your invention?—Exactly so.

3802. You have sold, we understand, several machines to persons who are in the habit of furnishing goods to Weedon?—Many manufacturers have purchased the machine, both those that have connexion with Weedon and those that are out of Weedon—disinterested parties. All the orders I have got I have received in the presence of Mr. Elliott or Mr. Green.

3803. At Weedon itself?—Yes.

3804. Did you receive any orders when you were in Yorkshire?—None; neither did I solicit any orders.

3805. For what purpose were you in Yorkshire?—Previously to my entering the service I was in the shoddy trade as well as the army clothing, that was the chief cause of my business in Yorkshire previously to my entering the service. Since I have been in the service I have been in the North of England but twice.

3806. Where did you carry on business as a shoddy merchant?—I had a place in Cloth Fair, Smithfield, and a warehouse in Aldersgate-street, London. My business was chiefly with the North of England.

3807. Did you drive a good trade in shoddy with the Yorkshire manufacturers?—I did an excellent business, and I am only sorry that I gave it up to enter the service.

3808. Did you know many Yorkshire manufacturers before you went to Weedon?—I did.

3809. Were those parties whom you had known previously contractors with the Government?—I believe there was one, but he did not contract with the Government while I was at Weedon.

3810. Who was that?—Jubb and Sons; but shoddy is used in the mercantile trade; it is not used for the Government cloth; if it is it must be very slightly—in fact, I do not believe that any person can detect shoddy that is in the Government cloth, unless it is put in to a very great per-centage.

3811. Is not the object of your shoddy-preventing machine to detect its presence?—It is a shoddy-preventer. If old wool is used to a certain extent it can be discovered by the machine, and I do not believe it can be by anything else. I do not believe that a person who used shoddy to a slight extent could discover its presence in the cloth unless he saw it put in, or knew that it was put in.

3812. You have stated that anything above 10 per cent. of shoddy you can detect?—I believe I can.

3813. And not under 10 per cent.?—I believe it would be impossible for the most practical man of the present day to detect it.

3814. Shoddy, we have been told by certain people, is to some extent not a defect, but may be an improvement?—It is an improvement in the appearance of the cloth.

3815. Not in its texture?—If it is put in to a small extent it is an improvement in the appearance; in fact, a superior class of shoddy is put into inferior cloth, and that gives it a finer appearance; it is used very much in the mercantile houses.

3816. Since you have been at Weedon, what number of those machines have you disposed of, in Yorkshire for instance?—I cannot tell you the number; my agent would be able to give you better information upon that than I can.

3817. Who is your agent?—Mr. Graham.

3818. Is he a patent agent?—He is a general agent; he is a packer at Weedon; he has a branch establishment there.

3819. A private establishment?—Yes; he packs all the rejected cloths for the contractors.

3820. Can you tell us about what number of machines you have disposed of in Yorkshire?—Upon

an approximate guess, about 20. I cannot say positively.

3821. I understand you to say that you never got an order in Yorkshire yourself when you were there?—No.

3822. The orders always came to you at Weedon?—Yes. I had to secure testimonials as to its merits before selling the machine, or before I had a remuneration for it from the Government; and I procured testimonials in the presence of my superiors from those gentlemen who witnessed the working of it at Weedon. When different manufacturers called upon business at Weedon I took the opportunity of asking them if they would be so kind as to give me, in writing, their opinion respecting the merits of the machine: Those testimonials I had to submit to the Government, and then they remunerated me with the sum of 200*l*. Those are the testimonials which I received from those gentlemen, and they were given to me in the presence of Mr. Elliott or of Mr. Green (*producing some papers*).

3823. Were those testimonials given to you solely by persons who had seen the working of the machine at Weedon, or by persons who had purchased the machines and used them in their own business?—After they had witnessed the working of the machine they formed their judgment, and I embraced the opportunity of soliciting a few lines from them in the presence of Mr. Green or of Mr. Elliott.

3824. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were those gentlemen who witnessed the working of your machine at Weedon, from whom you got testimonials, for the most part contractors with the Government?—I believe they were.

3825. (*Chairman.*) Have you any objection to furnish us with a list of contractors with the Government who have bought your shoddy-preventing, and weighing and measuring machines, and the number of other persons to whom you have sold the machines?—I will supply such a statement. (Appendix No. 13.).

3826. Did you sell your machine at the same price to contractors that you did to other persons?—Yes; I made no distinction, the price was 30*l*., unless they gave orders to have the machine differently decorated or with different stands; in that case, they had to pay the difference.

3827. Mr. Hunt stated that his machine cost 40*l*.?—I think he has got one of the measuring machines, that is 50*l*.; the cloth-testing machine is 30*l*.

3828. Was your machine in general use at Weedon?—Yes; we used it daily.

3829. Do you know whether it is still used?—It is used there up to the present time; in fact, they would feel very awkward without it, particularly if they have any goods that are very weak, the manual tests could never be depended upon, but the mechanical test is sufficient proof for all parties.

3830. Mr. Whitham, who states that he knows a great deal about cloth, says that the machine is worth nothing. Of course, you will not depreciate its excellence, but you think it is a good one?—The general opinion of most of the practical men of the present day is highly in its favour.

3831. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you any testimonials with regard to the excellence of the machine from any persons who are not contractors?—I believe there are some.

3832. Can you name them?—Mr. Tait has nothing to do with cloth at present; it would have been very awkward for me to have procured testimonials from others, because I could not leave the Government service to procure them.

3833. Would not those to whom you sold the machine, and who appreciated it in the same way that those gentlemen seem to have done, have accommodated you with testimonials?—There was no occasion for it afterwards.

3834. (*Chairman.*) I see you have a testimonial from Mr. King; is he the representative of the house of Hebbert and Company?—Yes.

3835. You explain your ability to have the comforts, which are referred to in the statement I have read, by the additional income which you have derived from the sale of these machines?—Exactly; I could not do it out of the salary that I am now receiving, because the education of my children takes up the whole of my salary.

3836. (*Mr. Turner.*) What family have you?—I have four.

3837. (*Chairman.*) As you cannot be otherwise than aware that there have been certain vague rumours as to corruption at Weedon, although we cannot administer an oath, we propose to ask every man to whom those rumours could by possibility point, solemnly, whether there is any truth in them. Have you ever, directly or indirectly, received any consideration from anyone to bribe you in your duties as an inspector of cloth at Weedon?—Never; neither do I believe that there has been any facility shewn to one person more than another.

3838. Do you solemnly say that, neither directly nor indirectly, have you ever been influenced in the performance of your duty by any douceur or promise of reward?—Never.

3839. Have you ever understood the purchase of your machines, for instance, to have been in any way an indirect mode of paying you a compliment?—Never; I think pretty nearly the whole of the manufacturers have purchased these machines of me, and therefore they must all have had facilities shown by me if that was the case.

3840. Had you hospitalities shown to you in the north, when you were in Yorkshire?—Not particularly so; what I had, I had to pay for.

3841. Have you ever been to manufacturers' houses?—No; never; not in any sense of a bribe.

3842. Have you ever dined with them, for instance?—Never, since I have been in the service at Weedon.

3843. Have you never drank champagne at anybody's expense?—I have been asked to take a glass, but I have refused it.

3844. (*Mr. Turner.*) Why did you refuse?—Because there has been so much talk about bribery, and being accused of bribery, I thought I would not give them an opportunity of bringing it home to me.

3845. (*Chairman.*) How lately is that?—It must be some time; I cannot draw to my memory the time. I believe the question has been put to me, "Will you take a glass of brandy and water?" "Will you meet me at so and so?" I cannot bring to my recollection the time when such questions have been asked me.

3846. Have you always refused?—I have always refused.

3847. You say that you have refused in consequence of rumours about bribery; those rumours must have preceded the offers you speak of. When did you first hear rumours of bribery?—I have been frequently accused of it, and Mr. Elliott has called me down to the office and got me to make a memorandum to show whether there had been any facilities given to Isaac and Company. There was a memorandum made to that effect by Mr. Mallett and myself.

3848. How early did that sort of rumour reach you?—Mr. Bischoff, in his evidence, stated that Mr. Mallett and I were connected with bribery; or to that effect, and I believe there was a great deal of communication between Mr. Elliott and Lord Panmure upon the subject.

3849. Was that the first rumour you heard?—Yes. We had to make a memorandum for Mr. Elliott, to be sent, I believe, to the War Office, as a satisfaction to prove that there had been no facilities shown to Isaac and Co.

3850. Did you ever hear any rumours of undue influence (to use that phrase) at Weedon before Mr. Bischoff gave his evidence in the House of Commons?—No, never.

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3851. You solemnly say that there was no ground for it?—No ground whatever.

3852. (*Mr. Turner.*) What is the nature of the test by this shoddy machine?—The most important thing is to prevent the old wool being put into the cloth.

3853. In what way does the machine ascertain the fact that shoddy is put into the cloth?—It is done by tension, by straining, by turning a wheel. I have an index to the machine. Here is a small drawing which will explain it better than I can verbally (*handing in a drawing*).

3854. It is a straining machine, to try the strength of the cloth, in fact?—Yes.

3855. You say it will not detect shoddy to the extent of 10 per cent.?—No; and I do not believe there is any mechanical test or any practical knowledge that will discover that per-centage.

3856. Your machine will not detect shoddy to the extent of 10 per cent. in cloth?—No, unless the pattern that we tried first of all was of pure wools, and the supply happened to contain 10 per cent. of shoddy, if it was put in, it would detect it by the side of the pattern. We try all cloths by a given pattern.

3857. You do not detect the material, but you judge in consequence of the less strength of the cloth that it must have shoddy in its composition?—We try the weft and the warp, and we generally find the most shoddy is put in the weft.

3858. Is it simply from the strength of the cloth that you judge with respect to there being shoddy in it?—We try it by a given pattern, and if it is not so strong as the pattern we reject it. We take other things into consideration; for example, we look at the quality of the dye.

3859. Still you do not convey to my mind very distinctly upon what grounds you pronounce that there is shoddy in cloth?—I never pronounced that there was shoddy in the cloth.

3860. Supposing there was 20 per cent. of shoddy in cloth, could you detect it by your machine?—Yes, by trying cloth that has no shoddy in it by the side of it; that is, cloth of about the same quality.

3861. You have stated that you were a dealer in shoddy. Are there not various qualities of shoddy?—All kinds.

3862. Some very good as compared with others?—It will average at the present time from 3*d.* a pound to 1*s.* 2*d.* a pound.

3863. What is the lowest price of wool?—I should say the lowest price of wool that is used for rugs would be 7*d.* a pound at the present time.

3864. Supposing cloth made of pure wool at 7*d.* a pound was tested against cloth made of wool with a considerable proportion of shoddy mixed with it, the shoddy being worth 1*s.* 2*d.* a pound, would the shoddy cloth give way in your machine, and the woollen cloth stand with a similar strain?—The coarsest cloth would be the strongest.

3865. Made with the commonest wool?—Decidedly.

3866. Cloth made with shoddy in it at 1*s.* 2*d.* a pound would give way before cloth made of wool at 7*d.* a pound?—It would.

3867. You try the cloths according to the quality of the pattern?—Yes.

3868. Were you ever a dealer in cotton waste as well as woollen waste?—Very little; not to a sufficient extent to enable me to give a judgment upon it.

3869. Would the same remark apply to cotton waste of a high quality if it were tried against cotton cloth made of pure cotton of a low quality?—The waste would be the strongest.

3870. Why should not it be so in woollen?—I think you will find that the finer the wool, the weaker it would be in the shape of cloths; but we try fine cloths as well as coarse cloths; we have a fine pattern to try fine cloths by, because it would not be fair to try a fine pattern cloth by the side of a coarse pattern cloth, and to reject the fine pattern because it was not so strong as the coarse pattern.

3871. Then it is simply a test of strength. Do you judge in any degree from appearance?—We judge generally from appearance; that we go by practically.

3872. Can you judge of the existence of shoddy in cloth by its appearance?—A practical person may have his suspicion previously to trying the cloth by the machine.

3873. Would the machine detect it in any other respect than by tension?—It opens the cloth, and you can see the fineness of the weaving, showing whether it is tight spun, which is a great consideration in army cloths.

3874. In the inspection of cloth I presume your attention is very much directed to the dyeing of the cloths as well as the strength?—Exactly; we are compelled to test the dye, as well as the quality.

3875. Was it always stipulated in contracts that cloth should be woaded in the dyeing?—I believe it has been lately.

3876. Not always?—No, not always.

3877. What test do you use when a contract states that the cloth should be made woaded?—We try it by muriatic acid.

3878. Diluted muriatic acid?—Yes.

3879. If the cloth were not dyed with indigo and woaded, the muriatic acid would discharge the colour, would it not?—Yes.

3880. Did you use the same test when it was not stipulated in the contract that the cloth was to be dyed indigo and woaded? I suppose, during your experience, there have been cases when woading was not in the contract?—Then we did not take the trouble to apply the test in those cases.

3881. Did you hear the last witness say that you applied muriatic acid in all cases?—No; my business was to inspect each piece of cloth separately before I passed it to the viewer.

3882. As to the dye?—And the quality, in every respect.

3883. If the last witness has stated that you applied the test which was to detect the absence of woading in a case where the contract did not state that the dye was to be woaded, he has stated that which is incorrect?—Yes.

3884. You did not apply such a test?—We did not; but I think ever since I have been at Weedon it has been in existence. We always tried it with the acid where we had our suspicions. A practical person can ascertain whether it is indigo or cochineal dye; that you can tell by the bloom or by the appearance, and you can tell madder dye from the appearance.

3885. You considered your judgment such that there was no need to apply the test at all?—No; unless we had our suspicions.

3886. (*Chairman.*) Suspicions of what?—It might be dyed with logwood. If we had a suspicion, and we applied muriatic acid, we should know in a minute.

3887. Have you any other test?—No other test.

3888. We understood the last witness to say that muriatic acid was applied in every case?—No; not at all.

3889. He stated that as to cloths which were not woaded, it was no test at all, because it discharged the colour altogether?—If I mistake not, the previous witness was speaking of some cloths previously passed at the Tower and sent to Weedon; that was the old standard pattern; the new pattern is superior to the old pattern; the new pattern is a woaded pattern, and the old pattern was not woaded.

3890. With regard to the cloth that was sent from the Tower to Weedon, did you test that with muriatic acid?—I passed a great portion of it at the Tower previous to its being transferred to Weedon. The cloth was inferior to the present standard pattern. There was a dispute, I believe, respecting that cloth.

3891. The previous witness stated, I think, as regards that cloth, that a large quantity was rejected that was good, and passed that was bad?—I think Mr. Whitham mistakes in that. I myself went through three-fourths of the cloth, and I remember

it full well. It was cloth transferred from the Tower to Weedon, and we inspected it; and Mr. Mallett and myself made an official report, stating that the cloth ought to be cleaned from mildew, re-pressed and re-finished, and then it would do for the Militia service.

3892. What cloth was that?—Oxford grey.

3893. Do you remember about the time?—It must have been near upon two years ago, or 18 months probably; that is the cloth that was referred to that was purchased by the Government again in made-up garments.

3894. That cloth had been passed at the Tower?—Yes; partly by myself.

3895. Had it also been passed at Weedon?—It had been approved by Mr. Mallett and myself at Weedon. I believe there was some communication respecting it, and it was recommended by some other parties to be sold.

3896. Whom do you mean, by "some other parties"?—By my superiors.

3897. Who was then Director of Clothing?—I cannot say by whom it was done. My own report upon it was, that it should be cleaned.

3898. Was it cleaned?—No; it was sold as unfit for the service.

3899. Was it sold at the Tower?—Yes.

3900. Did it finally come back in the shape of pensioners' trousers, having passed from Mr. Levy to Mr. Gilpin, and from Mr. Gilpin to Weedon?—Yes; it was a tolerable cloth.

3901. Did you recognize your old friend?—I might not have had the inspection of it, and we might have been misled by its having the Government mark upon it, because if we see the Government mark on a piece of cloth or a pair of trousers, we do not reject it; we cannot reject our own cloth.

3902. Would you receive again at Weedon an article which you knew had been condemned and sold at the Tower?—Certainly not.

3903. Cloth is sold at the Tower; it is there purchased by Mr. Levy; it finds its way to a contractor; the contractor furnishes it to Weedon, and you pass it there; how do you account for that?—I can only account for it by its being suitable for the service; it ought not to have been sold, and I believe I have a copy of the statement which we made respecting that cloth that was spoken about the other day.

3904. Can you get that statement?—I think I can.

3905. You had no occasion to test that cloth?—No; it was cloth suitable for the militia regiments.

3906. Did you recognise it as a cloth that you had reported upon before?—I knew it was a cloth that I had passed part of at the Tower, and I knew it was suitable for militia regiments, for we had reported to that effect, stating that if the cloth was cleaned, re-pressed, and sent into store, it would do well.

3907. Can you give any reason why that recommendation should not have been attended to?—I cannot; that lies with my superiors.

3908. Do you know what price was paid for that cloth?—The original price, I should say, would be about 5s. a yard.

3909-11. Do you know what it was sold for?—I do not.

3912. (*Chairman.*) I understand you to disavow any responsibility with respect to that cloth being sold?—I do.

3913. Did you ever pass goods that would not stand the test of muriatic acid?—Never.

3914. Have you applied the test of muriatic acid to unwoaded goods?—We have done so, and we have rejected them.

3915. Why?—Because they were not pure indigo, or because they were not properly woaded.

3916. I am speaking of goods that did not require to be woaded?—We never applied the test in that shape; it was at the Tower that goods were not woaded; there was nothing in the specification to that effect.

3917. When you first began to inspect goods at Weedon, were goods furnished that were not required to be woaded?—I believe there were.

3918. Did you apply to those goods that did not require to be woaded the test of muriatic acid?—No.

3919. Have you ever tested goods that would not stand the test of muriatic acid, when it was improper to apply that test?—We never have.

3920. With regard to finding out the strength of cloth, were you present when Mr. Whitham expressed his opinion as to the mode in which you should draw a thread of the weft and warp?—Yes; that is merely to try the length of the fibrine.

3921. Have you ever adopted that process?—I have; but I think there are more practical tests than that.

3922. What would that be a test for?—It is only the same test that a person might make by taking a piece of cloth and nicking it with his fingers; it might be a test to try the length of the fibrine.

3923. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would you unravel the threads to try what the fibre was?—Merely to try the length of the wool, whether it is long or short: in Oxford grey cloth it is spun up very short.

3924. (*Chairman.*) You do not think drawing threads is a better test than your machine affords for ascertaining the texture of the cloth?—No, I do not; inexperienced persons will take hold of a piece of cloth, and draw a thread, although they do not know what they are doing it for.

3925. (*Colonel French.*) Is there always a portion of shoddy in Government cloth?—I think not.

3926. (*Chairman.*) Am I to understand that your decision was never reversed by the inspector over you?—My judgment was generally acted upon, having the most experience in army cloths at Weedon.

3927. Was your decision never reversed?—Never.

3928. Do you remember that case of Mr. Ellis's cloth in which a large portion was rejected?—Perfectly well.

3929. Was there not a subsequent arbitration upon it?—There was.

3930. Mr. Ellis has told us that the result of the arbitration was that both the Government arbitrator and his arbitrator at once decided that it ought to have been passed, and it was passed?—It was.

3931. Was that the cloth which you had rejected?—Part of it.

3932. How then can you say that your decision was never reversed?—We each gave our opinion in writing upon that subject. I have a copy of it here (*handing in a paper*), that was my opinion on the cloths at the time these fifteen pieces were passed.

3933. Were not there several thousand yards of cloth?—Yes; they examined as to the quality of the wool; they merely looked at them and said, "That will do," and passed them in that way.

3934. (*Mr. Turner.*) There was a large quantity of cloth, and that large quantity was rejected; an appeal was made, arbitrators were fixed upon, and they were unanimous in deciding against you?—Yes, our orders were that if there was a large delivery, and we found the greater portion of the delivery defective, to reject the whole of it. We had not the opportunity of going through the whole of the supply.

3935. (*Chairman.*) What was the quantity?—About a hundred pieces.

3936. How many yards in a piece are there?—40 or 50.

3937. Then there were 4,000 yards?—Yes.

3938. What have the 15 pieces to do with it?—Those 15 pieces were amongst them.

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3939. Would you reject 4,000 yards because 600 were bad?—No, if there were 100 yards and 60 were bad, we should not look at the other 40 at all.

3940. (*Mr. Turner.*) You do not seem to have looked at all this cloth?—We did not.

3941. Is it not rather singular when the Government suggested an arbitration on these goods that you should not take the trouble to go more minutely into them before the judges overhauled them?—I think the Government ought to have appointed a practical man in the cloth trade to give his decision.

3942. Did not two practical men lay their heads together and agree that you had no right to reject the cloth?—They were all passed in about two hours and a half.

3943. (*Chairman.*) Do you hold by your opinion, and think that the arbitrators were wrong?—I think a practical person ought to have been appointed who was acquainted with army cloth.

3944. (*Mr. Turner.*) You impugn the judgment of both the arbitrators?—I think Mr. Howse is a practical man.

3945. Whose arbitrator was he?—Mr. Ellis's. Mr. Stephenson was formerly traveller for Bull and Wilson, of St. Martin's Lane, and I dare say he has not seen 20 army cloths in the whole of his lifetime.

3946. (*Chairman.*) Had you ever any reason to be discontented with the qualities of the patterns that were sent down to Weedon?—I had; we had several patterns that I did not approve of, or should not have approved of, if I had had the selection of them for particular services.

3947. If I understand rightly, your duty as an inspector was not to decide whether the pattern was good, but whether the supply was equal to the pattern?—Exactly.

3948. Did you ever remonstrate with regard to the supposed badness of the pattern?—In the case of the Guards' cloth, as I stated before the Committee, I rejected, in 1857, a quantity of scarlet cloth for the Foot Guards, as being inferior to the standard pattern. Twelve days after there was a fresh pattern sent down, and we passed the whole of it by that pattern; it was precisely the same as the supply, and was cloth a shilling a yard inferior to the former pattern. I have the patterns here that were sent to me.

3949. (*Mr. Turner.*) A fresh sealed pattern was sent down?—Yes.

3950. (*Chairman.*) Was that the case of Pollard and Isaac's cloth?—Yes.

3951. Isaac's cloth was not a supply under tender. Pollard had contracted by tender, and Pollard's cloth was rejected?—Yes; on account of being below the standard.

3952. The Government wanted the cloth for the Guards in a hurry, and they purchased it of Isaac, and Isaac's cloth did not correspond with the pattern?—No; it was an inferior cloth.

3953. And the Government sent down Isaac's pattern?—Yes; there was great urgency for the cloth.

3954. In that case the cloth had not been furnished by pattern, had it, to Weedon?—No; it had not.

3955. That was an exceptional case?—Yes.

3956. Do you ever remember, although it was not directly in your department, any complaint about a man of the name of Grove?—I believe there was a complaint about him, but I know nothing of it myself.

3957. Did you hear any charge against Grove for bribery?—There was some talk about it.

3958. Were you on habits of intimacy with Mr. Elliott?—I used to speak to him.

3959. Did you ever hear from Grove or Mr. Elliott or anybody who knew the facts what the cause of Grove's suspension was?—No; I heard a word now and then, but not the right of the matter.

3960. (*Mr. Turner.*) What were the words that

you heard now and then?—Nothing more than that he had been committing himself, and was suspended.

3961. In what way had he been committing himself?—That I do not know.

3962. Was it never the subject of conversation amongst the officials at Weedon in what way one of their fellow officials had been committing himself?—I was very particular what I said or talked about; the less I said the better, I think. That concerned the boot department.

3963. (*Chairman.*) Was that the only case you ever heard any talk about as regards bribery at Weedon? Did you ever hear Mr. Mallett accused of bribery?—We have been all accused.

3964. Did you ever hear any specific instances alleged?—Never.

3965. Were you on perfectly good terms with Mallett?—Yes, as one officer should be with another.

3966. I understand you to say, as far as your judgment goes, there was no favour shown to any one contractor over another?—I do not believe there was any facility shown to one more than to another. I can speak with respect to my own department. I think the rejections will be sufficient proof of that.

3967. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you think there was any particular favour ever shown to Isaac?—Quite the reverse.

3968. We have the singular fact, that he made a loan to Mr. Elliott of 500*l.* I suppose you think that an ill-used contractor would not have a very friendly feeling to the principal officer at Weedon?—It seems rather strange to me.

3969. That he should have made the loan, having been rather more severely treated than others?—Yes.

3970. Do you think it was for favours to come?—I cannot form an opinion upon that subject.

3971. (*Chairman.*) Was it not notorious at Weedon on the 15th of May, when Isaac advanced that money, that Mr. Elliott had actually given up Weedon to his successor, Captain Gordon?—It was.

3972. Then could the 500*l.* be a bribe for future favours at Weedon?—I should think not.

3973. Mr. Whitham has stated his firm belief that there never was any cloth passed at Weedon but what had shoddy in it. Does your belief coincide with his?—No, it does not; I believe quite the reverse.

3974. Upon what do you ground your belief?—I believe that one or two of the patterns contain a portion of shoddy in them, but on the other hand I believe it would take a very practical man to discover it. I have every reason to suspect that there is shoddy in one of the patterns, by its being weak in the web; but all the cloth that is passed at Weedon is passed on the sealed patterns.

3975. (*Colonel French.*) How can your machine test shoddy, if there is no shoddy in the cloth?—We should require the machine, because it is a shoddy preventer; and I am almost positive that if shoddy was put into cloth to a great extent, the cloth would be rejected.

3976. (*Chairman.*) What per-centage of shoddy would cause the cloth to be rejected?—Above ten per cent. It has been remarked that shoddy has been put in to 50 or 80 per cent.; but that is out of the question.

3977. (*Colonel French.*) There must have been cloth at Weedon which had shoddy in it, in order to have tested your machine?—Exactly. There was a great talk about shoddy, and I cudgelled my brain to discover something to prevent its use. Anything that I introduced for the benefit of the service I was to be remunerated for, according to its merits; and I received a gratuity yesterday from the Government of a hundred pounds, for introducing a measuring and weighing machine.

3978. (*Mr. Turner.*) I think you said that you were in a pretty good way of business before you accepted this appointment at Weedon?—Yes.

3979. What did you consider your business worth before you accepted this post at Weedon?—It might have been worth 400*l.* or 500*l.* a year to me.

3980. And you abandoned that business to accept a post at a salary of 100*l.* a year?—I accepted the service upon the inducement of the short hours.

3981. Could not you have made your hours so short as you pleased in your own business?—I accepted the service, thinking that I could carry on my own business as well; but after I entered the service I was given to understand that I could not carry on my business. I made a very great sacrifice in my business; for I disposed of it to a person who has made a fortune up to the present time. I received my present situation upon promises of being promoted after the first year's servitude; after that I was transferred to Weedon, with promises that I was to receive 250*l.* a year from last April twelvemonth, and I have never received a penny of increase. I have been reduced instead of being promoted.

3982. You still retain the office, and have been removed to another station?—Yes, the expectation of getting any such salary is the only inducement that keeps me in the service.

3983. Is there any probability of your getting back salary?—I have been promised the last two and a half years my back salary at the rate of 250*l.* I believe I was set down in last year's estimates; but I have only received 100*l.* a year; and I have my appointment with me, which will show that I was appointed at 110*l.* a year. I wrote a letter to General Peel some few weeks ago, and he sent me an answer stating that he wished to know how I had been unjustly treated

as regards salary, and I have the answer that I have written to him if you wish to see it.

3984. I always look after the estimates very closely, and I am anxious to promote economy as much as possible; but in my opinion there may be false economy. I dare say you agree with me in thinking that to give a man who performs important duties only 100*l.* a year is highly improper?—I do agree with you in that respect. I think a practical man ought to be appreciated according to his abilities.

3985. If you are fit for the post which you occupy, and properly perform the important duties which you have to perform, I presume you consider that you are not adequately paid at 100*l.* a year, and that you are liable to temptations, from that small salary, to which the Government ought not to subject any of its officers?—I think it has been the general impression that there has been bribery or facilities shown to persons, owing to the small pittance I receive. My brother inspectors at the Tower are receiving 250*l.* a year, and I hold precisely the same situation. I had much greater responsibility than either of those at the Tower while I was at Weedon. If many suggestions that I made had been taken notice of, I dare say they would not have been in the mess they are in now; but as I was in a subordinate position they took no notice whatever of what I said.

3986. Then you do consider that they are in a mess at Weedon?—I consider they are.

3987. And have been for some time?—Yes; and had they appreciated practical men in their proper places, they would never have been in the mess they are at the present time—I am positive of it.

Mr. MARK SHARMAN examined.

3988. (*Chairman.*) You are in the boot trade, I believe?—Yes, at Wellingborough.

3989. Are you one who used to furnish boots for the army under the old system?—I used to furnish Messrs. Pearse with boots for many years.

3990. Formerly, I think, only about five boot makers were employed to furnish boots for the army?—More than that.

3991. Were there not five, however, who had the largest business?—I should imagine somewhere about that number.

3992. Do you still continue to furnish articles to the Government under the new system of open competition?—Yes.

3993. Has your business with the Government increased or decreased?—It is about the same.

3994. Will you give your judgment as to the system of inspection pursued at Weedon as to boots? Have you reason to think that it has been either too rigid or too lax, or neither the one nor the other?—If any, we have had too rigid an inspection.

3995. Is the inspection more rigid than it used to be under the old system?—I furnished very few boots to the Tower, it was principally to Weedon.

3996. Have you a running contract with the Government now?—I have.

3997. What quantity do you furnish?—2,000 pairs a month.

3998. At 11*s.*?—At 10*s.*; it was at 11*s.*

3999. Leather has fallen in price?—Yes, it has fallen; it is getting up again.

4000. Can you tell us what number of rejections you may have had?—I cannot tell you from recollection, and I have not come furnished with the means of giving that information. In the boots which I first furnished the rejections were very heavy, and I thought very unfair. The first contract, I think, was some time in the beginning of 1856, for some boots that were made according to a pattern which I made specially at the request of the Director-General of Contracts.

4001. Had you heavy rejections?—In the first instance the whole of them were rejected, to the number of 7,500. I sent them in, and I had a letter

from Mr. Ramsay, saying that they were rejected in consequence of their inferior quality.

4002. Were those boots sent to Weedon?—Yes, they were sent to Weedon. I went to London, and saw Mr. Ramsay upon it, and Mr. Elliott happened to be present with Mr. Ramsay at the time. I stated that those boots had been rejected, and I should be glad to know upon what grounds they were rejected. Mr. Ramsay at once introduced me to Mr. Elliott, whom I did not know before. He said he was the superintendent at Weedon, and the boots were rejected in consequence of their inferior quality. I said I could not believe it without seeing the boots.

4003. Were not you supplied with an inspection note?—No. A letter came from Mr. Ramsay, saying that the whole of the boots were inferior in quality, and were rejected. In consequence of that, I did not go to Weedon, but I went to Mr. Ramsay; and at this interview with Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Elliott asked my name, and he said the boots were rejected in consequence of not being in accordance with the specification. My remark was, that I had no specification, and that the pattern boots were made by myself. Mr. Howell requested me to make as good a boot as I could for a certain amount, of the pattern and quality that he might suggest. I made such a boot, and the boots that I supplied were in accordance with that pattern. I had no specification with them, and I told them it could not be in consequence of their not being in accordance with the specification. Then they said they were rejected in consequence of the bottom fillings not being according to what the inspector said they ought to be, in accordance with the specification, and the whole of the boots were rejected on that account.

4004. How was it that there was no specification?—No specification was drawn up.

4005. What did the inspector at Weedon compare the boots with?—With the boot I furnished. I then said to Mr. Ramsay, "The boot is according to my pattern, and if it is not filled up as I stated the pattern ought to be, and as I gave directions it should be, then they might be rejected." Mr. Ramsay then directly appealed to Mr. Elliott, and said,

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"Have you cut the boot open?" Mr. Elliott said, "I have, and they are filled up the same as the other boots." Mr. Ramsay then said, "Then I do not see how they can be rejected." Notwithstanding this, I was to write to say that I believed the boots would wear, and with that guarantee they would be received, provided they were not faulty in other ways, and at the same time the Government would take into consideration whether they should give me any further orders, provided they were not equal. I think about one third were rejected, which I considered very unfair.

4006. What were the boots rejected the second time for?—I have no means of knowing. I complained most bitterly about it, and I went and saw the inspectors at Weedon, and I had a long talk with them about it. Something came up about bottom fillings, and in consequence of the boots not being properly filled up he gave me to understand that he meant to reject them.

4007. To whom are you referring?—I think it was Mr. Folkerd. And in consequence of the treatment I met with, I have never been at Weedon since, until the commencement of this year, when my son went abroad.

4008. What were the bottom fillings?—They were partly curriers' shavings and partly black bits of leather.

4009. Is that a pleasant thing for a soldier to have under his feet?—We fill all our own boots in that way, except for the Government. If it is properly done, it will wear as well as anything; that is my impression. We never make them in that way now for the Government.

4010. So far as you know, did Folkerd, or whoever was the inspector at Weedon, know that the pattern was filled up with those things?—It was cut open.

4011. Did he know it at the time he examined your boots?—I believe so; he cut open about 60 or 70.

4012. Was the pattern cut?—Yes; Mr. Elliott admitted that it was cut, and he found it the same as the boots supplied.

4013. Then it seems to be a parallel case to Mr. Dowie's. Your boots were equal to the pattern, but they did not like the pattern?—Yes. Afterwards I went to Mr. Howell, and told him the circumstances of the case. He had been ill for a long while at the time; I appealed to him, and requested that some inspection might be taken by other parties, which was refused. I said to Mr. Howell, that the boots were improperly rejected, for they were quite equal to the pattern, and I never made better boots in my life.

4014. Are the boots which you now furnish filled up with curriers' shavings?—They are not.

4015. How are they filled?—With solid bits of leather.

4016. I suppose that is better?—It is the opinion of many persons that it is.

4017. What is your opinion?—I think it is.

4018. (Mr. Turner.) Supposing you were bound to wear a boot for six or twelve months, would you like it to be filled up with curriers' shavings and black bits of leather, or with solid leather?—I always wear my own so; and if they are properly put in, they will wear very well.

4019. (Chairman.) Since that time, so far as you know, has the pattern always been more solid?—The pattern has been made with solid leather.

4020. That alteration has not prevented you from contracting with the Government?—No; it is rather more expensive.

4021. Do you think the inspection is now more severe than it was?—I think it is more severe than is necessary.

4022. In what respect?—I think boots are rejected that have no business to be rejected, and that are quite equal to pattern.

4023. Do not you always have a notification of the special causes of rejection?—Yes.

4024. Mr. Wild, from Windsor, was here yesterday, and he gave us a list specifying the causes of rejection most minutely; do you receive a similar report?—We do.

4025. Do you generally find that the facts stated as causes of rejection exist?—They agree pretty well, but there are causes for which I do not think many boots ought to be rejected; my impression is that the inspection is unfairly severe.

4026. Invariably so?—Upon the whole, it has not been so bad lately.

4027. Do you think that the system of inspection at Weedon is always too severe, or only severe by fits and starts?—They certainly have been more severe the last few months than they were a few months before. I have had more rejections, although I see no difference in the boots.

4028. You are represented to have said, that after having boots rejected, you have sent in the same boots, without alteration, and they have been passed?—I can explain that:—I think it was at the latter end of 1856. I received an order for 1,500 pairs per month. After a certain time, I said to my son, who is in business with me, "I think we have more rejections than we ought, and it must be in consequence of some bad management at home. I will take this matter into my own hands." I went with my managing man into my storeroom, and I said:—"Where are the army bluchers? I wish you, out of that 4,000, to select 1,000 pairs that cannot possibly be objected to, go through them carefully, not once, but twice, and select others if they will not do." I went through them myself, and I said:—"If there are three pairs of those boots rejected, it is more than ought to be rejected." They went to Weedon, and I think 436 pairs were rejected out of the 1,000. My remark was, at once, "If they are correct, I am quite unfit to manage my business." I said to Mr. Howell:—"Either the inspector, at Weedon, does not know what he is about, or I do not know my business, after the step I took." I went up to the store-room again, and said:—"Where are those boots?" I then looked over the boots, and I said, "Where are the boots that you would not send?" They showed them to me, and I found they were perfectly serviceable; there might be some frivolous thing found out in them. I said, "Clean them, and send them to Weedon." 1,500 pairs of them went in, and I had nothing like the quantity rejected that I had out of the 1,000. I was not satisfied with that test, and I went into the store and asked, "Where are the rejections?" My foreman said, "They are here." There were nearly 1,200, and I said, "Just send them in as they are." They all went back to Weedon, and fared as well as any I sent in. I never had any fare better. Mr. Howell wanted me to take another contract. I said, "I will do no such thing while I am treated as I have been;" and on that ground, I kept to the 1,500. I was requested to go to a meeting at the Tower, and after an explanation, we were given to understand, that matters should be more fairly dealt with, and since that, I have been more fairly treated.

4029. (Colonel French.) Did you find any marks of ill usage on the rejected boots?—No; I was prepared when that large quantity was rejected to ask for an inquiry, and I wrote a letter complaining of the man's conduct. The inquiry was refused, and I stated to Mr. Ramsay over and over again either that the inspector ought to have left their service, or I ought never to have another contract. However, since that I have been better treated.

4030. (Chairman.) You say that the boots were cleaned?—The dust was brushed off them.

4031. Was no alteration made in them?—No, they were just sent as they came from Weedon. There was a chalk mark, and the brush going over it would take that out.

4032. Was that chalk mark the mark of rejection?

—Yes, it was at the top or the bottom, or wherever they thought the faults were. I have stated this over and over again to Mr. Howell.

4033. The very same boots that had been rejected, with the exception of their being brushed, passed, the second time they were sent?—Yes; I cannot give you the number, but when I complained to the inspector, he made the observation that they were very stale. I told him they were not so stale the first time as they were the second.

4034. Did he know the boots the second time?—I do not believe he knew a word about it till I told him.

4035. Did he know that he had seen them before?—No; I never attempted to send boots in a second time, but what I consider quite serviceable. I have occupied my position as a manufacturer for many years. My father and myself supplied Messrs. Pearse for 40 or 50 years, and they can tell you that the number of complaints was not many.

4036. Are you aware that there are several viewers but only two inspectors?—I do not know them; I only went to Weedon this once, and once afterwards. I always left it entirely to my son.

4037. You do not know whether the boots were passed by the same viewers or the same inspectors?—No.

4038. (*Mr. Turner.*) So far as you are aware, did your son take any means to make matters smooth at Weedon?—No, he is the last man in the world to do that.

4039. How many boots were there on that occasion, when they were filled with curriers' shavings?—7,500.

4040. Before they gave you an order you were requested to make a sample pair of boots at a certain price?—Yes.

4041. You made the sample boot accordingly, and they passed it as a pattern by which they would receive the 7,000 pairs of boots?—Yes. Mr. Howell requested me and several other manufacturers as well to make a pattern. My boot and that of some other manufacturer were selected. Then Mr. Howell requested me to make 12 boots precisely the same, to issue to some other contractors for them to work by.

4042. If I were about giving an order for boots I should proceed upon a totally different plan. I wish to know whether you think my plan would be beneficial for the public service. If I wanted 7,000 pairs of boots, instead of asking you to make a pattern, I would send to some half dozen bootmakers, and say, "Make me the best pair of boots you can at 11s., somewhat similar to a certain regulation pattern." Supposing those six manufacturers sent in a certain number of boots, I would then cut a few of them to pieces, and I would see how they were manufactured, and the man who made the best boot in every respect for 11s. should have the order for the quantity, and each man should know that that would be the effect. Do you think in that case you would have put curriers' shavings and bits of black leather into your boots?—I should have done so at the time I made that pattern.

4043. Would not you have been afraid of some of your competitors making a better pair of boots for 11s. than you were sending in?—No.

4044. Would the plan I have described be a good one for getting the best supply, namely, by giving the man the order who made the best sample?—I think it is a very good plan.

4045. (*Chairman.*) At that meeting at the Tower, did you see Mr. Dowie's boots?—I did.

4046. Did you express an opinion upon them?—I did not at the time.

4047. Did you form an opinion?—I did.

4048. Have you any objection to give that opinion?—They were a very unevenly manufactured lot of boots. There were some good boots and some very middling ones.

4049. How many pairs were produced?—Forty or fifty. In consequence of some remark that Mr. Dowie made to Mr. Davies, who thought that Mr. Dowie had no business to make such a remark, they were thrown upon the table.

4050. Mr. C. Elliott says: "When the whole quantity, without exception, was condemned by every member of the trade present as not only inferior to pattern but also unfit for a soldier's use." Do you remember anything of that sort?—I do not recollect anything of that sort. Mr. Davies was the person who had had the inspection of the boots, and he spoke very strongly about the matter, in consequence of Mr. Dowie's observations, and he requested that the boots might be laid upon the table. I made no remark upon them.

4051. "The whole quantity, without exception, was condemned by every member of the trade present."—There was no expression of that sort; we were not asked for our opinion.

4052. If you had been asked for your opinion, would you have said that they were a middling lot of boots?—Yes; they were not equal to what is furnished to the army generally.

4053. (*Colonel French.*) Were they as good as the old ammunition boot?—No; nothing like it. I do not think the present boot is a bit better than we used to supply to Messrs. Pearse.

4054. (*Chairman.*) Have you any alteration to suggest in the plan that Mr. Turner has sketched?—I think the present system is a very good one. I had a new pattern to make the boots by; they requested me to make a pattern which was to be in accordance with a standard pattern; they had one boot and I had one as a pattern. Since the last inquiry I have not had the ground to complain that I had before.

4055. Although the system of inspection may have pressed hardly upon contractors, do you not think, as regards the public, it is better to err on the side of over strictness than laxity?—It was the complaint of the trade that they were over strictly treated; but I have not heard so much of that of late.

4056. Do you think the trade now is tolerably well content?—I have not heard so many complaints of late.

4057. Does that arise from an alteration in the rule, or from the greater experience which the inspectors have acquired?—I cannot form an opinion about that.

4058. (*Mr. Turner.*) If you are treated capriciously by the inspectors, and have no appeal, are you quite willing to cut as fine in making your contract as if you expected to be treated more leniently, or fairly, as you say?—I have always considered that we ought to have had some appeal. It is of no use my making complaints.

4059. In your opinion, it is fair to the contractors that there should be an appeal?—Most decidedly. It is a more important thing than any other I have to mention.

4060. Would the existence of an appeal give you more confidence in making your tender?—Yes.

4061. Would it influence the price in any way?—I should think very trifling.

4062. Then there would be no value in an appeal?—If we go to Weedon we have no appeal, only to the very man who has rejected the boots.

4063. Do you not think if there were an appeal that you would have more confidence in taking the order?—That most decidedly would have influenced me in the early part of the time when I went first to Weedon. I find the rejections are nothing at all worth naming now.

4064. At any time, as a matter of principle, would not you feel more confidence if you had an appeal?—We should have more confidence in taking a contract if we had an appeal, but the rejections are so small that it would only influence the price to a very trifling amount.

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4065. You would not be willing to send in a tender at anything less than you do now with the protection of an appeal?—I do not think it would be worth anything.

4066. (*Chairman.*) Are your profits as great as they were formerly?—Certainly not. We had a fair remuneration as the price of leather was when we took up our present contract.

4067. Making allowance for the rise in the price of leather, does not the soldier get a better article at a less price?—They pay a heavier price than they used. I do not admit that you have a better article than I furnished to Messrs. Pearse; leather is nearly double the price it was then.

4068. Considering the price of leather, is not the price paid for the article less in proportion than it used to be formerly?—I think it is; not much.

4069. If you were serving Messrs. Pearse, instead of serving the Government, would you not have to take the price of leather into account, and charge them dearer?—Yes.

4070. Does not the Government get the boots at a cheaper price, taking into account the price of leather, than you formerly charged?—I cannot speak to that. I only know, as far as I am concerned, they get no better article, and I do not think any cheaper.

4071. Leather is dearer?—Yes.

4072. And your profits are smaller?—Yes.

4073. Are not your profits smaller because a higher price was paid formerly in proportion to the goodness of the article?—I do not know that there is so much difference in the article; we used to cut the thing very fine, for we knew that there was plenty of competition in the country, and if Messrs. Pearse wanted goods there were plenty of people to make them cheap for them. I do not admit that you have a better article at a cheaper rate.

4074. If you get a less profit, who gets the benefit, if the purchaser does not?—I do not know, I am sure.

4075. You sell a manufactured article, the material of which is dearer than it used to be, and your profit is less?—Yes.

4076. Does the man who provides the material get the additional profit, or does the public get the profit?—That I cannot speak to.

4077. (*Colonel French.*) Is the article now furnished under the head of an ammunition boot better than it was some years ago?—I think it is, but I do not admit for myself that it is better.

4078. (*Mr. Turner.*) You think that bad boot-makers are coming up to your standard?—Possibly they are.

Adjourned to Tuesday next, at half-past 12 o'clock, at Weedon.

WEEDON.

Tuesday, 28th September 1858.

PRESENT:

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

JAMES GROVE examined.

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J. Grove.

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4079. (*Chairman.*) How long have you been in this establishment?—Three years nearly. I was sent from the Tower down here. I was the first who opened the shoe room.

4080. At the end of 1855?—I think that must have been it.

4081. To what office were you appointed?—I was then in the receipt of 27s. a week; it was supposed to be as foreman that I was sent down with so many men.

4082. Were Messrs. Watson and Folkard here then?—They were not.

4083. How soon did they come after you came?—About two months, as near as I can say.

4084. When they came they were over you?—They were then put over me.

4085. Did you lodge at the house of a man of the name of Eary?—I did.

4086. From the time that you came?—Yes; when I came down I lodged with a man of the name of Eary. I think I was for ten months with him.

4087. Do you know Whitham?—I know Mr. Whitham by his being here.

4088. He came in May 1856 he told us?—Yes.

4089. Did he lodge with you at Eary's?—Yes. He first of all lodged with a man of the name of Daley at Flure, and from there he came to Weedon. He spoke to Eary to lodge there with me; and Eary asked me if I would mind his being my bedfellow. I said I did not much like it, but as I wished the man to make as much money as he could of his house, I submitted to it.

4090. Did Whitham come to lodge at Eary's with you?—Yes.

4091. You were suspended, I believe?—Yes.

4092. When?—About the 6th or 7th of April 1856.

4093. Before Whitham came?—Yes.

4094. For what were you suspended?—I was suspended for being insubordinate to my superior officer. I will explain it to you. I was at a table looking at some shoes, and I should say that I have been in the trade all my life. I was brought up at the Duke of York's school; from there I was apprenticed; afterwards I was a journeyman; and then I became a master man; and under those circumstances I understood the business well. Mr. Watson came to me at the table, and he said, "These shoes are stitched with a common awl." I said, "Oh dear, no; Northampton boots are generally stitched with a French awl;" a French awl is square. He said they were not. I knew Mr. Watson had not been in the business as a tradesman, and I could not bear the thoughts of being told that I did not know it, and consequently I told him he did not know anything of the business. I should not have done so. Under those circumstances he reported me to Mr. Elliott, and Mr. Elliott made a report to Pall Mall, and I was suspended for being insubordinate to my superior officer.

4095. Was that the only reason for which you were suspended?—That was the only reason for which I was suspended.

4096. Were you called before Mr. Elliott?—I was.

4097. Who called you before him?—I believe Mr. Elliott sent for me.

4098. Did you see him alone?—Yes.

4099. What did he say to you?—He told me that I had been insolent to my superior officer, and that he was compelled to report me.

4100. Did Mr. Elliott say anything about your passing boots improperly?—No, he did not say anything to me about passing boots improperly.

4101. Did Mr. Elliott say anything to you about passing boots improperly as the reason, or one of the reasons, for your suspension?—No, I do not think he did.

4102. Did you see anybody besides Mr. Elliott when you had this conversation with him?—There was nobody but himself.

4103. Did Mr. Elliott say anything to you about bribery?—I think he mentioned something to me that had been mentioned by a man of the name of Holmes. This Holmes had told him that I had accepted a bribe, but it was perfectly false; I never accepted a bribe from any contractor in my life.

4104. What makes you say that Holmes told Mr. Elliott?—I do not know I am sure.

4105. Did Mr. Elliott speak to you about bribery at that time?—Yes.

4106. You are sure of that?—I am sure he spoke to me about it at that time that this man had made him a report.

4107. Did Mr. Elliott give you that as the reason, or one of the reasons, why you were to be suspended?—No, not to me he did not.

4108. He told you that the only reason for suspending you was that you had been disrespectful to your superior officer?—Insubordinate.

4109. And nothing was said about passing boots improperly?—No, I do not recollect anything.

4110. Did your wife intercede with Mr. Pew to get you re-instated?—No; she did not intercede with Mr. Pew; she went to Mr. Pew to ask him the reason I was suspended.

4111. You were suspended for a month, were not you?—Yes.

4112. And then re-appointed?—Yes.

4113. In what capacity?—During the time I was out, after being suspended a month, before the letter for me to be re-instated came, Mr. Elliott placed me in the packing room; I was there five weeks before the letter came. Mr. Elliott was going to send two men to London, and I was recommended to go to Mark Lane to work.

4114. Did you go to Mark Lane?—Yes; I went on the Sunday, and Mr. Elliott brought two men and sent me back to Weedon on the Monday.

4115. Were you re-instated?—Yes, as a viewer.

4116. Had you the same salary?—I had not.

4117. Were you reduced?—Yes. I did not know that I was to be reduced.

4118. What wages had you before you were suspended?—27s.

4119. What wages have you now?—22s.

4120. (*Mr. Turner.*) Had you 22s. immediately after you were re-instated?—Immediately. Mr. Elliott told me that I was to have 27s., or I should not have returned to Weedon any more.

4121. (*Chairman.*) Did you ever receive a bribe?—I never had one on my honour and word.

4122. Neither in London nor in Weedon?—Neither in London nor Weedon, nor anywhere else. I know no contractor in the world. As we are, it is impossible for us to have anything to do with contractors.

4123. Are you in the habit of drinking?—No, I am not.

4124.—Did you ever say to any one that you had been bribed?—No, never.

4125. Would you swear that?—I would swear that I was not, before any tribunal, and I never said such a thing.

4126. Whitham says, that while he lodged with you at Eary's you told him, in July 1856, that you had been suspended for bribery?—I never said any such a thing. I declare no such a word ever passed from me.

4127. Is that statement true or false?—I can assure you that it is the greatest falsehood imaginable.

4128. Whitham says, you told him that you received two sovereigns from a contractor on one occasion, and one sovereign on another?—I never received two sovereigns from any contractor in the world, nor yet one. I firmly tell you before your face, never.

4129. You never said so?—I never said so.

4130. Was it talked about at Weedon?—I never heard it talked about anywhere. I am sure my shopmates would have known something of it if it had happened.

4131. Whitham says you told him that Holmes had split on you to Mr. Elliott?—I never told him anything of the kind.

4132. (*Mr. Turner.*) You say that Holmes did report something to Mr. Elliott about bribery?—He did, but it was false. He never had anything from me. He was a poor deluded fellow, was Holmes.

4133. (*Chairman.*) What has become of Holmes?—He was discharged for bad conduct.

4134. When?—As much as a twelvemonth back.

4135. Do you know what has become of him since?—I do not. He was very insolent and saucy at the gate, and they were forced to turn him away. He was a very dissipated, drunken man.

4136. We have a copy of the report made by the inspectors, Messrs. Hoile, Watson, and Folkard, to Mr. Elliott, and we have Mr. Elliott's letter, forwarding that report to the War Office. Nothing is said in either of those documents about bribery, nor is anything said about insubordination or disrespect. The alleged reason for your suspension is,—“Grove, viewer in the boot room, from inefficiency, carelessness, or some other cause, has passed a number of boots not at all fit as regards make and quality of materials, and should under any consideration have been rejected.” Having that read to you, do you now remember whether anything was said to you upon the subject of having improperly passed boots that ought to have been rejected?—There were some boots I had looked at—militia boots; and we were told not to be particular to the letter A, as they were only for a month, and we were not quite so particular.

4137. The question is, whether you were told that having passed boots which ought not to have been passed was the reason, or one of the reasons, for your suspension?—I believe it was.

4138. (*Mr. Turner.*) You distinctly denied that, when it was put to you as plainly as words could put it; you had forgotten the circumstance until you heard it read from the report to the War Office. As you remember that now, may not your memory be a little treacherous in other respects?—No; I do not think it is.

4139. Your memory was evidently treacherous with regard to that, therefore we feel a little want of confidence in what you have stated as to other matters?—I recollect passing some boots, but it was not done wilfully.

4140. You professed not to remember the cause of your suspension, and until the Chairman stated to you that we had the report from the War Office, you remembered nothing about it; how do you account for that, if your memory is not treacherous?—It is such a time back; I really had not thought of it just at the time you spoke; it was not wilfully done.

4141. (*Chairman.*) You have told us what Mr. Elliott said to you, and denied that he said anything about passing boots improperly. You told us that

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you were suspended because you were insolent to your superior officer?—I said that I did not recollect.

4142. You told us distinctly that Mr. Elliott gave as a reason for your suspension that you had been insubordinate to your superior officer; did he give that reason?—He did.

4143. You are sure of that?—Yes.

4144. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did he give you any other reason with regard to boots?—I cannot recollect that he did; it is such a time ago that I cannot recollect it. I know that there was something about the boots. I do not recollect Mr. Elliott mentioning anything about them exactly.

4145. (*Chairman.*) Were you never accused of bribery?—No, never.

4146. Mr. Gray says it was notorious that you were accused of it. Was that so?—No, it was not.

4147. When did you first hear that you were accused of having received a bribe?—I was never accused, to my knowledge, not till such time as this man Holmes made a report of me.

4148. When was that report made?—I should think it must be near two years ago.

4149. Was that at the time of your suspension?—It must have been so, as near as I recollect.

R. Eary.

ROBERT EARY examined.

4157. (*Chairman.*) You live at Weedon?—Yes.

4158. What are you?—A painter.

4159. Did Grove lodge with you?—Yes.

4160. Till when?—Till his wife came down.

4161. From the time he came here, in December 1855, till when?—About twelve months ago; I cannot say exactly.

4162. Whitham also lodged with you?—Yes.

4163. Grove and Whitham occupied one room, did not they?—Yes.

4164. And the same bed?—Yes, during the time they were there.

4165. Did you ever hear any report of Grove having been bribed from any one?—Not in the least.

4166. You never heard of it?—I never heard him say anything of the sort.

4167. Did you ever hear it said about him?—No; I never heard it said about him.

4168. You remember his being suspended?—Yes; he was suspended for insolence, or something of that sort, to one of the inspectors.

4169. So you understood?—Yes.

4170. You never heard anything about bribery as the cause of his being suspended?—No.

4171. Did Whitham never say anything to you about bribery?—No, he never named it.

Mr. H. Hoile.

MR. HENRY HOILE examined.

4180. (*Chairman.*) You know Grove of course?—Yes.

4181. Do you know Whitham?—Yes.

4182. Is this a copy of the report you made which led to Grove's suspension (*handing a paper to the witness*)?—It is.

4183. Do you know anything of your own knowledge of the matter, or did you receive the information from Watson and Folkerd?—I received the information from the inspectors, and reported it to Mr. Elliott for them, as was usual at that time.

4184. Did either Folkerd or Watson report to you any cause of complaint against Grove except what is mentioned in that letter?—Nothing more.

4185. Nothing about insolence or insubordination?—No.

4186. And nothing about bribery?—Nothing; he was suspended simply and solely on account of his having passed, as they said, a quantity of boots in such a way that either he was inefficient or wilfully careless.

4187. Were you present when Grove went in to Mr. Elliott?—I do not think I was present.

4150. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was it the subject of conversation, justly or unjustly, that you had been bribed?—I never was bribed.

4151. That is not my question. Was it the subject of conversation here that you were bribed?—Not to my knowledge.

4152. You never heard it?—I never heard it.

4153. (*Chairman.*) You had heard that Holmes had said so?—I heard it in the office; Mr. Elliott told me.

4154. Did you never go to Holmes and say, "You have been charging me with bribery, and you know it is a lie?"—I did tell him so. I asked Holmes what was his reason for it, and he did not make me any answer. He treated me with the greatest contempt, and I could not get an answer from him in any way.

4155. You are now aware that Whitham says you yourself told him that you had received two sovereigns upon one occasion, and one sovereign upon another?—I never did.

4156. Nothing of the sort?—Nothing of the sort. Positively as I stand before you, I never did receive it.

4172. Was Grove in the habit of drinking?—Very little.

4173. Is he a boastful, foolish man when he is in beer?—No; he is a very jocular sort of a man at all times.

4174. Was Whitham in the habit of drinking?—Yes; he used to be out a great deal at nights. He used to be drinking a great deal. He used to spend all his money. I have lent him money, and Grove and he went on at such a rate that I tried for months to get rid of him before I could get him out of the house.

4175. You never heard anything about bribery?—No; I never heard a word.

4176. Are you at all employed upon the works here?—Yes.

4177. Have you been in the habit of going among the viewers and that class of people?—I have been among them a good deal at one time and another.

4178. Do you believe that there has been anything in the way of bribery going on here?—I never heard speak of it. I do not know of it.

4179. That you assert most solemnly?—Yes; I could be upon my oath if it is required.

4188. Did you learn from Mr. Elliott that he was suspended?—Yes.

4189. Did you hear at that time anything about any charge of bribery against him?—No, I did not.

4190. When did you first hear anything about it?—Sometime after that there was a labourer of the name of Holmes, who was a man of not very good character, who was dismissed shortly afterwards, and he stated that Grove had received half-a-crown bribe from a contractor; of course I reported it to Mr. Elliott, and he had the man down and questioned him, but he thought it so trivial a thing, and altogether so improbable, that he could not come to any conclusion about it. It seemed so unlikely that he took no further notice of it.

4191. Do you remember when that was?—I do not remember the time exactly.

4192. Mr. Elliott has been examined before the Contracts' Committee; and he said, most positively, that he never heard anything like a charge of any bribery whatever against Grove from Holmes or anyone here?—He must have treated it of too trivial a

nature to be called a bribe, because such a thing was reported to him, and he had this Holmes down to his office.

4193. The matter was reported by you?—Yes.

4194. How did you come to make the report to Mr. Elliott?—I heard it through Holmes.

4195. Are you sure that Holmes mentioned no higher a sum than half-a-crown?—That was the sum. I could explain the whole circumstance. At the commencement of the depôt, about the end of the year 1855, the canteen was still in existence at the barracks. The men went to dinner at twelve, and had an hour, and they used to go to the canteen, because they could get beer there; and it seems one day, when Grove and some men went down there, the man at the canteen said, "Here; a gentleman has left half-a-crown for you to have some beer and bread and cheese;" and I believe that is the whole sum and substance of this case of bribery.

4196. The story, as we have heard it, is, that Holmes split upon Grove, because he did not share the plunder?—I believe that was it.

4197. Because he did not get any of the beer?—Yes.

4198. Is that all you know upon that subject?—That is all I know about that case.

4199. Holmes went wrong, did not he?—He went

bad altogether. In fact the surgeon of the establishment said that the man was perfectly mad; he abused him most fearfully; he was in a very diseased state, and in attendance every day at the surgery of the establishment; and Dr. Fraser said that he abused him shamefully, and he really thought the man was out of his mind.

4200. You do not know what has become of him?—I do not.

4201. Is Grove a truthful man in your judgment?—He was a man of high character; when he was suspended his character was inquired for, and his testimonials, when they were looked into, were found to be very good.

4202. Grove was re-instated?—Yes; but not at the same pay. It is only due in justice to the man to state that since he has been re-instated, both of the boot inspectors have acknowledged, in writing, that Grove was no more lax in his inspection than the other Tower viewers.

4203. Then the Weedon inspectors thought that the Tower viewers were too easy?—Both the inspectors thought they were too lax, and they happened to come upon this poor fellow first, and they have since acknowledged that he was no worse than the rest, and we have endeavoured to get him re-instated, which I hope he will be.

WILLIAM WALTER examined.

WEEDON.

Mr. H. Hoile.

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W. Walter.

4204. (Chairman.) Are you a boot viewer?—Yes.

4205. How long have you been here?—Two years last January.

4206. You came at the beginning of the establishment?—I did.

4207. What are your wages?—30s. a week now.

4208. Have they been raised?—Yes.

4209. What were your wages when you began?—17. 2s.

4210. Have you ever worked out of hours for any boot contractor?—No, never.

4211. Are you quite sure?—Certain of it.

4212. Or for any body else, not a boot contractor?—I have worked at my trade, but not for the boot contractors.

4213. For whom?—For a boot maker, Parker of Northampton.

4214. Is he not a contractor?—He was not then a contractor; he has been since I left off working for him.

4215. Do you mean Parker and Company?—Parker and Sons, in Wood Street, Northampton.

4216. How long did you work for him?—I think about four months altogether.

4217. What wages did you get? were you paid by the pair?—Yes; 2s. 4d. a pair.

4218. What sort of boots did you make?—Wellington boots and side spring boots.

4219. How many pairs did you make?—I cannot exactly tell you.

4220. (Mr. Turner.) Did you work for Parker only with your own hands, or employ men under you?—Only with my own hands; I was only in the receipt of 17. 2s. a week, and it was hardly sufficient to support my wife and family.

4221. (Chairman.) About what time was this?—It will be about a twelvemonth in the middle of October since I worked for them.

4222. In 1857?—Yes.

4223. You worked for Parker from June to October 1857?—Yes; just about the busy time of the season.

4224. Is Parker the only person you ever worked for after hours?—Yes.

4225. As a boot viewer, have you since passed any of Parker's boots?—No, never.

4226. How is that?—I believe there are only two men in the store that have ever had any. There has

been only a small contract out for them. I think one of the viewers of the name of Allen, and another of the name of Marsh, viewed them.

4227. You have never viewed them?—No.

4228. Have you ever directly or indirectly received anything, money or money's worth, from anyone connected with contracts at Weedon?—No; not a farthing.

4229. Do you act under either of the inspectors indifferently, or are you more under one than the other?—We are under Mr. Watson and Mr. Folkard both.

4230. Have the inspectors a certain number of viewers told off to each of them?—Yes.

4231. Are you under Mr. Folkard or Mr. Watson?—I am under Mr. Watson.

4232. Have you ever known, when a lot of boots have been passed, an inspector come and reject them?—Never to my knowledge, since I have been in the works at all.

4233. You never heard of such a thing?—No.

4234. Then your opinion has always been confirmed by the inspector when you have passed boots?—I will speak for myself; whenever I have examined boots.

4235. The first thing you do is to view the boots?—Yes.

4236. If you approve of them, you put them on one side?—Yes; and what we reject on the other side.

4237. Have you ever known the inspector or superior officer come and reject boots that you had so passed?—No, never.

4238. Have you ever known him pass boots which you had rejected?—A few pairs. The inspector has passed his opinion on them after I have passed my opinion on them.

4239. Then the inspector has been rather more lenient than you have?—Yes.

4240. He has never rejected boots that you have passed?—No, never. He has sometimes passed a few that I have rejected.

4241. Have you ever known one of the inspectors come and pass boots that the other inspector had rejected?—No.

4242. Never?—Never.

4243. What are your hours of work?—From half past seven till five.

4244. Was your extra work for Parker and Sons in the evening or in the morning or both?—The evening and morning; what little time I had to spare at it.

WEEDON.

4245. About what amount of money did you earn ?
 ---I earned from Parker's about 3*l*.

W. Walter.

4246. Altogether ?—Yes.

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4247. Was that practice of working at boot making over hours forbidden so far as you know ?—It was not at that time.

4248. Was it afterwards forbidden ?—Yes ; our inspector, Mr. Folkerd, spoke to the men in the room. That was just about the time I had finished what work I had. Mr. Folkerd forbade them to work for any contractor.

4249. Has it been done since ?—Not to my knowledge. I speak for myself ; I have never done it.

4250. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do the boot contractors ever come into the room with you at all ?—Not without some one of the clerks, or Mr. Hoile, or some gentleman from the office.

4251. Do they come within the gates ?—I do not believe they are allowed.

J. Thwaites.

JOHN THWAITES examined.

4257. (*Chairman.*) Were you brought up as a shoemaker ?—Yes.

4258. From childhood ?—Ever since I was 12 years of age.

4259. How old are you ?—46.

4260. How long have you been employed in this establishment ?—Two years last June.

4261. Were you ever employed as a boot viewer ?
 ---For 10 weeks.

4262. What are you now ?—I am only accounted a labourer on the works. I was employed as a boot viewer at that time.

4263. Have you ever worked as a bootmaker for any one since you have been here ?—I have not worked for these 25 years.

4264. Not since you have been here ?—No ; only on my own account ; not for any manufacturing shops.

4265. What do you mean by "your own account ?"
 ---Jobs for myself ; for customers.

4266. You have never made boots for any contractors ?—No, never ; not for these 25 years.

4267. Do you know Whitham ?—Yes.

4268. He says you have ?—It is false. I have never made one for these 25 years.

4269. Did you ever, during the time you were viewing, receive any compliment from anybody ?—Not one ; never.

4270. Did anybody ever offer you anything ?—No.

4271. That you are sure of ?—I am sure of it.

4272. When you were employed as a viewer, were you under Mr. Folkerd or Mr. Watson, or both ?—Both.

4273. Were you more under one than the other ?—No more under one than the other.

4274. Have you ever known, after you have passed a lot of boots, one of the inspectors come and reverse your decision, and reject them ?—Nothing particular that I know of.

4275. You do not remember ?—Not to any great extent.

4276. Did you ever know an inspector pass any that you had rejected ?—No ; I gave great satisfaction in what I did.

4277. Did you ever know, when one inspector had passed boots, another inspector reject them ?—No.

4278. (*Mr. Turner.*) You do not mean to say that the inspector was perfectly satisfied with your decision as to what you passed and rejected without looking them over ?—I never saw him reject any of them.

4279. Did he examine them to see that in your selection you had done justice in both respects ?—Yes.

4252. (*Chairman.*) You are a practical shoemaker ?
 ---Yes.

4253. How long have you been at it ?—I was brought up to it from childhood.

4254. How old are you ?—I was 31 last February.

4255. (*Colonel French.*) Did you ever know any of the other viewers employed by contractors ?—There was one young man. I do not know what amount of work he did, or whether he did any work for contractors.

4256. It has been stated that not only some of the viewers worked for contractors, but afterwards their work was rejected ?—I have no knowledge of anything of the sort. I do not know of any of the viewers working at the army work, as it is termed, —what are called regulation boots, which we had to view.

4280. You never knew an instance of the inspector reversing your decision in any way ?—No.

4281. (*Chairman.*) Whitham told us that you told him that one inspector had passed boots that the other had rejected ?—It is quite false.

4282. (*Mr. Turner.*) There would be no harm if they had done so. You, as the viewer, have first to go through the boots and examine them, and the inspector follows you and ascertains whether you have done justice ?—Yes.

4283. You must have been extremely correct, or may we infer that the inspector was not very vigilant if he never reversed your decision in any case ?—He never did that I am aware of.

4284. (*Colonel French.*) Did the inspectors go through a critical examination of the boots to enable them to judge whether the boots were good or not ?—Yes.

4285. You are certain of that ?—Yes.

4286. (*Chairman.*) Did you ever hear of any charge of bribery against Grove ?—Never.

4287. (*Mr. Turner.*) You never heard it spoken of ?—I was not there. I have been only on two years.

4288. (*Chairman.*) Did you know Whitham ?—Yes.

4289. Whitham says that it was a matter of notoriety, and that Grove himself told him that he had been bribed. Did you ever hear of it as common talk at Weedon ?—No ; I do not know anything about it.

4290. You never heard it talked of ?—Not that I know of. I have been only up at Weedon two years.

4291. (*Mr. Turner.*) You either heard of the circumstance, or you did not ?—I never heard it.

4292. You stated that you have not worked for anyone for 25 years ?—For no manufacturer.

4293. You have worked on your own account as a shoemaker ;—Yes ; I have been in London the last 13 years till I came here.

4294. Are not you forbidden now to do work on your own account ?—Not that I am aware of.

4295. Do you now work on your own account ?—Yes ; I am not a viewer, I am only a labourer.

4296. What wages do you receive ?—15*s*. a week.

4297. Is it worth your while to accept 15*s*. a week rather than work on your own account at your trade ?—It is regular ; the other would not be perhaps.

4298. It is more satisfactory to you to have certain wages of 15*s*. a week than to work on your own account as a bootmaker ?—Yes.

EDWIN MANSBRIDGE examined.

WEEDON.

E. Mansbridge.

28 Sept. 1858.

4299. (*Chairman.*) What are you?—A bootmaker.
4300. And a boot viewer in this establishment?—Yes.

4301. How long have you been a viewer?—Three years.

4302. From the beginning of the establishment?—Yes.

4303. You know Grove, of course?—Yes.

4304. And you know Whitham?—Yes.

4305. And Holmes?—Yes.

4306. Did you ever hear anything about a charge made by Holmes, or anybody else, of Grove having been bribed?—I heard of Holmes going to the office.

4307. When was that?—About two years back. That is all I heard about his going to the office. I never inquired anything more about it.

4308. Was it believed?—I think nobody believed the statement of Holmes, he being a drunken character.

4309. Whitham says it was notorious in Weedon, and everybody knew it, and it was acknowledged that Grove had been bribed?—I do not think anything of it. I have seen no bribery myself since I have been in the employment.

4310. Did you ever hear of Grove having been bribed, except from this loose talk of Holmes?—No other way.

4311. You do not believe it?—No.

4312. Did you ever work for contractors in your over time?—No.

4313. Or for any one else?—I have done work on my own account since I have been in the place.

4314. Private orders?—Yes.

4315. Are you under Mr. Folkerd or Mr. Watson, the one more than the other?—No; I have been under both, the one as much as the other.

4316. Has each inspector a separate set of viewers under him?—They have recently. I am under Mr. Folkerd myself.

4317. How recently has that been the case?—Only a few months.

4318. So that they can tell what viewer has passed the boots, can they?—I can tell what inspector passes mine, being under Mr. Folkerd.

4319. Can you tell afterwards what boots you have viewed?—Yes; I put my initials upon them.

4320. So that if there is any complaint about the boots, they can trace which viewer passed them?—Yes; and the inspector as well.

4321. Does the inspector initial them too?—Yes; he initials them to exonerate the viewer.

4322. Have you had any boots that you have passed rejected by the inspector?—Never to my knowledge.

4323. Do the inspectors leave the examination entirely to you?—They leave it so far that I initial them.

4324. If, after you had put your initials on some boots, the inspector rejected them, would you know that they were rejected?—Yes.

4325. How?—By my initials being on them; if he rejected passed boots I should know of it.

4326. Might not he pass them from one heap to the other?—Yes; but my initials would be on them.

4327. Do you initial them with chalk, or how?—With a hammer.

4328. Have you ever known boots so stamped by you rejected by the inspector?—Never.

4329. Have you ever known boots rejected by you passed by your inspector?—I have put boots out for very trifling faults before now. I did not like to pass them without I brought the inspector's attention to them, and of course he would pass them, and put his initial on them to exonerate me from anything. Such things as that occur frequently.

4330. If the inspector has varied your judgment, it has been with a view of passing them more easily than with a view of rejecting them more severely?—Yes.

4331. Have you ever known, when boots have been passed by one inspector, the other inspector come and reject them?—I never saw such a thing.

4332. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do the inspectors ever interfere with each other's department?—I never saw anything of the kind since I have been in the employment.

4333. (*Chairman.*) Whitham says that you told him that you had seen that done?—That is false. I was astonished when I saw it in print this morning in the newspaper.

4334. Did you ever tell Whitham that you had seen one inspector pass boots which had been rejected by the other?—Never.

THOMAS DALEY examined.

T. Daley.

4335. (*Chairman.*) You are chief packer here in the cloth department?—In the packing room.

4336. Have you filled that office from the commencement of the establishment?—I came down on the 3d of March 1856.

4337. Were not you formerly in Mr. Costeker's employment?—Yes; for ten years.

4338. Were you used to packing then?—Yes; I was merely employed as a packer.

4339. Did Mr. Costeker use hydraulic presses?—No; a screw press.

4340. Is there any difference in the art of packing, whether a screw press or a hydraulic press is used?—No; the amount of labour is less with a hydraulic than with a screw; the old screw being more laborious.

4341. (*Mr. Turner.*) You say that the art of packing is the same with a screw press and a hydraulic press?—Precisely the same.

4342. I believe you do not pack much here for exportation?—All bales for exportation pass through Messrs. Hayter and Howell's, who have a contract to waterproof them for shipping.

4343. Is not the art of packing by hydraulic power for exportation somewhat different from hand packing? A good hand packer would not necessarily be a good master of a hydraulic press, would he?—We have Hayter and Howell's bales here, and there is no

difference in the folding or packing. There is a waterproof lining, but the folding is the same, and the packing is the same. Their bales would have ropes round; we should not do so, not packing for exportation.

4344. Is not the management of a screw press and a hydraulic press somewhat different?—Precisely the same; there is no difference whatever in the working of it; you work one with a bar, and the other with the pump and the water.

4345. (*Chairman.*) Whitham says it was necessary to instruct you and all the others in the art of packing. Is that statement true?—No; he made that assertion, I am aware, but it is not true, I having been a packer so many years.

4346. What is your age?—48 my next birthday.

4347. How long have you been a packer?—I was 15 years with Messrs. Puckle, the large wholesale house, as packer; 10 with Mr. Costeker, that would make 25; and I was 7 years with another draper.

4348. Then you have been a packer all your life?—Yes.

4349. The cloths come down from the inspection room to the packing room?—Yes.

4350. Do they ever come down wet?—Never.

4351. Whitham says that you have packed cloths over and over again which should not have been

WEEDON.

T. Daley.

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packed by reason of their being wet, is that true?—No; the cloth being wet, and packed in that state, it would have a tendency to mildew and rot. We should have heard complaints, and consequently, as we never heard anything of that sort, such could not be the case.

4352. Whitham says that he remonstrated with you about it; is that true?—He may have made such a remark, but I took no notice of it; I have no distinct recollection of it.

4353. Have you ever noticed that cloth came unduly damp from the inspecting rooms, so as to render it necessary to hang it out or use means to dry it before it was packed?—Never anything of the kind.

4354. Whitham says, "I have said to Daley, 'These goods are wet, and they ought not to be packed,' and he has said, 'You must pack them—never mind.'" Is that true?—I never recollect his having said so to me, nor my giving such an answer, from the fact of my never having known any cloths to be wet, nor do I believe that such was the case.

4355. Have you ever heard of any cloths being packed in a wet state?—No.

4356. Did you ever hear of any damage arising from such a cause?—None whatever, because they would mildew or rot if they were packed damp.

4357. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is it not one of the duties of a packer to look to the fit state of the goods to be placed in a bale?—Yes. I check everything that comes into the room, take the lengths of all cloths and the kind—everything. They are all in my charge, and nothing is ever passed in or out of that room except under my inspection.

4358. If the goods come damp to the packing press, after having been passed over the perch for examination, and after having been refolded and made up again as goods are before they come to the packing press, must they not have been in an absolutely wet state when they first came before the inspector?—They must have been, and the inspector would not pass them if they were so, or they would not be sent to me in that state, because they would know that the cloths would mildew.

4359. (*Chairman.*) Whitham told Mr. Turner, who asked him the question whether they would not rot or mildew, that they would dry in the bale if they were packed wet, is that true?—I should think certainly not. It is not likely, if goods were wet and pressed, that they would dry so.

4360. Do you pack any bales here that have to be shipped?—No; all goods that are shipped pass through Messrs. Hayter and Howell's, to be made waterproof and fit for shipping.

4361. Whitham said, "I have had to pack shipping bales that have had to be shipped off without being made waterproof." He is asked, "How did you pack bales that had to be shipped?" and he answers, "Just in canvass and paper, with single wrappers." Is that true?—No; they pass through Hayter and Howell's. We never, in any one instance, that I am aware of, have packed goods for shipping direct.

4362. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is this the fact that he may have assisted in packing up a quantity of goods that he knew were to go to China, or elsewhere, and they were packed in single wrappers and paper, as I saw in the press to-day, and then they went to Hayter and Howell's, where they were finally packed for shipment?—That is the truth.

4363. So that the bales did not go abroad in the state in which they left this establishment?—No; and Whitham would know that from having been at Hayter and Howell's. Captain Gordon and all the authorities here can testify to the utter untruth of his statement.

4364. Do you pack goods to go to Dublin?—Yes; they only require wrappers.

4365. (*Chairman.*) Whitham was asked, "Did you pack that made-up clothing to go to China in single wrappers with only paper?" He says, "Single

"wrappers and single paper; we could not get any thing else." Is that true?—We never had occasion for any, Hayter and Howell having a contract to pack them for shipment.

4366. He says over and over again that he has asked for canvas; is that true?—That has been the case from the fact of Mr. Boyd, or whoever had the charge of those things, allowing them to run out, and we were obliged to use old wrappers. I think on one occasion or so we were short of paper, but there is generally plenty of paper that comes round the cloth. The old wrappers we use on the ground of economy; there is plenty of it that does for goods for store.

4367. He is asked, "Were some shipping bales packed up with only that wrapper?" His answer is, "Some were; a great many." Then he is asked, "You do not know what quarter of the globe they went to?" He says, "I only know that some went to China. I was working overtime, late at night, packing, and there was a telegraphic message came down for them." He is asked, "To be sent to China?" He answers, "Yes; they said the bales were for China; and that is all I know." They would go from here to Hayter and Howell's, and there they would have the proper waterproof packing?—Yes; I could have shown the Commissioners in the packing room a piece of waterproof that came out of the bales which Hayter and Howell had packed, which came back from the Crimea. We have opened them and taken out the waterproof stuff.

4368. (*Mr. Turner.*) Whitham made difficulties about his not having any tarpaulin or oilcloth; and I asked him whether he could not get almost any quantity of oilcloth by the return train from Manchester. I now understand that you have no occasion for oilcloth or tarpaulin here, inasmuch as you do not pack for export?—Never; it is not a thing we have in the place; it never has formed part of our duty to pack goods for shipping.

4369. (*Chairman.*) With regard to the old canvas or tarpaulin, Whitham says that he has impressed upon them, that is, Daley and Hoile, the necessity of having the proper things to pack with. Is that so?—Mr. Hoile can testify that such a thing was never asked for, and so can I; for we never use such things.

4370. (*Mr. Turner.*) Nor would there have been any necessity for them?—No.

4371. (*Colonel French.*) When you are packing goods, do you know whether they are intended for home or foreign service?—Always; from the address given to me. We mark the bales to go to Hayter and Howell's; the regiment and its destination is put on the bale previous to its leaving the packing-room; so that we know where the bales are going to. I also understand that Whitham said that everything that came into the packing-room was given into his charge. That is not true, for everything came into my hands; and I checked everything previous to handing it to him. The only thing in his charge was simply the bale that he had to pack, and nothing more. He had charge of one press. There is a man at each press having charge.

4372. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was he head man at a press?—Yes; there is a man at each press takes charge of the bale he is packing.

4373. Are there two men under him at each press?—Yes; two to fold the garments.

4374. In fact, Whitham never was anything but the chief man at a press, under your superintendence as master packer?—That is all.

4375. (*Chairman.*) Was he the best man you had?—No; I have two or three men in the room who were totally ignorant of the business when they came into the room, who can pack as good a bale as ever came out of a press. I think Whitham did not come till the end of May, and we had packed a large quantity of goods previous to his coming here at all. I

shall take the liberty of saying, that I never knew a man who was more capable of telling untruths than was that Whitham.

4376. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you form that opinion from having seen the evidence that he has given, or

have you formed that opinion from personal knowledge of him while he was here?—From seeing him here. He would assert the most incredible things. He used to lodge with me, but I soon got rid of him.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 11 o'clock.

WEEDON.

T. Daley.

28 Sept. 1858.

WEEDON.

Wednesday, 29th September 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELF SEFFE, Esq.

HENRY SELF SEFFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Commissary-General GEORGE ADAMS, C.B., examined.

4377. (*Chairman.*) You are engaged in making up the store ledger from March 1857 to May 1858?—From the 1st of April 1857 to the 14th of May 1858.

4378. Are you stationary here on that employment?—I come down here occasionally when it is necessary, to superintend the officers who are with me.

4379. What staff have you engaged?—Eight officers. If you will allow me, I will hand in a memorandum which I have prepared this morning to give to you, in order to explain many discrepancies and mis-statements that have appeared in the journals (*handing in a paper*).

The same was read as follows :

"On the 9th June last eight commissariat officers who were residing on half-pay in different parts of England, Scotland, Ireland, and the Channel Islands were ordered to repair to Weedon to assist in completing certain accounts.

"On the 10th June I was informed, that it being considered of much public importance that these accounts should be completed as soon as possible, it was deemed desirable that the labours of these officers should be superintended by a superior officer of their own department, and I was directed by the Secretary of State for War to proceed to Weedon for that purpose.

"On the 13th June, having visited Weedon, I suggested, that the examination of the accounts which had then been recently rendered to the War Office up to the 31st March 1857 should be completed at the earliest possible period, in order that the "state," or, remains in store, on that date, might be checked and verified; I also submitted, that regiments and corps should be applied to for returns of all clothing and other stores received from or returned to the depôt; that I should be furnished with statements to be prepared from or that I might have reference to the cash accounts to ascertain that all purchases and sales had been duly accounted for, and that it might be necessary to call for returns of all transactions with other depôts. I stated that the number of vouchers to be posted were supposed to exceed 20,000.

"On the 2d July I was requested to prepare drafts of a circular, and of the returns to be required from regiments or corps, which I submitted for approval on the following day. This circular was issued on the 10th August, and many of the regiments at home have, I understand, furnished the returns.

"The postings in the ledgers have been much interrupted and retarded by vouchers having been delivered in and withdrawn in great numbers almost daily, for the settlement of large arrears due to

contractors and for other purposes, and that regularity in their order has been disturbed which it would have been very desirable to observe with the view of more readily checking or accounting for the large issues of clothing to contractors for alteration, of cloth and materials delivered to contractors to be made into clothing, of consignments to the army packers, Messrs. Hayter and Howell at Mark-lane, to be repacked, and forwarded to regiments, of issues to and receipts from other depôts, and of issues to the Admiralty, the East India Company, or other services, the value of which would be recoverable.

"Notes have been kept, in posting the vouchers, of such as appear to be incomplete or objectionable; such as bear the signatures of the viewers only, or are otherwise defective, according to the regulations or usual practice of the service.

"A check has also been kept of the registry number in the contract ledger, in order that when all the receipt vouchers have been handed over, any that have not been marked off, and appear to be missing, may, if possible, be traced and brought to account.

"There are seven ledgers in course of preparation for the period from 1st April 1857 to 14th May 1858, viz. :—

"Cloth and warm clothing for the army generally.
"Busbies, chakos, cloaks, coats, jackets, overalls, and clothing various.

"Boots and shoes, brushes, and forage caps.

"Buttons, badges, and garniture.

"Necessaries, accoutrements, and packages.

"Saddlery.

"Tunics and trousers made up and in material.

"8,416 vouchers of receipts and 10,361 of issues have been in some, or are in course of being posted in others, of these ledgers; and there are 429 vouchers of receipts and 27 of issues which have been from time to time delivered over, but could not be entered in their proper order, and will, with about 1,500 more which are retained by the military store department for the purpose of settlement of large arrears due to contractors, remain to be arranged, and added hereafter to the present, or form supplementary ledgers.

"It is proposed to send to the War Office the several ledgers, as far as they can be completed, with the postings of the vouchers already in course of entry, in order that their examination may be proceeded with, and that the vouchers which could not be entered in their proper place or order with those retained for settlement with contractors should, when they are *all* handed over, be made additional entries at the end of the present ledgers, or be compiled in supplementary ledgers.

"When all the postings have been completed, and

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the "state" or remains in store on the 31st March 1857 certified by the examiner of the accounts already rendered, has been furnished, an account can be prepared, showing the remains of the stores which should have been transferred by Mr. Elliott, and a comparison can then be made with the remains ascertained and brought to account by Captain Gordon on or about the 14th May 1858.

"It must, however, be observed that even the account thus prepared cannot be deemed a satisfactory public account until it has been thoroughly ascertained, in the course of its examination at the War Office, that *all* purchases, sales, and *all* transactions with contractors, the army packers at Mark-lane, and with other depôts, have been duly and properly accounted for.

"It should also be borne in mind that the present ledgers have been compiled from a mass of documents handed over, a large number of which are defective and objectionable as vouchers, from time to time without any arrangement whatever, and there is no guarantee that they represent all the transactions of the depôt.

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4380. Can you form any judgment when your labours are likely to be brought to a conclusion?—The labours of most of the officers here will soon terminate. There will be, perhaps, two obliged to remain until such time as they can get all the vouchers from the military store department, and a correct state on April 1st 1857 is furnished.

4381. In answer to a question which we put to Mr. Bonneau of the War Office, he said, "I have no doubt we shall be able to get from Commissary-General Adams the second ledger in a month or five weeks at the outside from the present time"—They will get one in the course of a few days; it will not be a complete ledger. There are 1,500 vouchers in the hands of Captain Gordon,—at least they are estimated at that number,—which he requires for various purposes, such as paying contractors who are in arrear. I believe Dolan and Co. are the principal people.

4382. I quite coincide with your view, that no accurate result can be arrived at as regards possible deficiencies until the perfect ledger, if it is ever perfected, can be compared with the actual remain; but I do not quite understand why the preparation of the second ledger should be in any degree retarded by the fact that you have not the first ledger?—It is not the first ledger; it is the correct state of that ledger on 31st March 1857, which is required. How can we arrive at the remain on the 14th of May without it?

4383. I understand you to state that until you had the result of the first ledger you could not start with the stock which that ledger represents to be in hand at the time to which it is made up. That may be so. Although you cannot get to the result, cannot you make your ledger independent of that, and put in those figures afterwards?—We are doing so. I suggested that mode of proceeding some days ago, and it is adopted. Now we are closing these ledgers as fast as we can, and one of them will certainly go off in the course of two or three days to the War Office.

4384. Is there anything you can suggest which will expedite your labours?—No. I was asked if I required more assistance, and I said "No."

4385. You do not consider it within your province to supply those missing vouchers, but to make up the ledger from such materials as you have, and leave the War Office, or somebody else, to ascertain how the missing vouchers may be supplied; is that so?—With regard to the receipt vouchers there are registered numbers. We have a list of those registered numbers, and as they are posted they are marked off; therefore at the end of the postings it will be discovered that there are such and such numbers missing. So far as the entries, it may enable them to find out what

those missing vouchers are: The returns called for from the regiments will support both receipts and issues in those cases where there are no vouchers; and with regard to the depôts, a comparison between the different accounts at Woolwich and the Tower, the accounts of the army packers in Mark-lane, and the purchases from contractors or others, will prove whether the entries on either side of the account are complete and correct.

4386. You being an experienced person in these matters, supposing the suggestions which you have made are attended to, will the deficient documents, in your judgment, be supplied, or the materials from which they can be made up supplied, so as eventually to make the perfect ledger?—I think they will.

4387. I understand you to state in the memorandum which you have read that on the 3d of July you suggested to the War Office to make the inquiries from the regiments, and so forth?—Yes.

4388. They wrote to you on the 2d of July; you promptly replied on the 3d, and then you say it was not till the 10th of August that your suggestion was acted upon?—There was necessarily some little delay in referring the draft returns to Captain Gordon. On the 10th of August the circular was issued, and I have it here with all the returns, if you wish to see them (*handing in some papers*).

4389. Are all those issues, as you understand them, to regiments at home?—To all regiments, whether at home or abroad, of the regular army or militia.

4390. Are not a good many of the issues from Weedon or rather from Mark-lane to regiments abroad?—A great many. The goods are sent from here to the packers, and by them sent abroad.

4391. You cannot have an answer to those circulars of the 10th of August from regiments in India for three or four months, I suppose?—No; not for a great length of time. I think the regimental returns will be particularly useful to ascertain the articles they have returned into store. There does not appear to be any correct record of those, and I think it will be furnished by the regiments.

4392. (*Mr. Turner.*) You spoke of verifying the remains as shown by the ledger ending March 1857; as the remains were not taken at that time by actual counting, can you judge them to be correct in any other way than by the balance in the ledger?—Of course not; there was no account taken.

4393. It may be assumed that the balance was taken?—If there are proper vouchers on both sides of the account, they ought to bring out a proper and correct result; after all, you will have to deal with the accounts of this depôt from the commencement.

4394. The period at which alone I look for any verification of the remains will be when the ledger up to the 14th of May 1858 is accurately balanced, so far as it can be balanced by inquiries, searching for vouchers, and so forth; when at last it is in that state, and you arrive at the balance, then we shall be able to compare it with the actual stock taken by Captain Gordon who possessed himself of the facts when he took charge?—Of course; it will be then seen if there are any great deficiencies or surpluses.

4395. Until that ledger upon which you are now engaged is completed (and which I am afraid will occupy your attention or that of some one else for a very long period), we really cannot arrive at anything like the fact as to the state of the stores in this place as represented by the books?—I do not think you can.

4396. As papers will have to be sought for from all parts of the world in order to verify the issues from Weedon, in what probable period should you think that the balance up to the 14th of May 1858 will be arrived at?—I am not sure that it will be material to wait until all those returns are received from the regiments, because after all you will not have to look to the accounts in any very minute detail; they will afford the means of discovering any large deficiencies or discrepancies; as for a few yards of

garniture, or a few buttons, or anything of that kind, it will not be worth while to wait for the returns.

4397. Supposing there is a very considerable deficiency in any one article; for example, if a few thousand pairs of boots cannot be accounted for?—There would be an error somewhere, whether by fraud or not I could not tell you, which would have to be strictly looked into and cleared up. There is a discrepancy now of something like 10,000 pairs of boots. We are not prepared to go into the detail of it; and there appears to have been that discrepancy for some time. Mr. Ramsay says that there have been some sent to China, which have not been accounted for.

4398. (*Chairman.*) Mr. Ramsay told us, (Question 475,) “I have ascertained that since the Weedon establishment has been formed up to the 14th of May 802,081 pairs of boots have been received. On the 14th of May, when stock was taken, there were 247,421 pairs of boots in store; that leaves 554,660 pairs to be accounted for.” (The figures are very precise.) “According to the orders which we have issued from the War Office, 554,498 pairs ought to have been issued, therefore leaving a defalcation on the part of the storekeeper of only 162 pairs, which I have no doubt will be accounted for when the ledger comes to be examined.” Did that information come from you?—No.

4399. (*Mr. Turner.*) Mr. Ramsay’s statement appears to be very minute in detail, even to a unit?—Very much so. I scarcely know how it can be ascertained till the entries are made.

4400. (*Chairman.*) “That is merely a calculation made upon the orders given, and it must be pretty correct, because these men ought actually to have received the boots, and if they had not received the boots they would have complained, and we should have had notice that they had not received them.” Mr. Ramsay not only states that he knows the number received and the number issued, but he states the materials upon which he arrives at that knowledge. At present you state that there is a discrepancy?—There appears to be, from the information I have had from Captain Gordon, and the entries which have been made in the ledger.

4401. (*Mr. Turner.*) Judging from the materials which have been accessible to you, and of which, no doubt, you have made good use, your information does not at all agree with that conveyed to us by Mr. Ramsay?—No. I may be wrong; it is possible that the accounts may not be correct.

4402. (*Chairman.*) Mr. Ramsay could hardly have got that information as to the numbers received and issued and the number in store excepting from materials supplied to him from Weedon; he might know the orders given, perhaps, from materials existing at the War Office?—I do not know how he could compile anything like a statement of that kind from the documents at Weedon, because the transactions had never been recorded or compiled in any complete way.

4403. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have had considerable experience, no doubt, in accounts. Did you ever, in the course of your experience, find anything so disgraceful in the mode of keeping accounts at any establishment?—There has been no keeping of accounts at all. No account has been kept, that I can see.

4404. Do not you think if any private establishment were conducted on a similar practice of non-book-keeping that it would be in the Bankruptcy Court in a very short time?—I think very likely it would.

4405. (*Chairman.*) I presume that the accountant whom we have proposed to employ to assist us could not, in the meantime, get much information?—I think not; but I shall be happy to give him any information I can. We have made a great number of objections to vouchers which do not appear, according to my experience and the experience of those officers

employed upon this business, to be what we should deem valid vouchers. There they are; and it is for the War Department to decide whether they will admit them as vouchers or not. My instructions are merely to assist in compiling those accounts into abstracts. They are no longer ledgers; they are merely abstracts of entries of receipts and issues.

4406. (*Colonel French.*) Upon what account are they not valid vouchers?—To some of them there are no signatures. There are a variety of objections to them. I could furnish a memorandum of the objections, so that you could see their nature. Perhaps there are 700 or 800 of them objectionable. As a public officer I could not give them in as correct and proper vouchers. The War Department must decide whether they are or are not. Whether they will have the means of checking them with their different orders I do not know; but in my branch of the service we do not consider an order or a requisition a voucher. We do not compile accounts from requisitions; we compile them from actual vouchers of receipt or issue.

4407. (*Chairman.*) Although, as between you and the War Office, you may say that it is for the War Office to decide whether they are proper vouchers, I am not so sure that as between the public whom we represent and the War Office we should be content with their decision?—I do my duty to the public in pointing out such objections. I think it very desirable that all public accounts should be examined by an independent board.

4408. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you think the best mode of satisfying us and the public will be to have these documents gone through by the public accountant, to ascertain what the real state of the case is, and report it to this Commission as between the public and the War Office?—It may perhaps be more satisfactory to the public. With regard to the abstracts which are now compiled, if they are given to Mr. Jay, he will be able to ascertain whether they are correct, and they will save an immense deal of labour. They are prepared perfectly independently. I had no instructions from the War Department, and I am preparing them as a public officer.

4409. So far as the ledger up to the 31st of March 1857 is concerned, and which is in the hands of the War Office, everything has been done here that can be done, and we are led to expect that in a short time we shall have that ledger in our own hands, which they are detaining, not only to search for some missing vouchers, but also to check the payments at the War Office with the amounts brought on charge, in order to ascertain whether the payments to contractors and the goods delivered by contractors agree?—I know they are preparing for that, and a long affair it will be. They have never been accustomed to any comparison of the kind.

4410. Will not that be a most laborious affair?—It will. I do not consider that the store account will be complete until it has been compared with the cash account. Whatever you have bought you must bring to credit, and whatever you have sold must appear as issued.

4411. You must pass it through a sort of double check, comparing the actual goods on charge in the store, or what we call the stock account in business, with the money which represents that stock?—Yes. I believe with regard to sales, the articles have been all sent to the Tower or Woolwich to be sold; therefore it will be a transaction to be compared as between the accounts at the Tower and Woolwich and the accounts at this depôt.

4412. (*Colonel French.*) Are not the vouchers of which you have been speaking a sort of receipt from the regiments for goods sent to them?—They are either receipts from the regiments for stores issued to them, or they are delivery notes from contractors, or inspection notes, as they are called, in which the articles that are approved and those which are rejected

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appear, and those approved are the ones which are entered in the accounts.

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4413. Are there any of the regimental vouchers upon which you could throw a doubt?—No, I think not. I think the objections to the issues are very few indeed. The objections relate to the receipts chiefly.

4414. (*Chairman.*) There being no payments made at Weedon, excepting for the expenses of the establishment for carriage and that kind of thing, is not the cash account for goods delivered here kept exclusively at the War Office in London?—Yes.

4415. Therefore it is no portion of the accounts which you have to investigate?—No, not at all.

4416. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do not you consider that the absence of a day-book in this establishment has

caused a great deal of the confusion which has arisen from there being no copy of the vouchers anywhere?—A general day-book should have been kept, and a separate one by each person in charge of the different descriptions of stores.

4417. Do not you think there should be a daily record of everything that goes in and out of the establishment?—Yes; and each storekeeper should have a daily record of his transactions.

4418. You have had to depend entirely upon loose documents in various parts of the world, if they are in existence, for information which should have been recorded daily in this establishment. Would it not have been an immense saving to you in your present investigation if you had found such books?—Yes. There are no records whatever of such a character.

H. Crutchley.

HENRY CRUTCHLEY examined.

4419. (*Chairman.*) You were formerly a labourer here, were not you?—Yes.

4420. Are you now a viewer in the saddlery department?—Yes.

4421. Were your wages raised from 15s. to 30s. a week?—Yes.

4422. Do you remember a number of skins coming from Gibson's which were examined by Captain Smith when Sergeant Brodie was standing by?—Yes, I recollect it.

4423. Just tell us exactly what happened upon that occasion, as far as you remember?—I do not exactly remember the circumstance.

4424. Did Sergeant Brodie call you to show you anything that he had done to the skins?—No, he did not.

4425. Do you remember Sergeant Brodie showing you the skins?—No; I cannot recollect that.

4426. Do you remember whether there were any defects in the skins?—Those skins of Gibson's, some of them, were rejected for being defective in the dye.

4427. Were they rejected for any other defects?—No, they were not.

4428. Sergeant Brodie says that the skins were rejected for bad places in them:—"Captain Smith ordered the man to put a stitch right through the skin so that he would know it again, to show Gibson's where the bad places were, and I put a private mark inside one of the straps so that I would know all the skins again if they came back. When the skins came back, I found all my private marks and in fact all the stitches in them on the bad places." "I was standing by Captain Smith when he was examining them." "I called one of the labourers in the department forward,"—that is you,—"just to shew him where I had put my private mark, and the skins came back all the same as they were when they were opened out." Do you remember that?—Yes.

4429. Is it true that Sergeant Brodie called you forward, and showed you where he had put a private mark on the straps of the skins?—He did not call me forward; it was not me.

4430. Do you remember the skins coming back again?—Yes; I recollect the skins coming back again.

4431. Sergeant Brodie goes on to say that Captain Smith "ordered one of the men after that, when we had some orders to send them to the regiments, a man of the name of Crutchley, to get his tools and awls and things to pick out all the wool to cover the defective parts, so that they would not be seen when they got to the regiments." You must remember that if it is true?—No; it is not true. I remember on several occasions to have used an awl to move the wool from under the stitch where the strap is sewn on, but never to cover defects.

4432. Do you remember anything about it?—No.

4433. Or anything approaching it?—No.

4434. Did you ever know Captain Smith pass skins which had been previously rejected by him without

the defects for which they had been rejected being removed?—No, I did not.

4435. Sergeant Brodie says, "I told him before Crutchley that he had been passing articles which he knew had been previously rejected." Did you ever hear Sergeant Brodie say so to Captain Smith?—Never.

4436. Is it all a lie?—I am positive it is.

4437. It cannot be a mistake; it must be either invention or the truth?—You may depend upon it that that is a great story. It is quite an untruth.

4438. Do you remember any skins from Gibson's being rejected for bad places?—For being defective in the dye.

4439. Only for that?—That is all.

4440. Mr. Gibson has been examined, and he says it is quite untrue that he ever sent back any skins without remedying the defects; and further he says, if there was a defect pointed out he could cut the piece out and remedy it. Do you ever remember his doing that?—No; I do not remember anything the matter with Mr. Gibson's skins, excepting their being defective in the dye.

4441. Or anybody else's skins? Do you remember whether anything of this kind happened?—No.

4442. Are you quite sure?—Yes, I am sure, because it was only Mr. Gibson's contract that was out for those sheepskins when Sergeant Brodie was here. Gibson's, I think, and Bevington and Morris's.

4443. Sergeant Brodie says that Bevington and Morris's skins were rejected because of the dye; that Bevington and Morris sent a man down; that Bevington and Morris's man saw those skins of Mr. Gibson's which had bad places, and that Bevington and Morris's man said, "Bless my heart, are you sending these off to the regiments; these are a great deal worse than the ones rejected of ours," that is, Bevington and Morris's. Do you remember that?—No.

4444. Was any favour shown to Mr. Gibson?—I consider not.

4445. He seems to have had very few rejections?—He had a great number rejected.

4446. By Captain Smith?—Yes; I can recollect 194 sheepskins being rejected at once very well.

4447. What for?—For being defective in the dye mostly.

4448. (*Mr. Turner.*) Does Mr. Gibson often come down here himself?—I have seen him twice since I have been here, and I have been here two years.

4449. Do men from his establishment often visit Weedon?—No. Some of his men have been here at work fitting up his saddles.

4450. He has the privilege of an establishment here?—Yes, to work in. They have nothing to do with our place at all.

4451. (*Colonel French.*) Is any contractor allowed to come into the stores?—No; not unless there is an officer with him.

Captain THOMAS SMITH examined.

4452. (*Chairman.*) You were examined before the Contracts' Committee?—I was.

4453. We do not wish to ask you the same questions that you answered then, because we have read your evidence. I suppose you adhere to it?—Yes.

4454. Have you had an opportunity of seeing Sergeant Brodie's evidence?—I have.

4455. I believe you found Sergeant Brodie here when you came?—Yes. I think he was appointed a month previous to my coming here; we were appointed both in the same month, but I could not be spared from the duty I was then engaged upon on the staff at Canterbury from the middle of May till the middle of June. I came on the 13th of June.

4456. What was your appointment?—Inspector of saddlery.

4457. Sergeant Brodie seems to have expected that he should be inspector?—He did; and he stated so when I came here. The first morning I went to my duties here I had a difficulty with him. He said that he considered himself inspector of saddlery, and was not inclined to carry out my instructions. I immediately wrote an official note to Mr. Elliott on the subject, to know exactly in what position he was. I said that my instructions were that I would have a foreman and labourers to carry out the duties, and if he was not a foreman I must apply for one.

4458. In his appointment, which I have seen, he is described as foreman of stores, and in that capacity you considered him?—In that capacity I always considered him. I never heard the idea of his being inspector until I joined here and commenced my duties. This is the note I wrote to Mr. Elliott upon the subject:—"Sir, I regret the necessity of troubling you at the commencement of my duties, but either the foreman of the saddlery (Sergeant Brodie), or I, has mistaken his position. He has just told me that he considers himself an inspector, and that he will not act under my orders. When I was requested to accept of this situation, I was informed I would have a foreman and such labourers as would be required to carry out the duties. I want a fair start, and if Sergeant Brodie declines the situation, I must at once apply for another foreman, and beg your instructions in the matter." Mr. Elliott sent for Sergeant Brodie to the office, and he went to Mr. Elliott, and came back, and went to his duties. Mr. Elliott saw me a short time afterwards, and he stated that Sergeant Brodie was reconciled, and he would go on with his duties; but he never was reconciled; he was always a discontented man.

4459. Are you a full captain?—I am on half-pay, I was quartermaster for 15 years of the 6th Dragoon Guards, and I was quartermaster for two years and something over on the consolidated cavalry depôts of Brighton, Canterbury, and Dorchester, and I retired with the rank of captain.

4460. You never had the regimental rank of captain?—No.

4461. Did you refuse to act on equal terms with Sergeant Brodie because he was a non-commissioned officer, or because you were appointed inspector and he was foreman?—I never could consider him on an equality with myself.

4462. Because of his appointment or because he was a non-commissioned officer?—Both his appointment as foreman, which I consider is the rank of a non-commissioned officer, and his previous rank. It cannot be supposed that I had any bad feeling to the man, for it was myself who got him appointed sergeant saddler upon the staff at Canterbury. When his regiment went out, he got his colonel to allow him to remain at home, and another saddler was appointed in his place. He came to Canterbury with the depôt of the 1st dragoons while I was there, and begged me to get him appointed sergeant saddler, which I did.

4463. Are you a Scotchman?—Yes.

4464. Is he?—Yes. I am a Scotchman so far that I was born on the Scotch side of the Tweed in Berwickshire.

4465. Sergeant Brodie said, "We were both to hold one position as inspectors, and he" (that is you) "told Mr. Ramsay that he would not hold it with a non-commissioned officer, because he had been a quarter-master, and he took the inspection and made me his foreman." Do you remember anything of that sort?—No conversation of that kind ever occurred between Mr. Ramsay and me. Mr. Ramsay told me when I went down, "You will have Sergeant Brodie for a foreman, and Mr. Elliott will give you such labourers as you require to carry out the duties." There is one thing I may mention, Sergeant Brodie appeared to think that I had been appointed over his head. I think the appointments both occurred in May, but I have a letter here from Mr. Ramsay, dated the 5th of January, asking me if I would accept the appointment on the terms stated, which I required time to consider. I name that to show that I had been offered the situation on the 5th of January, although the appointment did not take place till May.

4466. Sergeant Brodie was not offered the appointment till after January, was he?—I think some time after that. I was partially employed from the 5th of January respecting sealed patterns at Pall Mall before the time that I joined here.

4467. When were you actually appointed?—In May.

4468. Sergeant Brodie was appointed foreman of saddlery, as appears by a letter written by directions of Lord Panmure, on the 5th of May 1856?—That is after they wrote to know whether I would accept the office of inspector of saddlery on the terms offered.

4469. What was the salary offered you?—200*l.* a year, to go up to 290*l.*

4470. Whatever Sergeant Brodie may have expected in the way of rank, his pay was larger than he expected, he told us?—His pay was 127*l.* some shillings a year.

4471. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is not that rather more than the other foremen received?—There were three foremen appointed; Boyd is the senior, Cook is the next, and Brodie was the third. They all had the same salary.

4472. There was no particular favour done to Brodie in point of salary?—No; they had the same salary, and he was the junior of the three.

4473. And you were inspector over them?—Yes.

4474. (*Chairman.*) Were you on good terms with Sergeant Brodie?—I was on fair terms with him. I had a difficulty sometimes to keep him in his place. He was always a discontented man; and he was frequently more inclined to obstruct than forward the work.

4475. Do you remember Palliser's lassos?—Yes; I remember them well, for there was a great deal to do about them.

4476. Sergeant Brodie says, "They were condemned before ever they came. Captain Smith said to me, 'Do you know Palliser?' I said, 'I do.' He said, 'He is sending in 40 or 50 packages of lassos. 'I have heard a little about that man at Pall Mall; 'he is not the right stamp of man for a contractor, 'and I will put a word in that will do for him.'" Do you remember such a conversation?—Yes; I remember the conversation perfectly, but it is very much misrepresented, and one portion of it is left out. I never spoke about the lassos until a portion had arrived; they were placed in the lower part of the store, and had not been raised up. I went down in the morning past them; there was a number of bales, it might be 10, 20, or 30; one of them was sticking out; I pulled it out and felt it, and I said, "this lasso feels light." Sergeant Brodie said, "you had better take care of him; I knew him 20 years ago." If I mistake not, he said he had been working with him 20 years ago. He said, "Though he is a praying

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"man, he was a bankrupt a short time ago, and you had better take care of him." On that I made the simple remark, "I did not hear a very good account of him at Pall Mall." That was every word I uttered.

4477. With whom was the conversation at Pall Mall?—With Mr. Richards. I was at Pall Mall about some patterns, and one of the firm of Palliser came at the same time to get the loan of a pattern lasso. Mr. Richards said it is against our rule to give standard patterns out of the pattern room, and he asked me what he should do. I said, "It has been made at Birmingham, by Brace; it is a very suitable thing, and it will be a great help for the contractor to get it, so that we may have no mistake about it in the supply." Mr. Richards looked up to Mr. Palliser, and he said, "I hope you will execute this better than some former contract." That was all that passed.

4478. How many packages of lassos were there?—A large number; there might be 40 or 50; they were in packages of 76 and 77.

4479. Do you remember how many packages were opened?—Two or three were opened in the first instance, but I objected to inspect them. I said "These lassos will never do, the contractor ought to be seen about them." That was to Mr. Elliott, the superintendent.

4480. Why would not the lassos do?—They were much lighter than the pattern, and a great number had inferior sides in them; and I said, "The man ought to be seen, as they are light weight; it is perfectly useless for me to inspect them, because if I inspect them a thousand times, I cannot make them heavier. Being light is not a matter of opinion or judgment, it is an indisputable fact; if they are not up to weight, they are not in conformity with the sealed pattern." Leather is sold by weight, therefore lightness would affect the value. Those lassos were an average of $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz. lighter than the sealed pattern; that is, those that were rejected. I gave in a return of the weight. I had 76, just one bale, weighed separately, and the weight of every one put down. That statement was sent to Mr. Palliser, when the last lot of lassos was returned, and its accuracy was never questioned. He had a return on which we rejected them for being light. There is no doubt he complained, but if that statement had not been correct, as a matter of course he would have pointed out its inaccuracy.

4481. Was the lightness in the leather or in the iron rings?—The rings were the same as the pattern. Before I had the lassos weighed I had the rings taken out and weighed, because to have weighed the rings and the leather would have been guessing.

4482. The lightness was in the leather?—Yes.

4483. (Mr. Turner.) What was the weight of the leather part of the lasso?—I think the lasso, including the rings, was 2 lbs. 9 oz., not including any other part. There are lines as well as the lassos, and the lines averaged 2 oz. light.

4484. (Chairman.) How much did the leather part of the lasso average light?— $5\frac{1}{9}$ th oz., in even numbers $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

4485. (Colonel French.) In a lasso?—Yes; in a lasso, including the rings.

4486. (Mr. Turner.) You say that the lasso, including the rings, weighed 2 lbs. 9 oz. What proportion of that weight were the rings? You say that the rings were correct?—The rings were correct, so that the difference would be all in the leather.

4487. Then if we deduct the weight of the rings from the 2 lbs. 9 oz., whatever it was, the difference would be greater?—The difference would be greater in the leather. Would the Commissioners allow me to read the instructions I had as an inspector, which will show how my hands were tied.

"MEMORANDUM of further Instructions for Inspectors.

"Reviewing the circumstances attending the inspection of goods since the opening of this depôt, the

various deliveries by contractors of articles of an inferior description, and the good results of the rigorous inspection hitherto pursued as manifested in the improved quality and work of many articles now being received into store, it is requested the inspectors will attend to the following additional instructions.

"In future should an unreasonable proportion of a supply of an article be found deficient in quality or work, the inspector is to reject the whole, as the officers and men of the depôt are not to be employed in sorting the good out of a bad delivery.

"The contractors must take that duty on themselves, after being noticed of the rejection, and after removing the rejected articles from the depôt.

"Next, the inspector will, as hitherto, when deciding upon the quality of a supply, be guided exclusively by the sealed pattern and terms of the specification of the contract; and should any supply be found not in strict conformity with the terms of the contract, the inspector is left no discretion whatsoever, he must reject the supply.

"A case may, however, arise in which the article may differ from the contract in some trifling or unimportant detail, it is still the bounden and imperative duty of the inspector to reject it; but in this case it will be equally his duty to report the facts to the superintendent.

"Whenever it becomes necessary to make out a report of the nature referred to, it must be strictly confidential, and on no account should it be allowed to transpire beyond the superintendent.

"All intercourse, communication, or correspondence between the inspectors and contractors is strictly forbidden.

"The arrangements of the department are now sufficiently matured to enable the inspectors to be solely occupied upon the legitimate duties of their appointments, that is, the inspecting of stores, and to that only will their energies be henceforth directed, though this inspection must necessarily extend to the selection of stores for issue when called upon to do so; but the inspectors must consider that their charge does not exceed that of the stores under or waiting their inspection.

"To place the inspectors in an unimpeachable position, strict orders have been given against the admission to the depôt of any persons, more particularly contractors or their agents, except under a pass signed by the superintendent, or, in his absence, by one of the two chief clerks in his office.

"The only exception to this rule will be the admission to the inspectors' office, but not beyond it, of any private friend or acquaintance of Mr. Hoile or Captain Smith, whose offices adjoin the entrance.

"(Signed) J. S. ELLIOTT."

"Weedon, 26th August 1856."

4488. (Chairman.) Does every inspector receive a similar memorandum of instructions?—I think Mr. Hoile and myself received them; that was the reason why I made strong objections to inspect those lassos, for my inspection could make them neither lighter nor heavier.

4489. Sergeant Brodie says that you inspected two packages out of the lot?—That was all.

4490. Might it not have happened that in the 40 or 50 packages some of the lassos might have been a better weight?—Mr. Palliser came down about them, and Mr. Elliott, the superintendent, gave directions that I should inspect the whole. I then inspected the whole 1986, which was his first delivery, and I found, with few exceptions, that they were all light. There were some that came up to the mark, but very few, and I went to Mr. Elliott confidentially, according to this memorandum, and said to him, "I do not know what can be done with these lassos, they are light, and, in conformity with my instructions, I cannot pass them." After some conversation, he asked my opinion what could be done, and I said, "the best thing Mr. Palliser could do would be to put new sides to them where they are light or inferior." That was proposed to him, but he still stood out and

wished to have them inspected. I said to Mr. Elliott, "The only thing that can be done with these lassos is this: a great many are of good quality and workmanship and suitable for the purpose; if you will take the responsibility of letting all be passed that are not over a quarter of a pound light, I will go over them again and pass them," which was done. All that were under a quarter of a pound light were passed, and all that were over a quarter of a pound were rejected. I think the number that was passed on that inspection was 995.

4491. And about the same number was rejected, was not it?—Yes; I think the first delivery was 1986.

4492. Still, with this allowance of a quarter of a pound, 900 were rejected?—Yes; 995 I think were rejected. I do not say that that was allowing a full quarter of a pound, but all that were under a quarter of a pound light, if they were of good quality and workmanship, were passed, so that the contractor had the advantage of close on a quarter of a pound. The others that were rejected averaged $5\frac{1}{2}$ oz. light.

4493. In your judgment, apart from the instructions you received and by which you were bound, did that lightness of leather render the lasso less valuable?—In many instances they were less valuable.

4494. In consequence of the lightness?—Yes; it particularly happened on one side, which made it an awkward thing for the draught. I may mention that the second time they were sent back, there were some of them with a lot of oil or dubbing rubbed on them, which is strongly objected to, and some had a wedge of leather put round the ring. The part round the ring had been cut open, and a piece of leather put in and sewed again. That brought them nearer the weight, but it made a bulge with which no horse could draw without having his ribs chafed.

4495. There was an attempt to remedy the defect, but the remedy was as bad as the original defect?—The remedy was worse than the evil. It might not have mattered if the horse was just hooked to a gun that was fast, and required only a sudden effort to pull it out; but if it was used for any extent of time for the purpose of draught, it would chafe the horses' sides.

4496. (*Mr. Turner.*) You compared them by the pattern?—By the sealed pattern.

4497. Did you judge of the weight by that?—Yes; I examined them closely; I am willing to admit that I felt it a hardship that I had to go over 6,000 articles, with a perfect conviction that they were not according to the contract. It was labour in vain, for I could not pass them.

4498. Was the weight stated in the specification?—No; and I did not think it necessary, as the contract stated, that the lassos were to be in every respect in conformity with the sealed pattern.

4499. (*Chairman.*) As a general rule, is weight an ingredient in the excellence of a lasso?—Yes; if you have not weight in leather, you cannot have substance; and if you have not substance in leather, you cannot have strength. Being light there was want of value and strength in the lasso compared with the sealed pattern.

4500. Are there now specifications as well as patterns of saddlery as in other things?—There are uniformly specifications for all saddlery, but I never have put weights in any of the specifications.

4501. (*Mr. Turner.*) You content yourself with saying, that the article is to be exactly like the pattern in all respects?—In every respect conformable to the pattern; those are the words.

4502. (*Chairman.*) I find in the specification for cloth there is a provision as to weight? With respect to those lassos might it not have been advantageous if you had stated in your specification that the leather was to weigh so much?—I think it is probable that it would have saved a difficulty. I wish to mention one thing that was stated by Mr. Palliser. I do not suppose that he would say anything without believing it to be a fact, but he stated that I had spoken in a

very improper manner, and used language that he would not repeat to the Committee of the House of Commons to his man who came down to ascertain the cause of the rejection of the lassos. The first day he came down I told him, "Whatever is the cause of rejection, it is stated upon the inspection note. I cannot have a conversation with you, and give the cause of rejection to any of the contractors' workmen." He came to me again the next day, and he said he wanted to know before he went back to his master why the lassos were cast. I said, "Well, the reason of their being cast is, that they are light and inferior, and I had no alternative." That was all that passed, and I have found out this man to inquire of him what language I did use, and he denies my having used any improper language. The man's name was Alexander Smith, and he was formerly a sergeant of saddlery. I particularly wished to clear myself before this Commission, as I felt very much a charge which I knew to be totally untrue. I have received this note from Smith, Mr. Palliser's man, upon the subject: "I beg most respectfully to inform you that I never heard you make use of any improper language towards Mr. Palliser whatever, in my presence, when at Weedon."

4503. Do you remember about a thousand skins coming from Mr. Gibson, and 130 being rejected by you?—I do.

4504. What did you reject them for?—In parts of a number of them the dye had not reached the bottom of the wool. On the rump of the sheep it is always greasy, and wherever there is a spot of grease there is a difficulty in the dye reaching the bottom. In fact there is a difficulty in dyeing sheepskins, for when the wool is upon the skin they cannot put them in hot liquor the same as they do with wool or cloth. A great number were rejected for that, and I think some others were rejected for bare parts. You must understand that a sheepskin is in a great many pieces. I have found as many as 30 pieces in one skin, and along the edge, in place of their being cut for the wool to fall over, they have been cut the wrong way of the wool. They were rejected principally on account of the dye. In some parts the dye had not taken, but if it was merely a brown spot or a single spot I let it pass; whenever it ran through I rejected them.

4505. Is it your custom, when any defects are found in a skin, to put a stitch through to show where it is?—In this case it was. I had not inspected many new things before that. Previously I had been employed principally in receiving surplus saddlery and arranging them. In this case I had a thread drawn through each of them. Crutchley, the third-class viewer, was the party I employed to draw the thread through every part to call their attention to the defects. If they had been sent back without that, it would have been difficult to know what was to be done with them.

4506. Sergeant Brodie says that you put a stitch through them to show where the bad places were, and he put a private mark inside one of the straps of each skin, so that he might know the skins again. You did not see him put that private mark?—No.

4507. He says when the skins came back he not only found his private marks, but the stitches in the bad places?—That is incorrect. We had not got a first-class viewer then, and until we got a first-class viewer I inspected everything myself. I could not have been deceived about there being no thread in them.

4508. Did you find any of the threads that you had placed for the purpose of pointing out the bad places?—I will not say that there was not a thread in for this reason; I put the threads inside. I never inspected the linings the second time; I inspected the outside. I will not say that there was not a thread in them, because I was not looking at the inside. I went over the skins carefully, and I found the skins were sufficient.

4509. Did you find that the defects for which they had been rejected in the first instance had been

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remedied by Gibson in the interim?—I did. Where the dye had not reached the bottom, the parts had been removed and fresh parts put in.

4510. Sergeant Brodie says that they came back just as they had been sent away; and that you passed them, although he repeatedly showed you the defective places when they came back; is that true?—It is not; most decidedly not.

4511. Then he says that you ordered Crutchley to get his tools and awls and things to pick out all the wool to cover the defective parts, so that they would not be seen when they got to the regiments?—That I do with all the skins. There are four buckles and straps put on the inside of the sheep skin, and had to be sewed through the skin, and in sewing through the wool it frequently happens that a stitch catches the wool. There is scarcely a lot of skins comes but we find some like that, but I never reject them for it. I get Crutchley or any labourer to pull the wool out.

4512. That is a different thing from pulling the wool out to cover a defect?—Yes; there is no possibility of doing that. You cannot pull the wool out to cover a defect; the more you pull it out the worse it is. In many of the skins the wool is caught in a couple or three stitches, and if they went to the regiments in that state the chances are they would be objected to.

4513. Do you remember about that time rejecting some sheep skins from Bevington and Morris's?—Yes, I do; a lot of 200.

4514. On what ground were they rejected?—There was a great number of them defective in the dye; and I should think there was one half that had the straps wrongly placed. I did not inspect them myself; we had a first-class viewer then, and he inspected them, but I went over them myself to see the general quality of the article, which I always do. I went over the rejections myself, and I put some upon the accepted side that the viewer had rejected, and the total amount, if I remember right, was 86 rejected. Those were returned, and the reasons of rejection given upon the inspection note. One of Bevington and Morris's workmen came down about them, and I think the workman and Sergeant Brodie had some conversation upon the subject; at all events the skins were returned, and Bevington and Morris were very indignant when the inspection note went up; but one of the firm or their manager came down here about some leather and I asked him about the skins. He said they were very much disappointed when they got notice of 86 being rejected, but when they received the skins and saw the cause they were perfectly satisfied. The 86 were replaced for the 3rd Dragoon Guards at the time they were embarking. They were required in a very great hurry, and I inspected them myself at Mark-lane, where they were delivered.

4515. Do you remember the surplus saddlery, some of which was cast by you?—I only inspected it for one regiment, the Enniskillen Dragoons.

4516. Was there some saddlery then cast as bad?—A large quantity; there were 76.

4517. You have read this statement of Sergeant Brodie's, that you inspected some and threw what was good on one side, and what you thought bad on the other, and that he went to you and said, "The saddlery is new, it has not been worn at all," and you said, "Let it all go, the sooner we get away a lot of this lumber the better." Do you remember that?—It was saddlery that came from the Crimea; the trees were broken and quite unfit for further use; the panels, flaps, and tabs were not of the present pattern, and not likely ever to be made available. I considered if they were sold in that state they would bring more money than selling a naked tree. Cast saddlery brings a very small price at any time. When cavalry saddlery is sold, it is usually bought for donkeys to carry milk or water, or something of that sort. I considered that they would bring more at the time than they would since, and I am quite satisfied of it, for they can never be made available.

4518. Was it in consequence of Sergeant Brodie's remonstrance that you humoured him so far as not to send it away?—I mentioned the circumstance to Mr. Elliott, and he said, "There is no harm in letting them remain; let them remain if they can be made available;" and I went and told Sergeant Brodie to let them remain.

4519. Why have not you issued them since?—They are not the present pattern, that is issued, and the regiments they belong to have never required them; besides those, we have a large number put aside in the same way. There are in store about 900 flaps of the obsolete pattern, which will far more than meet the demand for the saddles of that pattern now in wear. They are of no use; you must furnish a new one; although some of those flaps now in store are new, they are not the size of the new pattern, and you cannot cut them to it.

4520. Sergeant Brodie says that they were not six months old, and ought to last about 18 years?—14 years is the expected period of their duration according to the Queen's Regulations, but you may count upon an average of 10 years.

4521. The result is that they are now in store and may remain there?—Yes; the flaps are not the size of the new pattern, and the panels are not the size, and to remake the latter would cost more than they are worth.

4522. And you still retain the opinion that it would have been better to have sold them?—Unquestionably; they would have brought more if they had gone together than they will ever bring again.

4523. Are you still issuing the obsolete pattern till you have exhausted the stock which you have in store?—Yes, we are; we are issuing them under certain circumstances, when what is called the annual inspection return comes for broken lots belonging to sets that are in wear; we then make them up for the regiments to which they belong, but if we are sending out a new saddle, we send it complete. If there is a regiment, for instance, sending in a return of unserviceable articles, 20 or 30 sets, as the case may be, all odd articles for saddles in wear, we make them up from the surplus serviceable that we have in store.

4524. Has not each regiment its separate saddlery?—Yes; and we keep them distinct.

4525. How many different sets have you?—We have in store now 23 different sets.

4526. That being the number of regiments of horse?—Yes, for which we have saddlery in store. There are 28 regiments altogether, and we keep the saddlery of each separate, and issue the things to the same regiment. We never can issue them to any other regiment, because they have the number of the regiment and the troop number stamped upon each article before they are issued.

4527. You have not applied to saddles the rule applied to other articles, namely, condemning them because they are obsolete; but you are going to issue them as long as you can to the regiments to which they belong?—We are bringing them in as far as we can; we keep them separate for the purpose. When a regiment sends them in as serviceable, they cannot well object to receive them as serviceable. One set of saddlery consists of 50 separate articles, so that there may be 10 or 12 of those articles unserviceable belonging to kits which are in wear; and in that case we give them out from the surplus that we have belonging to that regiment.

4528. (Colonel French.) Will not that destroy the uniformity of the saddlery of the regiment?—No; because they are part worn, and those they have are part worn; they are the same appointments from the same regiments.

4529. (Chairman.) Were the saddles piled about in heaps when you first came, or at any subsequent time?—When I came there was not much saddlery in store. There was the 3d Dragoon Guards' and the 15th Hussars' saddlery in store, and that was not arranged till I came. Frequently there were two or three lots came in, and we may, perhaps, have been issuing at the

time, and they could not be attended to till the issues were complete. During the last summer there were seven cavalry regiments embarked for India, and out of the surplus saddlery that we received from the reduction of two troops from each regiment after the Crimean war, we fitted out for them and others over 3,000 sets of saddlery; in fact, we fitted the whole of the regiments for India out of the surplus saddles and the saddles that we had altered from the experimental to the present pattern, with the exception of 236 of the 17th Lancers that were supplied with new saddlery.

4530. Was your issue very brisk?—It was at that time; so much so that we could scarcely meet the demand when the regiments were sending in surplus saddlery; at the same time it never remained there long.

4531. Sergeant Brodie says that the saddlery remained in a very bad state for months, and that it was getting blue-moulded and cracky; was that the case?—It never was worse than what you saw in the stores yesterday; when I say it never was worse, of course it required time to get it into that state. We frequently had 200 sets returned at a time. I never piled it until I had the irons oiled and the rust taken off, if there was rust, and the leather oiled when it required to be oiled. It came in good condition from the regiments that were at home; but that which came from the Crimea was covered with Crimean dirt, and it required time to get it clean.

4532. Sergeant Brodie says that he could not have his full scope to put things in a proper state for the interest of the public, and that a great deal of saddlery was spoilt?—There never was anything spoilt that came to Weedon for keeping; for instance, when it came in it remained in a dry store 30 feet from the ground, and we had always a number of men constantly employed in cleaning the irons and oiling the leather, and as they were cleaned and oiled they were piled in the store in the proper divisions.

4533. Sergeant Brodie also says that he wrote for dubbing to avoid this spoiling, and he could not get it?—I applied myself for dubbing; I gave in a requisition in the usual way to Mr. Elliott. I had what I call a minute book, into which everything is entered. Annual inspection returns, and other returns that come from regiments, are in the first instance sent to me. I examine them, and a statement of all the cavalry returns I put into a minute book, which minute book goes in every morning. I applied for dubbing because I thought it might suit better than oil. There had been some delay in getting it, and they sent the wrong sort; they sent the dubbing that is used for boots, which was not suitable for saddlery leather.

4434. Sergeant Brodie says, "I wrote for dubbing which had been ordered for four months, and the wrong sort of dubbing came. I could have got any quantity of the right sort. I had applied for it, and could not get them to do it. I have often applied for brushes and different things to keep the moths out," and so forth. Is that true?—He took the opportunity when I was away one day in London of writing a letter to Mr. Elliott, and Mr. Elliott sent the letter to me. I had applied for dubbing some time before that, and I have a perfect recollection of the wrong kind coming down, and more was applied for, which we got shortly after that, but on using it I found it did not suit so well as the sweet oil.

4535. Sergeant Brodie says that he was every day telling you of the abuses, which you did not like, but he was determined to do his duty. Was he repeatedly remonstrating with you?—No.

4536. You have given in a return before the Contracts' Committee, in which you state that only 76 saddles were sent away?—More than 76. 76 were the number that came in from the Enniskillen Dragoons, and were condemned as unserviceable. Another lot of 72 came from the 4th Light Dragoons; the two lots went together to Birmingham to be sold. The 72 of the 4th Light Dragoons were inspected by

the Board of Survey at Brighton before they were sent to us, so that I did not condemn them. I found that the unserviceable saddlery was so very large, particularly from regiments in the Crimea, and from distant parts of England, from Scotland, and Ireland, that the carriage of it would be far more than it was worth, and I immediately made a representation of it, and recommended that the whole of the surplus saddlery should be inspected by a board of officers previously to its being sent off, and that the unserviceable saddlery should be delivered to the barrack or ordnance stores where the regiment was stationed, and only the serviceable surplus should be sent up to Weedon, such as could be re-issued, and that recommendation was acted upon. I have a copy of my recommendation here; it is dated the 25th day of September 1856: "Recommended, that the director-general request the officer commanding the 2d Dragoon Guards, &c. to hold a board of survey on the saddlery in question, 220 sets, and submit the proceeding previously to its being forwarded, when instructions could then be given of the serviceable and unserviceable being disposed of in a proper manner, in order to prevent the unnecessary expense of sending the unserviceable to this depôt."

4537. When saddlery became unserviceable, was it always sent or promised to be sent back to Weedon?—That appeared to be the understanding when the Weedon establishment was open, but when the first lot from the Enniskillen Dragoons was sent, I wrote that letter which I have read, and the recommendation contained therein was acted upon, and the saddlery was inspected by a board of officers, and only the serviceable was sent here.

4538. Sergeant Brodie says that you condemned a lot more things which were packed up, and he was not sure whether they were sent away?—The things from the 4th Dragoons must have been running in his head.

4539. What books did you keep in your department?—I kept an inspection book, and another book. I could not say that it was an official book; it was more for my own information. When I came here Mr. Elliott told me that the ledger and other books would be kept at the office and not at the store; but we had so many issues of saddlery, that when an order came in we might issue articles to complete that order from four or five regiments, and I kept a book of the issues, stating what regiments they went to, and from what regiments they were taken.

4540. Was that a voluntary act on your part, or in pursuance of instructions that you received?—It was a voluntary act on my part for my own information.

4541. What books did you keep in the performance of your duty, and not for your own information?—I had nothing but the inspection book, that gave an account of the receipts.

4542. Would it not give an account of the issues?—There were no issues in the inspection book.

4543. What book had you to show your issues?—This book I speak of; the other books were kept at the office. When a return came from a regiment with a list of articles, perhaps 40 or 50 or 60 or 100 sets, it was signed by the commanding officer. I received them, and if the return was correct, I would say "Received," and sign it; if it was not correct, I would say "Received as corrected," and point it out in the minute book in the morning, and with that correction it was put in the ledger.

4544. Did you give receipts for all that you received, whether from regiments or contractors?—I gave the regimental return, countersigned "Received as corrected," or "Received according to return," as the case might be, and for receipts from contractors there is the inspection note.

4545. (Mr. Turner.) You kept no official book as to issues?—I did not.

4546. (Chairman.) Did you obtain receipts for all that you issued?—No; they went to the office; they did not come to the store at all. We receive an issue order for everything that we issue.

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4547. You say that the accounts were kept in the office, but we are informed that there are no regular entries made in any ledger at all in the office. Where would an account be kept of the issues if they were not entered in the ledger?—I had nothing to do with the office; my duties did not take me there.

4548. Except in this private memorandum, which was not an official book, would there be any record of issues?—That would show the issues, and the regimental returns or inspection notes, as the case might be, would show the receipts.

4549. When you issued to the regiments, would you ultimately have a receipt from the regiments?—A delivery note would be sent to the regiment, and that would be signed and returned.

4550. In the meantime surely there should be a record made of everything that left the establishment. You supposed that that was done at the office?—I supposed the issues were all put in the ledger.

4551. What protection had you individually for what you issued?—We received an issue order.

4552. Who kept the issue order?—I kept it; so far as keeping books was concerned, except they had given me the means of doing so, it was impossible they should be kept, for I had no time whatever to keep books.

4553. Have you had any different books in your department since Captain Gordon took charge?—Yes; there is a ledger in the store, and a man to keep it, who is called a storeholder, and is employed for that purpose.

4554. Previously to that there was no storeholder?—No.

4555. (*Mr. Turner.*) You were receiver, inspector, storeholder, and issuer, were you not?—Yes; and that left me no time for book-keeping.

4556. (*Chairman.*) With regard to the repairs of saddlery, was anybody allowed to repair their saddlery here?—No.

4557. We have heard something about Gibson having a sort of branch establishment here; can you explain that?—They had a Government contract for altering experimental saddles of the old pattern, according to a suggestion of mine, to the present pattern. They were condemned by the Horse Guards; and as there was a very large portion of them made, I should think over 2,000, I proposed that the trees should be cut down. They were too long; they went too far back on to the horse's loins, and too far forward on his shoulder blades. It was found that the outer wheeling flank motion was affected by the saddle, and altogether it was totally unsuitable. I had one altered and submitted it to the Horse Guards, and it was approved of.

4558. And then there was a contract between Gibson and the Government to effect the alterations?—Yes; it was carried out here, and some of his saddles are fitted up here, and for that purpose they have an establishment here. At one time they had as much as eight or ten men employed in the stores in a shop in the lower yard, where men are now employed in fitting up saddles.

4559. Are there any of Gibson's men employed here now in fitting up saddles?—No; there are some of Brace's men, and Middlemore's men, and Cuff's men employed here now in fitting up saddles. We make the trees, and the saddles are fitted up here.

4560. Are the materials required for those alterations found by the contractors or by the Government?—They find the materials; all we did was to issue the condemned pattern, and receive the altered saddle back.

4561. Brodie says, "I furnished a great many things out of my stores to those people; their shop was just behind ours, about 100 yards." Then he says that he wanted to keep an account of what things he furnished them with, and you would not let him; is that true?—I never prevented him. I rather encouraged him to keep an account. He had always a little book he was working with, but there was no leather furnished for the alteration of those

saddles. It was something else he must have referred to. We had a large number of numnahs—an Indian manufacture made of jute in India—and of wool here; they had been used in India for many years, and they are found to absorb the perspiration very quickly, and they have a wonderful quality of preserving their softness and elasticity. They are now served out to the whole army, and they were found to wear very quickly under the ring and billet of the sword on the near side, with the action of the horse, and a piece of leather, perhaps about eight or ten inches, was put upon those numnahs to prevent the chafing; that is what Brodie must have alluded to in speaking of serving out leather.

4562. Was that done by Gibson's men?—Yes. The way the leather was served out was this; we had what we called black leather covers, which were used as an experiment, during the Crimean war, in place of the sheep skin.

4563. Did you ever prevent or discourage Sergeant Brodie from taking receipts from Gibson's foreman for what he furnished?—Never.

4564. You say that you rather encouraged him to do so?—Yes; as a means of understanding perfectly what he was doing when we commenced the duties here, I had a piece of paper attached to every pile of goods, on which there is a catalogue of the whole of the articles in the pile; at the head is the number received; there is a red line across the centre, and below that the number issued, for the purpose of keeping a correct account; and that practice is carried out by the present storeholder.

4565. So that you can tell at a glance what the balance is?—Yes; latterly Brodie became so very discontented that I could not carry it out. I was fully occupied without having anything to do with pen and ink.

4566. He was finally dispensed with; was that because he could not get on with you?—The final reason of his being dispensed with was language that was used by him referring to me to Mr. Dwyer, that is, the senior clerk who is here now. So far as I can remember, the language was that he would smash Smith, and get to the top of the tree. I was in London at the time; when I returned, Mr. Dwyer came and told me, because he thought it was language that I should know of immediately. I wrote to Mr. Elliott, and said that I could not submit to be threatened, and I wished the whole circumstances to be reported to head-quarters; and that led to his being discontinued.

4567. (*Colonel French.*) Was Brodie a sergeant saddler when he was in a regiment?—Yes.

4568. Was he an able man in that capacity?—I never was stationed with the same regiment. As I said before, it was myself that had him appointed sergeant saddler to the cavalry dépôt at Canterbury; he had a lame lad who did the work. I was only three months at Canterbury, and then I was removed to head-quarters at Brighton, therefore I cannot speak of him much as a workman.

4569. (*Chairman.*) Sergeant Brodie said that he never could make out why he was dispensed with, but you say that it was in consequence of his conduct towards you?—There was a longer conversation than that a good deal, but that was the crowning of it,—that he would smash Smith and get to the top of the tree.

4570. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was there any occasion on which leather was served out from the public stores at Weedon, for the use of Gibson's men, to enable them to complete their work?—Yes; there was the black leather saddle covers, which were made available for that purpose; it was a large thing, the size of a sheep skin, and they were used instead of buying new leather, for the purpose of altering those numnahs; there was nothing more paid to Gibson's (I forget what the contract price was), than the wages for sewing it on.

4571. Gibson's men were, in fact, working up your materials to repair some articles belonging to the

Government?—Precisely; not exactly to repair, but to alter them.

4572. They never had any materials belonging to the public served out for their own purpose, to make any of their own articles, or alter any of their bad work?—No, nor any new materials of any kind; those were the obsolete saddle covers given out to put upon those numnahs to prevent the sword scabbard from chafing them.

4573. (*Chairman.*) You know Mr. Gibson?—I do.

4574. From his having a contract to repair these saddles, were not his men more here than others?—I think Mr. Gibson was here once, but his men were here longer than the others; they will be here some time according to their contract. He had a contract, I think, for a thousand saddles, and that has kept his men here a long time.

4575. Have you seen Mr. Gibson in London?—Yes.

4576. Where?—In his shop.

4577. Does he live there?—No, he does not; he lives in the country, I think. I never have been at his house in the country.

4578. Have you ever dined with Mr. Gibson?—I have once, when I was at Brighton, but never since I came here; it was not exactly a dinner, it was something to eat long after dinner time; it was on the occasion of an illumination. I came up from Brighton, and I had a view from his house. I think it was 9 or 10 o'clock I had something to eat.

4579. How long was that before you came here?—A month before I came here.

4580. The drift of my question is to know whether directly or indirectly you ever received from Mr. Gibson anything to make you more lenient to him?—No, certainly not.

4581. I put the question to you, as to everybody, as though you were upon your oath. Did you ever receive any civilities, or compliments, or douceurs, or money, or bribe of any sort or description from Mr. Gibson?—No, I did not.

4582. Or from any of his people or from any other people?—Not from any of his people; I did from Mr. Cuff. There was three dozen of wine sent to me. I should explain that I have known Mr. Cuff for more than 25 years. I knew him intimately before I got my commission; and I have both given presents to and received them from Mr. Cuff; and had it not been for our relative positions, I would not have said a word about the wine coming.

4583. Does Mr. Cuff live at his shop?—He lives at Barnes. Formerly, when I went to London, I was in the habit of going to his house; but for the sake of appearances I never have been to his house since I came to Weedon. I have frequently given Mr. Cuff presents; when I was in Scotland I often sent him whiskey; and had it not been for our relative positions, I would never have made a difficulty about this three dozen of wine. I immediately told Mr. Cuff to send me the account, and I paid it.

4584. You knew that the wine came from Mr. Cuff?—I knew it did, because nobody else would send it to me.

4585. Mr. Cuff says that you must have guessed where it came from?—I did. The way I became acquainted with Mr. Cuff was from his bringing out a saddle, and I was sent up by the colonel to see if it was worth taking notice of. I have been closely acquainted with Mr. Cuff ever since.

4586. You have never received anything from him since you came to Weedon?—I have not.

4587. (*Mr. Turner.*) Mr. Cuff says that his motive for sending the wine was, that he understood such things were acceptable at Weedon; that other saddlers had done it; was there any foundation for his belief?—None whatever. There are several other contractors, but I do not think I have ever seen them; they may have been here once or twice about patterns.

4588. (*Chairman.*) Do you remember the date of that wine coming? Was it after your difference with

Sergeant Brodie?—It was on the 27th of August 1857. I think Sergeant Brodie left in September.

4589. Have you had any objections made to the skins which Brodie mentioned by the regiments to which they were issued?—No; nor to any other articles that we have issued to regiments. I have never, for the two and a half years I have been here, had a report against me from any contractor for rejecting articles that were equal to pattern; and I have never had a report against me from the regiments for sending an article that was inferior to pattern.

4590. (*Colonel French.*) Do drafts going out to cavalry regiments on foreign service take their saddles with them?—No; the saddlery is completed up to the establishment. In furnishing a cavalry regiment with appointments, we never adhere to the strength, but always to the establishment, if there were only 10 men in the regiment. Regiments go out to India 500 in strength, and the establishment is made up to 703 horses and 790 men; we make up the appointments to the full establishment; so that when the drafts go out, they have the saddles of the invalids who return.

4591. In that case would not the saddles you have spoken of as being obsolete serve for the recruits at the depôts?—We have issued them for that purpose.

4592. Entirely?—I do not say entirely.

4593. Would it not be better that you should not give them any new patterns till the old patterns are exhausted?—At Maidstone they have the new pattern, and at Canterbury we have served them principally from the saddles returned as surplus serviceable.

4594. So that in time that stock will be exhausted?—Yes. The great failure in the saddles that came home from the Crimea was in the saddletrees. When the regiments went out to the Crimea only two saddletree makers went out with the whole army, and when the saddletree failed the whole set was unserviceable. I think that evil has been remedied, for since the school of instruction has been established we have turned out a saddletree maker for every regiment in the cavalry service. We are now manufacturing saddletrees for the cavalry service, which are made up partly by the dragoons under instruction. We are turning out saddletrees now at the rate of 120 a week.

4595. (*Chairman.*) You were quartermaster in the 6th Dragoon Guards?—Yes, over 15 years.

4596. From your experience in that capacity, do you think that the saddlery now furnished to Her Majesty's cavalry is better than it used to be?—It is. There is a great difference in the substance. Heretofore the saddlery, particularly the straps, were too heavy and too thick, and they wore themselves out; the parts that were exposed to wet, the surcingle and the breastplates that went under the horse, in spite of everything, became hard as a board and would crack. We have now a lighter substance and a superior quality, and I feel perfectly satisfied that the articles are both stronger and more durable.

4597. Does that arise from the improvement in the patterns?—Yes.

4598. Not from any more efficient inspection?—I do not say that it is a more efficient inspection. The difference between the present and former inspection is this: the goods were inspected by a board of officers, who were always attended by the quartermaster; the board were guided a great deal by the general appearance, and the general appearance is not a bad guide perhaps; but the inspection here is not only by the general appearance, but with regard to the quality of the article, the make of the article, and the intrinsic value of the article, and strict conformity to pattern.

4599. Then you think that the benefit which the soldier has in the improved character of the articles arises rather from the patterns being better than from any superiority in the system of inspection?—Certainly.

WEEDON.

Capt. T. Smith.

29 Sept. 1858.

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4600. Although your instructions are somewhat specific, that you are merely to see whether the articles furnished correspond with the pattern, have you ever offered suggestions for the improvement of the patterns?—I have, through the War Office to the Horse Guards.

4601. Have those suggestions been attended to?—Yes. The present saddle was introduced by myself two years and a half ago. I was then on the staff, and did not belong to the civil service. It was submitted to the Horse Guards, and after various trials and inspections, it was finally adopted as the pattern for the cavalry service, light and heavy, with the exception of a slight alteration that is to be made in the flap of a lancer's saddle.

4602. Do you think the patterns by which the goods have been passed are good and suitable for the public service?—Yes.

4603. Is there any improvement or alteration that you desire to suggest in the system of inspection?—I made a suggestion to Mr. Elliott when I came here first, which I think is very important, and would be a great protection to the inspectors. I proposed that an inspector should not know from whom the goods that he inspected were received; that in place of having names upon the goods, there should be only numbers, which would be a great means of doing away with any suspicion.

4604. Would that be possible?—There might be difficulties, but I think it would be worth while to overcome them, because if the inspectors knew nothing of the party from whom the goods came, they could not by possibility be influenced by a feeling in favour of any contractor. When the goods came in I would have them all numbered, and in place of having the contractor's name, I would have the contractor's number progressively upon the inspection note, and let the goods be passed or rejected under that number. There might be difficulties, but I think such a system could be carried out.

4605. In such articles as saddlery would you not very soon recognize the work?—If the work was suspected, still it would be but a suspicion. There are a great many articles you could not tell.

4606. Do saddlery goods at present come in casks, or in what shape?—They come in all sorts of packages,—barrels, cases, and bales.

4607. Does not your plan involve the necessity of unpacking the goods elsewhere than in your store-room?—No.

4608. Would not you know the handwriting of the people who directed them?—I do not think I could tell the handwriting upon any of the packages that came. I suppose it is very often done by the packers of the contractor. When the goods come here, and I look at them to see which I will select first, I cannot tell whose they are, unless it is stated to me from whom they come.

4609. (*Colonel French.*) Has not Captain Gordon the power of adopting your suggestion?—I think he has.

4610. Have you ever submitted any proposal to him?—I do not think that I ever named it to him. I pressed it upon Mr. Elliott when I first came to the establishment as a means of preventing suspicion of the inspectors having a feeling in favour of any particular contractor.

4611. (*Mr. Turner.*) Supposing that there is no such thing as bribery, may there not be prejudices in favour of one contractor rather than another on the part of the inspector, for example, from one contractor giving more trouble than another?—Precisely; and whenever there is a feeling the judgment will follow it. I think it would be a great point for the inspector to know nothing of the parties from whom the goods came.

4612. (*Chairman.*) Was it in the saddlery department that we heard that some of the regiments had refused things as being too good?—No; they remarked upon them. When goods go out to a regiment

there is a delivery note; and when they are new goods the commanding officer and the quartermaster have to certify that they are according to pattern, and fit for the service. In one particular case they stated that they were superior, but they did not make any objection to the goods on that ground. I never rejected an article because it was superior to the pattern; but at the same time there are a great many objections to it,—for example, the dress caps for the Lancers, if you send 100 which are a very superior article, and in another month another 100 which are quite equal to the pattern, but not of a superior quality, not a man who got the last supply, but would object to it; he would go to his comrades, and say, "See the common trashy thing that I have got, and 'what a fine dress cap my comrade has got.'" Although I have never objected to an article superior to the pattern, I have objected to the sealed patterns.

4613. As being too good or too bad?—There are what are called standard sealed patterns, and very frequently duplicates; if the duplicate is even a shade better than the standard sealed pattern, and the goods are inspected by that duplicate, they may be rejected. When you have rejected them the contractor will say, "Mine are equal to the sealed pattern;" he will compare them with the standard pattern. You will find that they are equal although they have been rejected upon the duplicate.

4614. Is the duplicate supplied to the contractor or to you?—The duplicates are furnished to the contractor and to us; sometimes duplicates are sent from Pall Mall here to inspect supplies by.

4615. (*Mr. Turner.*) Does not it require great judgment to seal patterns, if one person would pass goods, and another reject them, from not being, as one of the witnesses said, like stamped sovereigns?—It requires very nice discernment; when standard patterns are made, they should be invariably in triplicate—one pattern for Pall Mall, one for the contractor, and one for the inspector; there is no difficulty in it, and they are doing it now. They had frequently only one pattern at Pall Mall, and if a duplicate is required to be made, it is the most difficult thing to make two boots or two saddles the same; although the materials are the same, the difference in the workmen will make some slight variation.

4616. (*Chairman.*) When a duplicate pattern is not made at the time that the standard pattern is first exhibited to a contractor, who is the responsible person who seals the duplicate?—Sir Thomas Troubridge, the deputy adjutant-general.

4617. Who advises him?—For saddlery, I believe I am the culprit, if there is anything wrong.

4618. Does not the duplicate come from the contractor?—Yes; and it is sometimes sent from Weedon; sometimes they apply to us for an article to be sealed for a pattern. The duplicates are sometimes made by the tradesmen in town, and then they require to be inspected.

4619. Would Sir Thomas Troubridge, so far as you know, ever seal a duplicate pattern, unless that duplicate pattern had been passed by a person whom he considered to be a competent inspector?—Certainly not, without being inspected. I believe he has never sealed an article that has not been previously compared in inspection.

4620. In the case of saddlery you are that inspector?—Yes.

4621. (*Mr. Turner.*) Does not it require very great competency and honesty on the part of the adviser of Sir Thomas Troubridge, if he seals patterns upon advice given to him?—Yes; but Sir Thomas Troubridge himself, from the practice which he has had, has a very good idea of comparison; he has been at it for two and a half years.

4622. So far as your experience goes in your department of saddlery, does Sir Thomas Troubridge pay minute attention to check your judgment before he seals a pattern?—He does; he is very cautious in

putting the seal on a pattern ; he compares every thing before he seals it.

4623. (*Chairman.*) I have already asked you about the quality of the saddlery which is now furnished to the cavalry ; can you form a judgment as to the cost, compared with that supplied under the former system ?—It is cheaper considerably than it was under the old system, when it was supplied by the colonels ; competition has brought it down, particularly as the country saddlers are competing with the town ones. The competition of the Birmingham and

Walsall manufacturers, where the great seat of the manufactory is, has made a considerable difference in the price.

4624. As regards saddlery—the article is better for the soldier, and there is a benefit in the cost to the public ?—Yes ; that does not affect the soldier ; saddlery, not being necessities, is supplied by the Government.

4625. Does not it affect the soldier's comfort ?—Yes ; he is getting a much more comfortable thing.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 11 o'clock.

WEEDON.

Thursday, 30th September 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. THOMAS RANDALL examined.

4626. (*Chairman.*) You represent the firm of Parker and Co., boot manufacturers at Higham Ferrers, I believe ?—Yes.

4627. Have you been engaged largely in contracting for boots to be delivered at Weedon ?—Rather largely.

4628. Is your firm one of those who used to have a good deal to do under the old system ?—Yes.

4629. Have you any memorandum at all of the quantity which you have delivered at Weedon ?—Yes ; we have delivered about 100,000 pairs, I believe.

4630. You say that you were largely engaged under the old system ; do you think that your business with the Government has increased or diminished since the alteration of the system ?—I think it has rather increased ; not much.

4631. Are your profits as great or less than they used to be ?—I do not think there is much difference ; scarcely any difference.

4632. Have you had occasion to complain of the system of inspection at Weedon ?—No ; it is very rigid ; but I do not think I have any reason to complain of it.

4633. Have you had any large amount of rejections ?—Not very large ; they are not always alike ; sometimes they are larger than I expected they would be, but we are apt to think then that they are too severe with us.

4634. Have you ever been to Weedon in consequence of rejections, to ascertain the cause ?—I have been once or twice to see the faults pointed out to me ; that is all.

4635. What has been your opinion as to the justice of the objections ? Have the faults appeared to exist which were pointed out to you ?—Upon the whole, I think they have been reasonable.

4636. Have you any reason to suppose that one of the inspectors has been more rigid than the other ?—I do not know who inspected the boots at all.

4637. Have you ever employed as a bootmaker any of the persons who were in the Government establishment ?—No ; never.

4638. Have you any suggestion to make as to any alteration in the system of inspection which you think might be an improvement to it ?—I do not object to the system of inspection, because I think it is necessary to have a strict inspection for the sake of the service ; but sometimes parties feel aggrieved, and it would perhaps be as well to have some one to refer to, if such a thing should arise as unnecessary

rejections ; an appeal in that case would be more satisfactory to the contractor.

4639. Have you ever had such rejections as to make you feel desirous of appealing to some more experienced or practical man ?—No.

4640. Taking into account the increased price of leather as compared with the price some time ago, is the price at which you furnish an article of the same value higher or lower than it used to be ?—It is lower now than it used to be according to the price of leather.

4641. In your judgment the price is lower for an article equally good ?—Yes.

4642. Do the public get the advantage of that reduced price in your opinion ?—Decidedly.

4643. Whose profits are less ?—It is the manufacturer whose profits would be less.

4644. You say that your profits have been the same ?—I am speaking about the last three months. Previously to April we got a higher price than we are getting now. Our contracts are now running until we get three months' notice. When we reduced the price in April, leather was lower than it is now ; so that perhaps for two or three months we may be losing money ; but we expect a change of circumstances, so as to make it up again.

4645. Do you think that the system of open competition by tender has had a tendency to lower the price ?—It would sometimes ; and sometimes I think it would tend to raise the price. For example in the case of a very brisk demand for labour and goods, the same as it was some few years ago, if you issued tenders it would be likely to raise the price ; because the tanners would know what was wanted, and the workmen read the papers as well as we do, and perhaps a little more ; they would stick up for an increased amount of wages, so that we should have to pay an increase of wages and an increase in the price of leather ; but if it were managed privately, it might be so arranged that we should get things in a steady course.

4646. You think the knowledge that there was a large demand would have a tendency to raise the price of materials and labour ?—Yes ; we have had to suffer for that considerably.

4647. (*Mr. Turner.*) The main ingredient in the cost of a pair of boots is first of all the leather ?—Yes.

4648. And thread for sewing ?—Yes ; but that is a small affair.

WEEDON.

Capt. T. Smith.

29 Sept. 1858.

WEEDON.

Mr. T. Randall.

30 Sept. 1858.

WEEDON.

Mr. T. Randall.

30 Sept. 1858.

4649. And the next is the labour which manufactures the boots?—Yes.

4650. Leather has considerably fluctuated in its value, has it not?—Yes.

4651. Has labour fluctuated much also?—It did; when the gold fields were first discovered we could scarcely get men at all. Since the reduction in April we have reduced 3d. per pair.

4652. How much per cent. has labour fluctuated?—Ten per cent.

4653. Is that the utmost that labour has fluctuated in the boot trade within the last three years?—I think that is about the reduction.

4654. How much per cent. has leather fluctuated, taking the two prices, the highest and the lowest?—Leather has fluctuated more than 100 per cent., compared with what it was a few years ago.

4655. When you make contracts with the Government at a time when labour and leather are very high, are you not obliged to cut down your profits at such a period, compared to a period when you have reasonable prices in both labour and leather?—Yes; we always anticipate that the price will get lower when it is extremely high.

4656. You bear the high price of materials and labour in your trade as an accident, and are satisfied sometimes to get almost no profit at all in order that you may keep your connexion together; is that the fact?—Yes.

4657. Must not any comparison between the price of boots under the old system and under the new system be guided a good deal by the state of the leather market with respect to high prices and low prices?—Yes.

4658. Therefore you cannot come to any very accurate conclusion as to whether you get more profit under one system than the other?—Exactly.

4659. Have you ever yourself determined a running contract by notice?—Yes.

4660. Was that in consequence of the price of leather going up?—Yes; it gradually increased until it got to such a price that we could not go along, and we have been obliged to give notice to terminate the contract.

4661. Was it your practice under the old system to have running contracts with the army clothiers?—We generally entered into a contract; although it was not so binding a contract as we have with the Government, it was what we call a contract between ourselves for six months or twelve months.

4662. (*Colonel French.*) Some of the contractors for boots have complained that in the rejection of their boots they have met with very rough, unfair usage. Did you find it so in yours?—No.

4663. Did you ever, under the old system, furnish ammunition boots to the Government?—To the clothiers I have.

4664. Were they of the same quality as the present supply?—They were not so good as they are at present.

4665. Not so well with regard to work?—Not so good; the pattern was different from what it is now.

4666. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you generally have a sealed pattern to work by?—There is a sealed pattern at the clothing board.

4667. Have not you one to guide you?—They seal one of my boots; that is only for our own guidance.

4668. Why do they seal one of your boots?—Just to show our workpeople. I think there is a clause in the specification, that the contractor is to be entirely guided by the original pattern at the War Office; therefore, although we have a pattern, it is not the pattern.

4669. Supposing it is worse than the original pattern, and you work by it, does not that increase the risk of your not making the boots as good as the original pattern?—Not at all.

4670. Have your boots ever been examined here—examined by a duplicate pattern which you had furnished and got sealed?—I am not aware of such a thing.

4671. Do you think there would be any advantage in having triplicate patterns, one for the War Office, one for the contractor, and one for the inspectors here?—It is a difficult matter to get two boots alike exactly.

4672. Then is it not a very difficult ordeal for the supply to go through?—Yes; we cannot get two men to work alike. If the materials were exactly the same, the manufactured article would not appear the same.

4673. Would not you have more confidence in a competent than an incompetent man inspecting the boots, if they are so liable to variation?—Yes.

4674. Would you not have more confidence, supposing there was a power of appeal, as there is so much liability to difference of opinion between you and the inspectors?—I think that that would be very desirable.

4675. If you were satisfied that you had the protection of an appeal, would it not influence your calculation of the cost in making a tender?—I do not think it would.

4676. In making a tender do not you contemplate as one of the possibilities, that a considerable number of your boots may be rejected?—Yes.

4677. Is it not an evil to you to have them so rejected?—Of course it is a very great loss.

4678. In making a contract for 10,000 pairs of boots, is not the liability to a great loss from a considerable number of rejections one of the items of calculation, and would not that influence the price of the article or the price of the tender?—Yes; of course it would.

4679. Ought you not to take that into calculation?—We do take it into calculation.

4680. The possibility of undue rejections?—Not undue rejections; we expect that there will be some rejections.

4681. Will you explain why you would not appreciate in your tender the advantage of having those rejections corrected or adjusted by an appeal?—That would be the case if there was a large quantity of rejections, and we got them afterwards passed, but we do not contemplate having many rejections.

4682. (*Chairman.*) Supposing you had the power of appeal, do you think that would have influenced you to tender at a lower price for the articles which you furnish to the Government?—Not at all, so far as regards myself.

4683. You say that an appeal would be desirable; if not for you, for whom is it desirable?—In case there should be undue rejections at any time, as it appears many people think there are.

4684. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are you aware that many boot contractors are very far from entertaining the same opinion that you do, as to the nature of those rejections?—I dare say.

4685. (*Colonel French.*) Did you furnish the ammunition boots which were supplied by the Government to the soldier annually under the old system?—I always understood that that was what we called the regulation boot; we never furnished them except to the clothiers.

4686. (*Chairman.*) Did you, as a matter of fact, furnish any boots direct to the Government, or only to the clothiers?—Entirely to the clothiers what we used to supply.

4687. Did you ever give or offer to anybody connected with this establishment anything like a douceur or reward?—Not anything at all in any shape or way.

4688. Have you any reason to suppose that any practice of the sort existed here?—No.

Mr. THOMAS WETHERELL examined.

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4689. (*Chairman.*) Do you carry on business at Northampton as a bootmaker?—Yes.

4690. Have you had large contracts with the Government for the supply of boots for the army?—I have contracted with them for some few years.

4691. As well under the old system as under the present system?—Yes; some under the old system and some under the present.

4692. We have been led to understand that there were formerly about five or six large bootmakers who supplied the Government; was your house one of them?—No.

4693. Have you gone into the trade of supplying the Government more largely since the open system of competition was established?—Yes.

4694. Do you furnish as good a boot now as you did formerly?—The boots now supplied are better than they were a few years ago.

4695. Is the price higher or lower?—The price is higher.

4696. Taking into consideration the difference in value, are they dearer or cheaper than they were?—They are cheaper to the Government at present.

4697. Can you state about what number of boots you have supplied to Weedon?—No; I have no exact idea, except that I have supplied them with 3,000 pairs a month for some time.

4698. For how long has that been going on?—I cannot tell; some considerable time.

4699. Have you had any great number of boots rejected upon inspection here?—We have not lately had a great number; the number of rejections varies.

4700. Have you any reason to think that the system of inspection has been too rigid? Have good boots been rejected?—I think the system of inspection is arbitrary.

4701. What are your grounds for that opinion?—Boots are rejected at times which ought not to be rejected. The inspectors now specify the cause of rejection, but it is not always a correct specification. I have at times complained about it.

4702. Have you ever come to Weedon on that account?—Yes; I have come to Weedon once or twice for that purpose; but I found, although they were exceedingly civil, it was the same again another time, so that I did not come again.

4703. Can you state at all the amount of rejections?—My rejections have varied from $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to 10 per cent. I have thought that the contractors have been put in a false position by being dependent entirely upon the opinion of labourers or viewers, I think they call them, who would sometimes reject boots for reasons that were really not faults.

4704. Can you specify any actual instances?—Sometimes when I have had them back I have re-cleaned those boots and sent them in again, and they have passed.

4705. Merely brushing them up?—Yes; putting them straight again, because the men will push up what we call the feather of the in-sole. I have put that straight, and they have passed. I have told them about it, and they have said it was a very wrong proceeding; but having no other court of appeal, I have appealed to myself, and they have confirmed my opinion.

4706. Are you satisfied with the appeal at present existing?—By no means; I am dissatisfied with it, because it puts me in a false position. If we had competent persons to appeal to, I as an individual should be vastly more satisfied.

4707. Can you give the names of any persons who have shown this incapacity?—I do not know at all who the persons are. I do not think I know the name of a single person who inspects boots. I know who are the heads of the department.

4708. You are speaking of Mr. Hoile, Mr. Folkard, and Mr. Watson?—Yes; I know those three names, but the persons under them who are the virtual

inspectors of the boots I do not know. To give you some particulars: I have had boots returned to me with a cross chalk mark put upon the front of the boot, and in my rejection paper it has been "coarse vamps," or front; they have not been so, but had merely a small excess of size in cleaning up. I have made my man wash the size off, and they have passed. They have not been "coarse vamps" then. If the men were competent to do their duty at all times, they would not reject boots for that cause.

4709. Would an excess of size be any disadvantage?—Not at all.

4710. Would it require to be removed before the boots went into wear?—No; it damages the appearance of the boot, but it is a thing that any person who knows much about leather can detect in a moment.

4711. Would it cost anything to remove it?—Half a minute's time, perhaps.

4712. Can you state to what extent those rejections upon arbitrary and insufficient grounds have taken place?—They vary very much; I could not specify the amount.

4713. Have any of the objections been well founded?—I think, generally speaking, they are well founded; I do not find any fault with the strictness of the inspection. If we could only have the reasons why the goods were rejected, so that if it were an arbitrary reason we could appeal to some competent person, I should be perfectly satisfied then.

4714. Have the inspectors been more particular in stating the special grounds of rejection, than they were formerly?—Yes.

4715. To whom would you desire that the power of appeal should be entrusted?—Any respectable person who thoroughly understands the boot and shoe trade.

4716. Do you mean an independent person appointed as an arbitrator, in the same way as an arbitrator is appointed when there is a difference between two individuals? Or would you be content with the judgment of another Government officer of more practical knowledge than the viewer may be supposed to possess?—I do not think we should benefit our position by that. I think we should have a person or persons independent of Government, with all due deference to Government officials.

4717. Having directed your mind to the subject, who, in your opinion, should pay that person,—the losing party?—I think so. Perhaps that answer is scarcely right, for if one or two persons were regularly appointed, it would scarcely, I fancy, assume the shape of whether the losing party or the winning party should pay, for the question of payment to a referee would be such a trifling matter.

4718. Do you mean trifling because the labour required would be small?—I think the labour would be small. The very fact of there being a court of appeal would remove those arbitrary rejections.

4719. You think that the existence of an appeal would make the inspectors more careful not to reject boots on insufficient grounds?—Yes.

4720. (*Mr. Turner.*) You said that you had appealed to yourself in some cases, inasmuch as you had sent in boots which had been rejected, to be re-viewed, and that they had then passed; were not you in fact appealing further than to yourself, that is to the judgment of the viewer in sending the boot in a second time?—Either to his judgment or want of judgment.

4721. Were not you rather testing the judgment of the viewer by sending in the boot without his knowledge a second time, to see whether he still held the same opinion?—It would be, practically, as you say.

4722. The instances you have mentioned rather go to prove that the viewers did not exhibit any very great judgment?—Precisely.

4723. You are not, like the previous witness, perfectly satisfied with all your rejections?—I am satis-

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fied, with the exception I have named. I find no fault with rigid inspection, if we only had competent men at all times to view our boots.

4724. When a man who is employed to view boots, and must therefore be assumed to be competent to view them, pronounces that the vamps are coarse, when, in fact, all the evil is a little too much size, does not that indicate a very great want of knowledge?—It indicates a want of knowledge.

4725. (*Chairman.*) Did they attribute the rejection to a wrong cause?—They did attribute it to a wrong cause.

4726. How do you know that they did?—They put a chalk mark on the front of the boot; and in my inspection paper they say so many pairs for this fault, so many pairs for the other fault. When we look the boots over we compare the number returned with the causes, and we find so many pairs chalked on the top; we compare that with the number specified in the paper, and we find so many crossed on the bottom as indicating a weak sole.

4727. In the cases in which you say the apparent defect arose from too much size, was the cause of rejection specified as coarse vamps?—Yes. The reason why I specially name this is, that I have a practice of always sorting out the faults that may arise in my own manufactory, and the faults that may be made by the workmen. I give all my workpeople a bonus on every pair that is passed by the inspector, as an incentive to do their work well; and for every pair that is returned I deduct so much, so that if a boot is returned to me as badly sewn, I deduct so much from the man who made the boot. If the boot is returned from having a light sole or a coarse front I still pay the man for that boot, because the fault is assumed to be mine. Every man puts a number on his boots and we take an account and check it off.

4728. Supposing the cause of rejection is stated as bad workmanship, and in your judgment the workmanship is good; what happens then?—The man loses; and I grumble because I lose 3s., and the man loses a fraction.

4729. You make your workmen suffer in that case for the incompetency or the mistake of the inspectors here?—Precisely.

4730. Have you ever employed any men to work who have been in the Government employment here?—I think not; I am not aware that I have. I have looked through my books and I find I have but two or three men working for me in Weedon. I do not know whether they are in the Government employment.

4731. Have you ever, directly or indirectly, done anything to facilitate the passing of your boots except what you have stated? Have you ever bribed?—Never.

4732. Nothing of the kind?—No.

4733. Do you know any manufacturers who ever have?—No.

4734. Do you believe that any ever have?—I have heard the general report that such practices are current, but nothing beyond that.

4735. Have you any reason to suppose that any manufacturer has ever had a preference shown to him?—No. I think the principal reason of one manufacturer getting on better than another is that he has paid a little more attention to his work before it has been sent in.

4736. Are you a practical man?—I have been brought up to the leather trade ever since I was a boy, and I have served at the manual part of it as a tanner, and since as a shoemaker.

4738. Will you be good enough to look at that pair of boots (*Dowie's sealed pattern pair*)? Bear in mind that those boots were sealed more than two years ago, and that they have been knocked about and subjected to a good deal of manipulation, and may, consequently, be deteriorated; what do you think of those boots?—I do not think they are equal to the present pattern by a long way.

4738. Are they equal to the boots that you were furnishing two years ago?—No; decidedly not.

4739. What is the objection to them?—The leather is not first class; and I do not think the work is altogether what it should be for the Government supply.

4740. The inspectors have given a certain opinion of what they conceive the materials to consist of; is it possible to ascertain with anything like precision after a boot is made up, of what materials it is made, with reference to the portions of the animal from which the leather is taken?—Yes; pretty accurately.

4741. Not as a question of fact, but as a matter of opinion, what is the in-sole made of in these boots?—I think the in-sole is made of the belly part of the hide, which was usual, or was until recently; two years ago it would have been the proper part of the hide to be used.

4742. (*Mr. Turner.*) You would, in your boots, have used such a part of the hide two years ago?—Yes, a very prime description of the hide; but the specification has been altered within the last two years, and the in-sole may be cut out of the shoulder instead of the belly part of the hide.

4743. (*Chairman.*) Is your opinion asked on these boots for the first time?—Yes.

4744. Were you present at the meeting at the Tower?—Yes.

4745. As a matter of opinion, you think that the in-sole is cut from the belly?—I think so.

4746. As a matter of opinion also, of what do you think the upper leather is made?—By the break in the back of this boot, it is cut, I should say, from East India kip, and the upper is cut of kip.

4747. If you were asked your opinion, what kind of kip should you imagine it was?—I should say East India kip, but I could not be positive upon that subject at all.

4748. Do you think it is a good kind of kip?—It does not look to be quite first rate, but the boots having been made up for some years, that would affect their present appearance most materially. If they were put into a person's hands and properly cleaned over and sized up, they would look better than they do now.

4749. As a practical man you can make allowance for that?—Yes.

4750. Will you look at the soles of those boots,—can you judge, at all, whether those are made from a foreign butt or a home butt?—I could not tell that.

4751. Will you look now at that single sole,—can you form any judgment, as a matter of opinion, whether that is from a foreign butt or a home butt?—I should say it was English, but it depends so much upon the tannage. One tanner will produce different leather from another, taking the same hide to commence with, so that you would not for a moment suppose it was the same hide or the same class of hide.

4752. Can you tell, from looking at that sole, from what portion of the hide it is cut?—It is cut from the best part of the hide, from the butt of leather undoubtedly, but it is not exactly suitable for an army blucher.

4753. That was a sealed pattern?—It could not be a sealed pattern for regulation boot.

4754. Your opinion is that from its character it could not have been?—I should not think of putting a sole of that class in for my own trade. I never should have thought of doing so. If this was a sealed pattern I should say that the contractor was a very lucky man.

4755. (*Mr. Turner.*) You think there has been great neglect somewhere in sealing that pattern?—It would depend upon what it was sealed for; if it was for a light shoe it would be a very good sole, but if it was for a regulation boot it was a very light sole.

4756. (*Chairman.*) Making all the allowances I have mentioned, what should you think would be a fair price for the Government to pay for boots of that class two years back?—I cannot imagine that the Government would buy a boot of this class.

4757. That is the sealed pattern furnished by the Government. That being so, they have contracted to have boots of that class: whether they ought or ought not, is not now the question. If they did, what would have been a fair price for them to pay?—I should say from 7s. to 8s. would be a fair price to give for a boot of this kind.

4758. (*Mr. Turner.*) You cannot approach nearer?—7s. 6d. would be a paying price to the manufacturer to make this boot at that time.

4759. Will you look at the third boot (*a single boot having a seal upon it*)? That, as you perceive, is a sealed pattern. What is your opinion of it compared with the other pair of boots?—I think that it is a much superior boot.

Mr. THOMAS RANDALL further examined.

4763. (*Chairman.*) Will you look at that pair of boots? That was a pattern sealed rather more than two years ago; is it a proper pattern to have been sealed, in your judgment?—No.

4764. You have heard the questions that I have put to Mr. Wetherell; I will not take you in detail through them; can you judge of what the in-sole is made, as a matter of opinion?—One has the appearance of shoulder, and the other of belly to me; I should say it is belly.

4765. What should you say the upper leathers are made of?—I think they are cut from East India kip.

4766. Good East India or common East India kip?—It is inferior, I consider.

4767. Are the soles of those patterns, as far as you can judge, made of foreign or home butt?—I think this is English, as we call it; but that seems to be of very poor quality.

4768. Look at the other boot (*the single sealed pattern*). What do you think of that?—That is much better.

4769. What should you say as to the comparative price of those boots?—I think about what Mr. Wetherell says; the difference of price would be 1s. 6d. or 2s. a pair.

4770. Were you at the meeting at the Tower?—Yes, I was there.

4771. Did you hear any complaints made then of Mr. Dowie's boots, or anybody else's, being dealt with unfairly—violence being used in pulling it to see the feather, or whatever you call it?—I think there was such a remark made, but I do not remember by whom it was made.

(*Mr. Wetherell.*) I think it was made by myself.

4772. (*Chairman to Mr. Wetherell.*) What was it that you complained of at the Tower?—I complained of the way in which the feather of the boots was broken up, that is the edge of the in-sole, to expose the sewing.

4773. What led you to know that any undue violence had been used?—We found boots among our returns defaced in a way that I will defy any mortal finger and thumb to do it.

4774. (*Colonel French.*) I asked you whether the boots that were rejected had received any undue violence in the inspection, and you said, "No"?—I did not understand you as asking that question, or I should have named the points. My remark at the Tower was applied to the way in which the feather of the boots was turned up; that is one of the points

4760. How much better?—Intrinsically it is worth double the other.

4761. What would be the proper price for the Government to pay for that boot two years ago?—This is a very tolerable boot of the old class of boot; it is not so good as the present supply. No doubt this boot would be worth 9s. I speak from memory; I do not speak from what I know the price of leather was two years ago. Considering the first pair I looked at to be worth 7s. 6d., I should say that this boot was worth 9s.

4762. That being a sealed pattern, supposing the first pair was also a sealed pattern, if the contractor were to make his boots by it, would it be fair to reject them on a third boot?—It would be very unfair.

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which an umpire would have sometimes to decide, whether a boot ought to be rejected if the feather could be raised; among shoemakers we have a difference of opinion; the inspector here, requires the feather of the in-sole to be kept very hard, so that it cannot be raised; for my own wear, I should not have the boot made so; I think it is a detriment to the boot; and the plan at Weedon is, if it can be raised so as to show the sewing, it is then called bad sewing, and the boots are returned as such; I maintain that it is not always the case.

4775. (*Chairman.*) That is a difference of opinion?—Yes.

4776. How is it undue violence?—Because we find boots returned,—we have not had it of late,—we have not noticed it since the meeting at the Tower.

4777. We passed through the stores and saw the actual manipulation, and we were assured that nothing is done but by the finger and thumb?—I quite believe that at present it is so; but that in former times it was otherwise, I am equally of opinion.

4778. (*Colonel French.*) What price does the Government pay you for your boots?—10s.

4779. Did you supply any of the clothiers with boots?—Not any.

4780. Have you ever done so lately?—No, not for Government supply. I have for militia regiments.

4781. What did you charge them for boots?—Prices varying from 8s. to 9s.

4782. Then they are not of the same quality as those that you furnished to the Government?—Not so good. A great many boots that went for militia purposes were boots that I purchased of Mr. Sharman. He had a large quantity of boots thrown on his hands, and I purchased a very considerable number of him; and they have kept me going the last year, for militia regiments going abroad. I have sometimes had to send them to Ireland, to the camp there, and they have gone for different purposes for soldiers. I never inquired what purposes they went for.

4783. Did you furnish them to the quarter-masters or to the clothiers?—To clothiers; in that case they were boots precisely like those.

4784. (*Chairman.*) Do not you think that is good enough to be furnished to the line?—It is not nearly as good a boot as those at present supplied to the line. Soldiers now get a better boot, in point of materials, than any of us would get if we wanted to buy a pair of boots for ourselves.

Mr. EDWARD FURNESS examined.

Mr. E. Furness.

4785. (*Chairman.*) Are you a practical bootmaker?—I have been 37 years at the business.

4786. Were you apprenticed originally?—Yes.

4787. Have you worked at the trade yourself?—I served seven years on the seat as a boot-closer.

4788. Do you carry on business in Lamb's Conduit-street, in London?—Yes.

4789. Look at that pattern pair of boots; you have had an opportunity of doing so already?—Yes.

4790. Without anything to guide you except just seeing them, what would be your judgment as to what the in-soles are made of?—The inner soles were made from what we call the middle belly; that is a term in our business; it is a little better than the

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thinner part of the skin ; it is the next sole approaching the shoulder ; that is my opinion.

4791. What are the upper leathers made of?—East India kip of the coarsest description ; there is no body whatever in it.

4792. You must bear in mind that those boots have been knocked about for two years?—That does not make any difference.

4793. Are you able to give your opinion with the same confidence now as if you had seen the boots when they were fresh?—Precisely.

4794. Have you examined the workmanship?—Yes ; it is very indifferent, and not at all fit for hard usage.

4795. Have the boots apparently been subjected to hard usage?—I do not know about these. I mean when the soldiers wear them.

4796. Looking at the boots without any information, where should you say the soles were cut from?—I should say they came from near the prime of the butt.

4797. Could you form an opinion whether it was a foreign or a home butt?—My opinion is that it is a foreign butt.

4798. If I understand you, on the whole they are not a good pair of boots for a soldier's wear?—Not at all.

4799. What is the value of them?—At the utmost 7s. 6d.

4800. Is the single boot better than the pair?—Yes ; it is worth two of them for wear.

4801. Do you think it would be just to the contractors to examine a lot of boots supplied according to the first pattern by the second pattern?—No ; it would not.

4802. Look at that piece of leather in the shape of a sole ; have you anything to say about that?—That is a foreign sole in my opinion. I should be more positive had it not been wetted and hammered ; it is not, therefore, a fair sample of leather. A fair sample of sole leather should be as it is cut from the butt ; but this has been wetted and hammered so that it is disguised, and it would be impossible positively to swear to it. I have a little doubt whether it is a foreign butt or a very bad English butt.

4803. I believe you were all day yesterday engaged in examining a lot of boots by that first pattern?—Yes.

4804. What number did you examine?—874 pairs.

4805. You examined them, as I understand, with that which you say is the inferior pair?—Yes.

4806. In your judgment were the 874 pairs in the main as good or better than the pattern?—I made three lots of them. The first lot, which I consider the best, is 390 pairs ; the upper leathers in that lot alone, leaving out the soles, are worth 20 per cent. more than the pattern boot. Now, in lot 2, that is 172 pairs, I consider, upon the whole, that the upper leathers are quite as good as the pattern. Lot 3, 312 pairs, 7 per cent. worse than the pattern in the upper leathers ; but all the soles and bottom stuff are equal to the pattern throughout.

4807. Are the whole of the 874 pairs fully as

good as this pattern pair?—I should say, taking the average, they are quite as good as the pattern ; taking one with the other, I think they are much better.

4808. Do you think that that 874 pairs are, as far as your judgment goes, good and serviceable boots to be issued to the soldiers?—No, not at all. They are not fit for soldiers' wear on account of the softness of the inner soles. If those very inferior soles once got wet it would take a very long time to get them dry ; the consequence would be when they were thoroughly saturated with wet an impression would be made by the man walking ; he would always have his foot in a ruck, and be always walking as if he was on a ploughed field for ever after, in consequence of the softness of the soles.

4809. What wear do you think they would stand?—I think if they were used in the wet, in such a morning as this (which happens to be very wet), about nine days' good hard wear.

4810. If the inspector had merely looked at the pattern and compared the supply with the pattern, you think the boots ought to have been passed?—Yes. If the inspector knew his business he would have passed the boots.

4811. If the inspector had a discretion as to what was fit to be issued to the soldier, you think the boots ought not to have passed?—I think not.

4812. (Mr. Turner.) You have stated that the boots on the whole are equal to pattern, but that they are not fit for soldiers' wear?—Quite so.

4813. Was the contractor in fault in sending in that supply, or the person, whoever he might be, who selected the pattern?—I should think the parties who accepted the pattern were in fault.

4814. The person who sanctioned the pattern, and sealed it?—Quite so.

4815. Having made that error in sealing a boot which was unfit for soldiers' wear, the contractor having fulfilled all that he undertook to fulfil, namely, executing an order according to such a pattern, was it fair to strain a point to reject his boots by comparison with a different pattern altogether as it would appear, and throw on his hands a very large portion of the goods he had sent in?—I should say certainly not.

4816. (Colonel French.) Are you of opinion that the best boot of the three was fit for soldiers' wear?—I should say it was for some portion of the service ; it is a very good boot, and it would stand a good deal of hard wear.

4817. (Chairman.) You are not a contractor, I believe?—No ; but I think that there ought to be a man who thoroughly understands his business to inspect the goods.

4818. (Mr. Turner.) A man equal to yourself if you could get him?—I think so.

4819. (Chairman.) Did you examine every pair yourself?—Yes.

4820. Was anybody else with you?—No ; the porters only who put them out for me.

4821. Of course you have given us the result of your independent judgment?—Quite so.

Mr. WILLIAM NICHOLLS examined.

Mr.
W. Nicholls.

4822. (Chairman.) Where do you carry on business?—At Raunds in Northamptonshire.

4823. Are you a large contractor for boots with Government?—We are not making so many now as we did formerly.

4824. How is that?—They are not required ; not from me, at all events.

4825. Have you any running contract with the Government now?—Yes, for a thousand pairs a month.

4826. You have heard the questions that I have put to the other witnesses ; are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the present system of inspection?—We should be satisfied if we had an umpire to appeal to.

4827. Have you any number of rejections?—In some instances.

4828. Can you give about the per-centage of rejections?—Of late, at Weedon, I do not complain ; the rejections have varied from 2 to 15 per cent.

4829. When you say "of late," do you mean since the meeting at the Tower?—Yes ; I have not complained of Weedon of late.

4830. Has that arisen at all from your boots being better, or from their not being so overstrict in rejecting them?—They certainly are very strict. Some time back, I think it was in March 1857, I sent down here 560 odd pairs, out of which 152 were rejected, and it quite startled both me and my men,

knowing what kind of goods they were. I came down with the first train, bringing some of the rejections with me. I wished to have them re-inspected, and for them to show me the causes why they sent them back.

4831. Do you remember what person you saw?—I believe there was one of the name of Hoile, an inspector. I did not know that there were two inspectors. I wanted to know the reasons why they were sent back, and at last Mr. Hoile ordered two of the inspectors in, and they pointed out why they were sent back; and I had orders to send them in again.

4832. Had you orders to send them in again from Mr. Hoile?—I believe it was Mr. Hoile; it was one of the principals, at all events.

4833. Did you send them in again?—I did.

4834. Were they passed?—I dare say most of them were. I never liked to send anything in but what I was satisfied was good.

4835. Did the 152 pairs that had been rejected pass upon the second inspection?—They sent them home, and I sent them in again,—most likely with others. The greater part of them, I have no doubt, passed.

4836. What was the objection to them?—There were chalk marks, some for one thing and some for another, and I wished to have them cut open.

4837. What were the objections?—The heel was too low, and the remark made was, "It is not the 16th part of an inch; send them in again."

4838. Can you undertake to say that the boots that you sent in, by Mr. Hoile's directions, after being rejected were afterwards passed?—I dare say the greater part of them was. I cannot speak positively to a pair.

4839. Have you had any number of rejections since?—They have been more favourable of late.

4840. They have not been quite so strict?—We have had, as I said before, from 2 to 15 per cent.

4841. Has that arisen from an improvement on your part, or from less strictness on theirs? Have your boots been better during the last year than they were before?—I should think perhaps we have been more particular.

4842. Has their strictness made you more particular?—It has driven us to it in a great measure.

4843. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you, like Mr. Wetherell, allow your men a bonus for those boots which pass, and fine them for those which are rejected?—We do not take that step. We always find them a certain quantity of material, and that we insist upon being put in. As to the sewing, we can rely upon them then.

4844. (*Chairman.*) If they have used the thread you think they must have put it into the boot?—Yes; we naturally calculate so. We have the buying of the hemp, and we buy the best we can get.

4845. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would it not be some stimulus to the men if they had a little feeling in the success of the supply?—It might be; but army work being heavy work they are paid pretty well. It requires good workmen to make army shoes.

4846. (*Chairman.*) Do not you furnish rather a better article than you used to do?—We always tried to make the best article that we could, even in Pew and Wiggin's time.

4847. Does the soldier get a better boot than he used to get?—He does.

4848. What does that arise from?—In the first instance an order was given at a good price. I believe the principal manufacturers had a share in it. I know for my own part we tried to give them, and did give them, the best material that England could afford.

4849. The soldier gets a better boot, and the first reason you give is, that a better price is paid?—Yes.

4850. Are the boots dearer than they used to be?—They are more money, but the material for the article is very much dearer indeed.

4851. Do you get more profit or less than you used to get?—I do not think we do get less; we generally contrive to work at a certain profit if we can get it.

4852. Have you any objection to say whether you get less profit or greater than you used to get?—We are very well satisfied with the Government pay, and if you can only furnish us with an umpire, if there is a grievance, you will have everything lower. We are obliged to prepare for these rejections.

4853. You think the power of appeal would make a difference in the price?—It would to me. I should consider myself safe if I had anybody to appeal to.

4854. Do you think it would make you less careful in sending boots in in the first instance?—Not a bit.

4855. Would you have a Government officer or somebody in the trade appointed as referee?—I have not thought anything about who it should be, but they should get a man of strict integrity and practical knowledge.

4856. (*Mr. Turner.*) You heard the evidence which Mr. Furness has given to-day? You are aware that he has been employed to inspect some boots as an impartial umpire? Supposing you knew that you had the power of nominating such a person as Mr. Furness in the case of any serious dispute about your own supply, would it give you more confidence than you now have?—It would.

4857. Would you be willing to shave a little finer in your tender, if you knew that you had that protection?—I should decidedly.

4858. To what extent in a pair of boots of the value of 10s.?—I should say something like 3d. a pair, and that tells in a quantity; from 2d. to 3d. a pair; that would be it, in my opinion.

4859. (*Chairman.*) Would you prefer to have a Government officer in case of a dispute, or would you prefer that you should be enabled to elect one arbitrator and the Government another?—I want an independent practical man, to say whether I as the manufacturer am right or the Government inspector.

4860. You would not wish that man to be a Government official?—No; I have no wish that he should.

4861. You would rather have him an independent man?—I think he should be an independent practical man; but where are we to get a practical man?

4862. Would you pay the expenses, if his decision was against you?—Yes, I would; I only speak for myself.

4863. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would you not consider it fair that the Government should pay the expenses, if the decision were against them?—Just so; it is my goods and character which are at stake, and you may say my pocket is as well. I will give you an instance that occurred at the Tower; I sent in 413 pairs of brown leather shoes, and they were all rejected, and I was left without the slightest chance of appeal, or any remedy. Now, in a case like that I would like to know whether I am wrong or the inspectors.

4864. Supposing you were supplying me, as a merchant, with 5,000 pairs of boots on an order, would you be willing that I should have the power of decision without any appeal as to whether the goods you had sent in were according to the pattern I had furnished you with?—I would as leave you should have a third person as not.

4865. Would you accept an order from a private merchant except you had the usual power as between one tradesman and another of going to arbitration or law, which is the worst sort of appeal, in case of difference?—Yes.

4866. If you would not do that with me, why should you do it with the Government?—I would do it with you too.

4867. You would leave it to me?—Yes; and if I found you were too troublesome, of course I should leave off serving you.

WEEDON.

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W. Nicholls.

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W. Nicholls.

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4868. (*Chairman.*) Have you ever given anything to make things pleasant here—to smooth the way for getting goods passed?—I have never given a halfpenny.

4869. Or a halfpenny's worth?—No.

4870. Have you any reason to suppose that such a thing has been given by anybody else?—I am not aware of it.

4871. Have you any reason to suppose it?—I really have not; if I had I would certainly speak of it.

4872. (*Five pairs of boots were produced.*) Just look at those boots before you, and arrange them in order of merit?—

(The witness arranged them as follows:—

No. 1. Bought by Mr. Levy.

No. 2. Bought by Mr. Levy.

No. 3. The present issue { Returned to Mr. Dowie
from the Dumfries
No. 4. The present issue { Militia.

No. 5. and worst, Mr. Dowie's rejected boots upon the first pattern.)

4873. Will you look at the pair of boots which have been sealed as the pattern?—Sealed as the pattern! you do not mean to say that any manufacturer ever sent them in to the Government? I am disgusted; I cannot stand it any longer. Let me have practical men, and I can deal with them.

4874. Will you compare that pattern pair with the fifth pair? Is that fifth and last pair as good as the pattern?—There is no goodness in any of them.

4875. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is that fifth pair equal to the sealed pattern?—I should say it is as good. Who could seal it? I cannot believe it ever had a seal on.

4876. (*Chairman to Mr. Wetherell.*) Will you look at those boots and see whether you coincide with Mr. Nicholls as to their relative merits?—I do.

4877. (*To Mr. Randall.*) Do you also agree with Mr. Nicholls as to the relative merits of those boots?—I do.

4878. You think that the two pairs, Nos. 1 and 2, are better than the two pairs sent back from the Dumfries militia (Nos. 3 and 4)?—Yes.

4879. And No. 5, Dowie's rejects, are not altogether perfect boots?—I consider they are very bad boots.

4880. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are they as good as the pattern?—Yes; but how could he get a pattern like that sealed? it would do a manufacturer an injustice to allow such a thing to be. I should feel, as a manufacturer, ashamed to have such boots in my place.

4881. (*Colonel French to Mr. Nicholls.*) Have you ever supplied any of the clothiers with boots?—I have.

4882. Did you supply them of the same quality and at the same price as you supply the Government?—What I have supplied have been the same sort exactly, taken from the same stock.

4883. At what price?—At 10s. I have not supplied them at less.

4884. Had you many rejections of your boots from the clothiers?—Not any at all.

4885. In case of a great emergency, such as we have had in the last war, how many pairs of good boots could you supply in one month?—I had a running order of 4000 a month till lately,—a thousand a week; and I could continue to do such a thing.

4886. (*Chairman.*) Supposing there were a sudden emergency, and you were ordered to send in as many boots as you could within the next month, or three weeks, how many could you send?—For the present, I should say 1000 a week; that is what I have been doing, and of course I could do it again.

4887. (*Colonel French.*) Of your own making?—Yes; we have nothing to do with anybody else.

4888. (*Chairman to Mr. Wetherell.*) What number could you furnish?—I could supply quite that quantity, perhaps more.

4889-90. (*To Mr. Randall.*) What number could you furnish?—Double that.

4891. (*Mr. Turner.*) Will you give me your opinion of the selling price of the best boot, No. 1., that you have there?—With good fresh leather, I should say it ought to be half a guinea.

4892. (*Chairman.*) For the boot maker to sell?—As a manufacturer, I would supply them at that.

4893. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is No. 2 about the same value?—I should say 6d. less for either of these, No. 2 and No. 3.

4894. Taking those boots which you value at 10s. 6d. a pair and at 10s. a pair,—if you had been the possessor of 20,000 pairs of such boots, should you ever have thought of disposing of them at 5s. 5½d. a pair?—Certainly not.

Mr. J. Dowie.

Mr. JAMES DOWIE further examined.

4895. (*Chairman.*) You have produced these five pairs of boots, where did No. 1 and No. 2 come from?—They are two pairs of the lot purchased by Mr. Levy at the Tower. 150 of the 20,000 he sold to Mr. William Shaw, and I took these two pairs out of Mr. Shaw's warehouse, with his consent, to exhibit them to the Committee of the House of Commons, and they have been in my possession ever since.

4896. Your knowledge of their being boots bought by Mr. Levy at the Tower, is derived from Mr. Shaw?—And Mr. Levy.

4897. Did Mr. Levy recognise those as a portion of the boots bought by him at the Tower?—Yes.*

4898. Can you state by whom they were made?—Mr. Francis Parker; his name is upon them; they are made after the principle of Wright's patent, and they cost I think 11s. 6d. per pair. These have been made pretty nearly two years. As to the other pair, I am not quite sure whose make they are, but they certainly appeared to me to be an excellent boot, and when I saw them I said I thought it was a great pity, and there must have been some mistake to have disposed of such boots; and I felt it my duty to name it to Mr. Howell. He said, "I cannot believe it;" and I believe he stopped any further sales.

4899. Did it occur to you to inquire to whom Levy sold the 15,000 boots?—Yes, but I would rather de-

cline to answer the question; I think the gentleman has been before the Commissioners already.

4900. Now look at Nos. 3. and 4.?—Nos. 3 and 4 are two pairs of boots that were returned to me by the Dumfries Militia; they had been supplied from Weedon, and the regiment had received from me several boots, and they had 30 pairs on hand when the Militia was disembodied. I was asked to take them back. I received back the 30 pairs of the last supply I sent; and on looking them over, I found two pairs not of my manufacture, which they had from Weedon.

4901. They had the Weedon mark upon them?—Yes.

4902. You judge from those marks that they were supplied from Weedon to the Dumfries Militia?—Yes.

4903. They never had been furnished by you to the Militia?—No.

4904. The fifth pair is a portion of your supply, I believe?—I merely brought them to show. This is the only pair that I have of the rejections that were sent back to me, all the others having gone.

4905. You have seen Mr. Nicholls' horror at No. 5?—Yes, and the pattern.

4906. (*Mr. Turner.*) There has been a good deal said about Isaac, Campbell, and Company bringing in a sealed pattern for button brushes; I suppose there

* The boots were not bought by Mr. Levy at the Tower. See Question 6344.

could have been no mistake about your getting that sealed pattern?—How did you get it?—From Sir Thomas Troubridge. I waited upon him last Saturday with the boots to ask if he remembered that he had sealed them, and he said that he remembered the circumstance well, and that he was quite prepared to abide the wear and tear of those patterns.

4907. If anybody should say anything about those pattern boots, as they have said about Isaac, Campbell, and Company's sealed button brushes, you can quote Sir Thomas Troubridge's authority against the

opinion of those gentlemen as to the impropriety of sealing them, that they were sealed, and sealed by him?—Yes; as the proper officer appointed for the purpose of sealing patterns.

4908. (*Chairman.*) Having been made by you?—Yes; and examined with the standard which he had at Pall Mall; but it should be well understood that the first pattern, the one they had at Pall Mall, is the old standard pattern, which he still holds by, and I think it is a pattern about 10 years old.

Mr. NOAH WATSON examined.

4909. (*Chairman.*) You are inspector of boots and shoes here?—Yes.

4910. You have given evidence at some length before the Committee on Contracts, and we do not wish you to make the same statements over again; do you adhere to all you said there?—Quite.

4911. You were examined when Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Charles Elliott came down and had an investigation about the Tower boots?—I was one of the committee. I received my appointment from the War Office as one of a Committee to inquire into the quality of the Tower boots.

4912. Were not you examined as a witness?—I was examined as a witness also.

4913. Was it in consequence of a representation which you had made that that inquiry was instituted?—In conjunction with my colleague, Mr. Folkard, I made a representation which led to that inquiry.

4914. What induced you to make that representation?—The annual issue was about to take place for the supply of boots to the army, and we wrote to Mr. Elliott asking him the question whether we were held responsible for the quality of them; Mr. Elliott said it was necessary for us to make a representation if the quality was at all indifferent or not up to the standard pattern. We did not consider it up to the quality which we considered fit for the service, and we made that representation to Mr. Elliott, and that led to the inquiry.

4915. Had you taken means to ascertain that they were not fit for the service?—Yes; we examined personally so many pairs.

4916. How many?—Four or five casks were opened at first. We pursued the investigation further, and had more casks from the stores; but we discovered they were all of the same quality, and that led us to make a representation to the War Office.

4917. In consequence of that representation, Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Elliott came down here, and evidence was given before them. We have Mr. Ramsay's report before us, in which he states as the result of the investigation that he recommended the re-inspection of the boots?—I have no recollection of that.

4918. Have you not seen the report?—No.

4919. What was done in consequence of that inquiry?—We discovered that the boots were not up to the standard quality, and we reported to Mr. Elliott that we did not consider them so, and we protested against it, if we were to be responsible for the wear of the boots. That led to an inquiry. Mr. Ramsay came down with Mr. Elliott, bringing a referee, who was to decide between the Tower authorities and ourselves. The Tower authorities were on one side, and we were on the other. The referee decided in our favour in everything, that the boots were not up to the quality which ought to be considered fit for the service.

4920. What was done?—The boots were condemned in consequence.

4921. Mr. Ramsay says that they were not condemned, and Mr. Ramsay's report shows that they were not condemned. Did this take place in May 1856?—I think it did.

4922. I have the evidence, and among the rest your own; and the Committee recommended "that the whole of the boots which had been sent from the Tower to Weedon be re-examined, and those which are unfit for service be disposed of by public auction"?—They were so examined.

4923. When?—Some time after; and a great portion were issued to the Militia.

4924. Were 20,000 pairs sent to the Tower?—Yes.

4925. When were they sent to the Tower?—I could tell if I had my books here.

4926. Do you mean to say between the time that Mr. Ramsay came down and that investigation was held, and the sending of the 20,000 pairs to the Tower, the whole 170,000 pairs were submitted to re-inspection?—A great portion: I think the whole. I could not be quite certain as to the whole.

4927. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was every barrel opened, and all the boots manipulated?—Yes.

4928. (*Chairman.*) By whom?—By the viewers of the department.

4929. Did you superintend the operation?—Mr. Folkard and myself together.

4930. How long did that take?—It took a considerable time. I could not say how long from memory.

4931. How was the division made? What number did you find unfit for service, and what number did you find serviceable?—I could not tax my memory with the numbers; they were classed in three classes. When they were gone through, some were considered as serviceable, some unserviceable, and others were doubtful; those were marked and put aside as doubtful; they were considered as fit for service in tropical climates, or anywhere where the wear and tear is not so great as in the home service.

4932. They were nearly the whole stock of boots you had from the Tower, so that you could not be mistaken as to whether there was a re-inspection of the whole?—I have a perfect recollection of the re-inspection, and I might say of the whole quantity.

4933. Did they come in barrels from the Tower?—Yes.

4934. Do you mean to tell us that every barrel was opened, and the boots taken out?—Yes.

4935. And every boot examined?—Every boot minutely examined. To the best of my belief it was so; but the circumstance is so long ago that I cannot exactly recollect.

4936. You were directed, in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, of which you formed a member, to re-examine the whole stock of boots from the Tower; surely you cannot forget whether that was done?—I know they were re-examined, but I should not like to say that every pair was examined. I know the great bulk was re-examined.

4937. Were the 20,000 pairs that were sent off to the Tower for sale, worse than the 150,000 pairs that remained?—Yes.

4938. You are quite sure of that?—Yes.

4939. (*Mr. Turner.*) When you opened all these barrels which you have already stated you did, and they were put into three lots, one lot inferior, another

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lot doubtful, and another lot fit for service, how did you repack them in the barrels?—They were not repacked at the time; those that were serviceable were kept for issue.

4940. The remainder were in barrels?—Yes; not those that were examined and marked as serviceable, because they have since been issued; a great portion

of the Tower boots have been issued since that examination took place.

4941. Have you any recollection of what number was, in the lot fit for service, in the lot doubtful, and the lot rejected?—I have not; but I can procure the books which, I think, will show it.

Mr. JAMES LOADES FOLKARD examined.

*Mr.
J. L. Folkard.*

4942. (*Chairman.*) You are one of the inspectors of boots here?—I am.

4943. You were examined before the Contracts' Committee a year and a half ago nearly?—Yes.

4944. Have you had an opportunity of looking at your evidence?—Yes.

4945. Do you adhere to all that you then said?—I do.

4946. What were you before you got your present situation?—In the leather trade; a leather cutter.

4947. Have you been accustomed to leather all your life?—Upwards of thirty years; that is, directly in the shoemaking, as well as the leather trade, as a leather seller.

4948. Have you been accustomed to make shoes at all?—Yes.

4949. Did you ever keep what is called a grindery shop?—Grindery and leather cutter; those are two trades connected with each other.

4950. At present we are going to a matter of fact, in which your competency as an inspector is not directly involved. Do you remember making a representation in conjunction with Mr. Watson, as to the state of the boots that came over from the Tower?—I do.

4951. Was not that soon after you came here?—Yes.

4952. Do you remember when?—I think it was in April or May.

4953. What were the materials on which you framed that representation?—More particularly with respect to the work, and the material occasionally.

4954. Had you examined the store of boots that came over from the Tower, before you represented that they were not so good as they should be?—Most assuredly.

4955. There were 170,000 pairs, were there not?—Yes.

4956. What number had you looked at before you made that representation?—I was requested by the superintendent Mr. Elliott to make an examination of one or two casks containing 140 pairs each, and to forward a report to Mr. Elliott for the Secretary of State for War.

4957. Out of the 1,200 casks, how many did you examine?—Only one or two I may say at that time; the issue of 1856–57 was then taking place, and I asked Mr. Hoile, who was the superintendent of inspectors, whether Mr. Elliott was considered answerable for the serviceability of these goods; the answer I received from Mr. Hoile was, that he was answerable for them, and I felt it my duty to report to him that a great portion was unserviceable for the use of the army.

4958. How could you tell that if you examined only two casks out of 1,200? I again ask you upon what materials you founded your representation that 170,000 pairs of boots required to be inspected before they were issued?—Examining them for the issues of 1856–57. I dare say there had been 10,000 or 12,000 pairs issued.

4959. You thought them not so good as they should be?—They were not. I reported that about one or two fifths were not fit for home service.

4960. Thereupon Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Charles Elliott came down?—Yes, and a referee of the name of Wibrow (appointed from Mr. Hoby's of

Piccadilly), Mr. Fessey the Inspector at the Tower, myself, and Mr. Watson, constituted the Committee.

4961. The Committee consisted of Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Charles Sandys Elliott; they were the only persons who signed the Report?—I have my instructions appointing me on the Committee from the Secretary-at-War at the present time.

4962. Whether you were upon the Committee or not you gave evidence before it?—Yes.

4963. As to how many casks?—I could not answer that question.

4964. Have you not seen the report of the Committee?—No.

4965. The evidence which accompanied the Report states that four casks at the outside were opened?—There were about four casks.

4966. And evidence was taken upon these?—Yes; they were taken indiscriminately from the bulk, a cask here and a cask there.

4967. Altogether about 50 pairs were examined?—I could not charge my memory with the quantity I went through; about half a cask of each; about 50 or 60 pairs might have been examined.

4968. It would appear that four casks were opened?—Yes.

4969. Are you aware that a recommendation was made by Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Elliott, that the whole of the boots that had been sent from the Tower to Weedon should be re-examined, and those that were unfit for the public service should be disposed of by public auction? That was in May 1856; what was done in consequence of that recommendation of Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Elliott?—A partial inspection took place.

4970. What do you mean by that?—I think about one-third might have been gone through; from which the best were selected for certain services.

4971. That is to say 400 casks were opened, or thereabouts?—No; they have not all been opened to this day.

4972. If 170,000 pairs of boots came from the Tower, and you had issued 10,000 for the issue 1856–7, and you state that you found the issue was bad, there would be 160,000 remaining; if there are 140 pairs in a cask there would be more than a thousand casks; when this inspection was recommended by the Committee, what steps were taken in consequence?—I should be able to furnish the information to-morrow, but I could not charge my memory.

4973. Surely you must remember such a thing as the re-inspection of the whole stock of boots?—I recollect the inspection of portions, not of all, of them.

4974. What quantity do you think was re-inspected?—I dare say there might be 50,000 or 60,000 pairs of boots examined.

4975. Not more?—I should not think there was. I could not say for certain.

4976. What was done when they were re-inspected? Were they divided into classes?—They were divided; the best were issued, and the second class were put aside for certain services.

4977. And the third?—There were only two classes made; there were none thoroughly condemned.

4978. How was it that 20,000 were sent to the Tower?—By direction of the Secretary of State for War. We have since taken advantage of them for the

service for India, and more particularly at that time when the East India Service wished to be supplied with 50,000 or 60,000 pairs.

4979. 20,000 was sold at the Tower?—Yes.

4980. How did this 20,000 come to be sent from Weedon to the Tower?—I had nothing to do with the issue; Mr. Watson will be able to furnish you with that information.

4981. You told me yesterday while we were in the stores that the 20,000 that were sent to the Tower were taken from the bulk indiscriminately; what did you mean by that?—There was no selection made of the bad or good. I believe a portion of those marked with "D." were sent, and the others were made up with the regular "B.O.'s"

4982. Who selected the 20,000 pairs of boots that were sent from Weedon to the Tower?—Mr. Watson I understand.

4983. Had you nothing to do with it?—Nothing more than yourself; the instructions were never addressed to me in any way.

4984. What made you say that they were taken indiscriminately from the mass?—I merely heard so. I have inquired since, and I find it to be correct. I ascertained that from the man who collected the casks together.

4985. Who was the man?—William Hall, a labourer, who is on the works.

4986. It passes my understanding that, if 20,000 pairs of boots were going to be sent for sale, that they should be taken indiscriminately from a mass of boots containing good and bad; can you throw any light upon it?—I cannot, further than I have done.

4987. Look at the first two pairs of boots before you (*the boots bought by Levy*)?—I never recollect seeing any of these patterns received from the Tower; they were regulation boots, and these are Wright's patent.

4988. Are not they marked with "B.O."?—They are.

4989. Look at the next pair; the next are not Wright's patent?—This is a pretty middling boot; it is not a very good one; it is a superior boot to the "B.O.'s." generally speaking.

4990. Looking at that boot, can you recognise it as a Tower boot?—Only by the stamp.

4991. Did you see any of the boots that were sent off to be sold?—I did not; not a pair of them.

4992. Would you send off for sale, as unserviceable, boots of that description?—Most assuredly I should not.

4993. Look at the next two pairs (*the boots returned to Mr. Dowie by the Dumfries Militia*)?—They are about the same quality as the other pair.

4994. Have those been issued from Weedon?—They have.

4995. Do you mean to say that they are as good as the other two pairs?—About the same as these.

4996. Were those boots passed at Weedon?—Yes, they have the viewer's initials "G.M.," George Marsh.

4997. The next pair?—This pair has been passed here too.

4998. We have examined four practical bootmakers, and they are unanimously of opinion that numbers 1 and 2 are better than numbers 3 and 4; do you concur in that opinion?—They are better boots than this pattern, the vamps are better.

4999. Are numbers 1 and 2 better than numbers 3 and 4?—Numbers 1 and 2 are the best boots.

5000. Is there any reason why numbers 1 and 2 should have been sold as old stores, and numbers 3 and 4 issued from Weedon for service?—I cannot see any cause.

5001. Has there not been some blunder, if that is so?—Most assuredly, I should say so. There ought to have been instructions given to the inspectors, to select those that were bad before they were sold.

5002. Did you take any part in the re-inspection of

the Tower boots yourself?—Partly; that is, over-looking.

5003. As much as Mr. Watson?—Precisely the same, or perhaps more.

5004. I thought you said that Mr. Watson could tell us better than you could, about these boots?—In relation to issues he could.

5005. Did you, as much as Mr. Watson, divide the good boots from the bad?—It was done by the viewers.

5006. Did you, as much as Mr. Watson, superintend the division?—Perhaps more.

5007. Did you satisfy yourself, as an inspector should, that the viewers were doing their duty in that behalf?—I went through a good portion myself, when they were going through the re-examination of them; afterwards I looked at the rejected ones as well as the passed, to see if they were serviceable.

5008. If the boots numbers 1 and 2 were rejected under the superintendence of Mr. Watson and yourself, are not you and Mr. Watson responsible for that rejection?—We are supposed to be responsible; but it would be a very hard thing to be held so.

5009. You ask for a re-inspection, and that re-inspection takes place under your superintendence; who is responsible if you are not?—Of course we are responsible.

5010. Can you give the Commissioners no information, except what you have already given, as to the mode in which what I call the rejected boots were sent off to the Tower?—Nothing but what I have given.

5011. (*Mr. Turner.*) I think you said that the 20,000 pairs of boots which were sent to the Tower were made up, to a certain extent, of the inferior boots, and the rest were taken indiscriminately?—I believe they were.

5012. Do you know it?—I know no further than the man told me so, who got them from the store; it was not a portion of my duty to interfere in that matter.

5013. How many, do you suppose, were actually put on one side as unserviceable in that re-inspection?—I could not charge my memory with a thing of that kind; it would be utterly impossible.

5014. Have you no idea as to how many thousands?—I could not form a conception, even as to the number.

5015. And yet you had recommended the re-inspection, and were a party to carrying out that re-inspection?—They were divided and subdivided in so many different ways, that we scarcely knew what we were doing.

5016. (*Colonel French.*) Was any report made upon them?—No.

5017. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was your inspection worth a straw?—We only carried out the instructions that we received from the superintendent.

5018. Did he instruct you to put them together after you had divided them?—Yes, according to their quality in two classes.

5019. Do you mean to say that?—He did.

5020. (*Chairman.*) Why did you not say that before?—I was not asked the question.

5021. Do you mean to say, after having gone through them and a division had been made, that you had directions to put them together again?—They were packed together in the casks and put away along with others; they had "D" marked upon them as doubtful.

5022. Were the "D's" put away with others?—They were marked upon the top of the casks so that they could be distinguished.

5023. Was there any division made?—They were not intermixed the same as these boots; the casks were packed together, only marked on the head of the cask.

5024. What do you really mean? We have it in evidence, and what you saw yourself yesterday went

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to show it, that when a cask was opened out, there was a lot of bad and a lot of good; if those boots were re-inspected in May 1856, and were then divided into bad and good, do you mean to represent that they were put together in the same cask?—Not mixed together; they were put into the cask as other goods, headed down and marked with the letter “D,” and placed in store.

5025. What did you mean yesterday when you said that the 20,000 sent off to the Tower were taken indiscriminately from the mass?—I merely stated, as I said at the time, that I was told so. I had nothing whatever to do with the issues.

5026. How could they be taken indiscriminately if there had been the division which you now represent between the bad and the good? Can you answer that question?—I cannot.

5027. Why did you not go on with the examination of the whole quantity?—I was not instructed to do so. I was only instructed to go through a portion of them. We received our instructions first for the India service; that was when the great bulk was gone through; the best were selected and sent over there from orders received from the Secretary-for-War; that was when the great inspection took place.

5028. What were sent off to India?—The Tower boots; I think 50,000 pairs.

5029. Were they taken indiscriminately from the mass?—They were selected.

5030. From what was it that the 20,000 were taken indiscriminately?—The first 10,000 I understand were taken from casks marked “D,” but the next 10,000 were taken from the regular “B. O’s.” These are things I know nothing whatever about; it did not form a portion of my duty to interfere with these things, and I was never instructed about it.

5031. Did not Mr. Elliott tell you, as you had complained of those boots, that the whole of the boots should be re-examined?—I do not recollect whether they were all to be examined; they were to be examined,—to be selected for the East India Company’s service, to a certain extent.

5032. (Mr. Turner.) Let me quite understand one thing; were casks entirely filled with doubtful boots?—They were.

5033. Was the cask filled partly with doubtful boots and partly with boots that might be good or might be bad, or was an entire cask filled with doubtful boots only?—All filled with doubtful boots were marked with the letter “D” outside.

5034. There would be a certain number of casks that could not possibly be taken indiscriminately; when they went to the Tower for sale, you would naturally send doubtful boots, would you not?—They were sent in the first instance; the whole 10,000 from what I can hear from Mr. Watson. I had no selection of those things.

5035. There were 10,000 more went; how were they taken?—I believe they were taken from part of each, as I said before. I do not know myself.

5036. First using the doubtful boots and then making up the quantity with those which had been examined?—I believe they had not been examined.

5037. (Chairman.) How long did the inspection of the portion that was examined take?—Some several weeks; eight or nine weeks, probably more. I think I could give you that information.

5038. How many boots does a viewer examine in a day?—From 250 to 300; some deliveries run very good and can be passed quicker.

5039. How many viewers were engaged in that re-inspection?—We had some supernumeraries employed; we had eight viewers, and labourers were appointed as viewers to assist.

5040. About how many altogether were there?—I think there were about 14.

5041. You say that you were six or seven weeks engaged in the re-inspection?—Yes; but we were compelled to do our regular deliveries within the time allowed by the specification. There were 14 viewers

employed in the works inspecting new boots and Tower boots.

5042. (Mr. Turner.) At that rate of inspection you could easily have got through the whole quantity?—I could not charge my memory with the whole quantity being inspected; it is totally impossible.

5043. (Colonel French.) By whose direction were those 20,000 boots sent up?—By the Secretary of State for War.

5044. Was any report made at the time they were sent up to the Secretary of State for War?—Not from me; neither do I recollect one.

5045. (Chairman.) Were those marked “D.” put in the same store with the others?—I believe so.

5046. Surely you know?—I really do not know.

5047. Whose duty was it?—Mr. Watson’s entirely.

5048. I thought you said that you had more to do with it than Mr. Watson?—With the inspection of the new goods.

5049. I thought you said that you had more to do with the inspection of those which were not new goods than Mr. Watson?—One had quite as much to do with it as the other; or rather Mr. Watson had more to do with it than myself. I was more in the other room, on the other ones.

5050. (Mr. Turner.) We are not talking about your general duties as an inspector; we are confining our attention to this particular lot of boots. You told us that Mr. Watson had more to do with them than you had, and now you say that you had more to do with them than Mr. Watson?—With the inspection of the new ones.

5051. (Chairman.) Did you not feel, having made a recommendation that they ought to be re-inspected for the purpose of dividing the good from the bad, that your recommendation had not been complied with?—To a certain extent it has.

5052. (Mr. Turner.) You say that a great many casks have not been opened from that day to this?—I do not believe they have.

5053. Have the boots never been dubbed or looked at in any way?—They have not been inspected. I do not think they have all been inspected.

5054. (Colonel French.) You said there were a certain number of boots put into the casks to make up the number that were not inspected?—Not in the same cask as the doubtful ones; they were all packed separate, and put in the stores indiscriminately.

5055. Why were they not inspected?—We inspected till we had the quantity required to go out for the Indian service.

5056. Why did you send any up that were not inspected?—I do not know whether any were sent or not. I believe they were not inspected. Every issue sent from these stores has been made by Mr. Watson; not one has been sent from me; therefore it cannot be supposed that I know. I do not think I have made five issues of any goods from these stores since I have been here.

5057. (Chairman.) If you had gone through the inspection, and had seen, as it seems it was your duty to see, that the good boots were divided from the bad, that could not have happened which has happened, namely, that good boots have been sent to the Tower for sale. Mr. Charles Elliott having recommended that the boots should be re-inspected, says, “The whole of those boots, I believe, were re-examined at Weedon; but I have no personal knowledge of the character of the examination.” Are you quite certain that a portion only of the boots was examined?—I could not positively say that all were not examined; but I think you will find that a portion of them has not been examined.

5058. You have told us about the quantity that were examined?—Not the precise quantity.

5059. About one third I understood you to say were examined?—I know 50,000 were selected for the India service.

5060. If a number of casks were not opened at all, cannot you say that they were not examined?—I believe they were not examined.

5061. Can you tell about the period that those 50,000 pairs were sent for the India service?—Not without reference to the books.

5062. The re-examination, if there was any, took place in the summer of 1856, and the 20,000 were sent to the Tower in the autumn of 1856; can you tell when the 20,000 were sent off?—I said that it was no portion of my duty, and it has made no impression upon my memory as regards the date.

5063. You tell me that it was not a portion of your duty?—Not the issues.

5064. You tell me that your attention was directed to a portion, because a portion was sent to India?—I think about a year and a half ago.

5065. Did you send to India any that had not been re-inspected?—I do not recollect any being sent that

had not been re-inspected. I should think there was not.

5066. I ask you as a matter of fact; cannot you remember?—I cannot remember anything about it, for I do not know. Every issue has been made from this place direct by Mr. Watson; he has sent them all himself.

5067. Has Mr. Watson been suspended lately?—He has from last Tuesday week.

5068. What was it for?—There is an application made from Messrs. Isaac for 500 pairs of boots, and I believe another for 1,000 pairs, making 1,500 altogether. Inspection notes are found, but no goods for them.

5069. (*Mr. Turner.*) You say that you have found the inspection notes?—Yes. Mr. Watson will be able to give you that information.

5070. At all events you have not found the boots?—No.

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5071. (*Chairman.*) Have you been able to refer to your books?—Yes.

5072. When were the boots re-inspected?—The re-inspection was going on, to commence with the first record I have of it, on the 18th of August 1856.

5073. Did it not begin till then?—It might have begun before, but that is the first record I have of the re-inspection of the Tower boots.

5074. How long did it continue?—Till the 27th of September; the 3d of October is the last entry I have of the inspection of the Tower boots.

5075. Were you employed in it?—Yes; I had the supervision of a portion of the viewers during the time with Mr. Folkerd.

5076. How many viewers and assistants were there?—There were six of the permanent viewers and some supernumeraries. There were fourteen men engaged.

5077. Besides the two inspectors?—Yes.

5078. Were they employed exclusively upon this business?—There were one or two deliveries of new goods made during the time, accompanied by a special request that they should be examined during the week; substantially they were employed upon the Tower boots during that time.

5079. Did you say that your impression was, that the whole of the boots were re-inspected?—Yes.

5080. Are you sure of it?—I find now that not quite the whole of them; but within a few casks the whole were re-inspected.

5081. If there were 140 pairs of boots in a cask, there must have been 1,200 casks, or thereabouts?—Yes; there might have been.

5082. Do you think now, that nearly the whole were re-inspected?—Yes.

5083. What was done after the re-inspection?—After the re-inspection they were put aside to be sold; others were kept for issues to the militia regiments.

5084. What was done with them here? Were they put into a different store?—Yes; they were put in casks marked with a cross, unfit for service, and those that were left an open question were marked with a D. as doubtful; others were kept up in the room for the current issue then going on.

5085. There were three classes?—Yes.

5086. Can you give at all an approximation to each class?—By far the greater number were the doubtful ones.

5087. What number of boots were condemned and marked with the cross?—I think at least 40,000.

5088. As decidedly bad?—Yes.

5089. What became of them?—20,000 were kept in store, I believe.

5090. (*Mr. Turner.*) Both "D's" and good boots were kept in store?—Yes; with the exception of those that were issued to the militia. A portion of the

crosses are still in store; and, merely guessing, I should say there are 20,000 pairs.

5091. (*Chairman.*) Are you quite satisfied that they were divided?—Yes.

5092. The re-inspection having taken place at your instance, I presume you were desirous that the boots should not be mixed after your re-inspection?—Yes; I should mention at that time we were under the impression that the whole of the Tower boots were about to be sold; for this reason, that Lord Panmure, when the question was raised about issuing them, said that he would not have any of the Tower boots issued at the time.

5093. When was that?—Immediately after the inquiry.

5094. I require you to answer this question frankly and candidly: Your impression being that the whole of the Tower boots were to be sold, were you, in point of fact, rigid in superintending the division into the classes of which you have spoken?—We were.

5095. Do you mean to pledge your competency as an inspector to the substantial nature of that re-inspection?—Yes; so far as I individually was concerned. I was continually impressing upon the viewers the necessity of being cautious in the examination.

5096. Did you revise their proceedings from time to time?—Yes.

5097. Did you see that they did not reject good boots?—We were frequently taking from one pile, and putting them to the other.

5098. Did you consider yourself as much responsible in the exercise of your own judgment in that matter, as in any other that has come before you?—Equally so.

5099. Do you abide by that?—Yes.

5100. Are you responsible that the 20,000 pairs that went to the Tower were the bad boots, and were the worst of the lot?—Yes.

5101. Have you heard the evidence about Levy's buying them?—Yes.

5102. Will you look at that first two pairs of boots before you?—They were no portion of them; I will swear it; they are a different make altogether; they are Wright's patent; there were none of Wright's patent among the Tower boots.

5103. You would undertake to swear that?—Yes.

5104. How can you tell that?—I never saw a pair of Wright's patent among the whole of the Tower stock.

5105. Look at the next pair?—I cannot find any fault with it; it is superior to the generality of them.

5106. Is it not a very good boot?—It is.

5107. Supposing there were a large quantity of these among the boots rejected by you, and sent afterwards to the Tower for sale—what should you say

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they were?—I should say they were decidedly not the worst boots among the Tower stock.

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5108. You say, and very properly, that you are responsible for the inspection of those that were condemned?—Yes.

5109. Would you condemn boots like those before you?—I should not; if those boots had passed into my hands I should not have condemned them.

5110. (*Mr. Turner.*) Look at No. 2. that you have in your hand, and see if it has the Tower mark upon it?—It has.

5111. (*Chairman.*) Has not No. 1. the Tower mark?—Yes.

5112. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you mean to say that there were none of Wright's patent boots in the Tower goods?—At Weedon none.

5113. Those came from the Tower, did not they?—Yes; but we had not to do with all the goods that were sold at the Tower; only 20,000 came from Weedon.

5114. Did not 170,000 pairs come from the Tower?—Yes; but only 20,000 were returned to the Tower for sale.

5115. Did not the whole of the 170,000 originally come to the Tower from Weedon?—Yes; there were 170,000 pairs came from the Tower to Weedon.

5116. (*Chairman.*) Are not boots No. 2. quite as good as the next?—No.

5117. Why not?—The material is not so good; that is a different class of boot altogether; a far superior boot to the other, No. 2.

5118. You say that Nos. 3. and 4. are better than Nos. 1. and 2.?—Nos. 3. and 4. are better than No. 2., I have no complaint to make of these; No. 1. is an excellent one.

5119. Ought that boot to have been sold at the Tower whether it has ever been at Weedon or not?—No.

5120. Mr. Folkerd stated that the 20,000 that were sent for sale were taken indiscriminately from the boots which had been re-inspected; is that the fact?—It was not so; Mr. Folkerd is under a wrong impression. I have the date here on which the order for the selection was made of the first 10,000 which were sent from the Tower.

5121. (*Mr. Turner.*) From what particular casks were they selected?—From the crosses.

5122. When were they sent off?—The issue book will show that; this is the viewer's ledger.

5123. (*Colonel French.*) Were any of those boots that were sent to the Tower not inspected?—They were all inspected.

5124. (*Mr. Turner.*) You had an order to send a second 10,000, had you not?—Yes.

5125. From what particular lot were they selected?—They were also selected from the crosses, to the best of my belief.

5126. Who can tell that, if you cannot? Mr. Folkerd says he cannot?—I believe they were all selected from the crosses, every pair of them.

5127. Mr. Folkerd referred to you as being able to explain that more definitely?—I had no definite order to select them from anything particular, but I took it as a matter of course, as they were to be sold, that the worst were to be sent.

5128. You say that 40,000 pairs were rejected and marked with a cross on the cask?—About that number.

5129. 10,000 were sent to the Tower for the first delivery?—Yes.

5130. And a second 10,000 were also sent; but you would not pledge yourself to that?—I would not pledge myself.

5131. What issues have been made to any other quarter from those 40,000 marked with a cross?—They remain still in store.

5132. Supposing there were 40,000 marked; and that second delivery of 10,000, as well as the first, was from that lot, there will still be 20,000 remaining in casks marked with crosses in the store?—Pre-

suming they have not been disturbed they would be there still. I do not think they have been disturbed.

5133. (*Chairman.*) How could they be disturbed?—They have been issuing from the Tower supply from that time to the present moment.

5134. Do you mean that they have been issuing from these that have been condemned?—The viewers have been through them two or three times.

5135. (*Mr. Turner.*) Those that were marked with a cross?—Those that were left in store.

5136. (*Chairman.*) What viewers have been through them?—The permanent viewers have taken them out of the casks, and selected 5000 for regiments of the line. The boots were gone through that were crossed to see if they could select any; there had been instances where they ran short of small sizes for the militia regiments. They were not quite so good as we wished them to be.

5137. (*Mr. Turner.*) It has been stated, and it is correct I suppose, that 170,000 pairs of boots came from the Tower; of those, 40,000 pairs were marked with a cross, leaving 130,000, some of which were marked with a D, and the others were passable boots?—Yes.

5138. Then there must have been 130,000 left altogether, omitting the crosses; why should you be overhauling the crosses for the militia regiments when you had 130,000 pairs marked D, and "good," to deliver from?—I should state that all those that were good have been issued from time to time to the militia regiments; then we fell back upon the others.

5139. When the whole 130,000 remained?—Very few of them were passed; the greater portion of them were marked D.

5140. You had 130,000 of the "D's" and "good" to deliver from, and you have not delivered more than about 60,000; is that so?—I could not say. There have been a great many issued since the charge went out of my hands.

5141. How many are left in store now?—I have no idea. I have nothing to do with the charge of the boots that are in store now.

5142. It is incomprehensible to me that it should be necessary to go over those that have been carefully inspected and marked with a cross as indisputably bad, when you have 130,000 pairs to deliver from?—We went through those 130,000 pairs of boots and not finding the particular sizes that we wanted, we were then of necessity compelled to fall back upon the crosses.

5143. (*Chairman.*) Are the boots put in sizes?—Yes.

5144. So that there would be doubtful sixes, sevens, and so on?—Yes.

5145. If you want a certain number of eights and nines, having exhausted the better ones, you are obliged to fall back upon those marked with a cross?—Yes.

5146. Am I to understand you to say that none of Wright's patent boots have been delivered at Weedon?—Yes, direct from the contractors; but it is subsequent to those from the Tower; they are all marked W. D.; this is marked with the B. O. (No. 1.)

5147. How can you undertake to say that none of Wright's patent boots were delivered from the Tower to Weedon?—I never saw a pair. I watched them very minutely every day the whole time they were under examination, and if there had been a pair of Wright's patent it would have been pointed out to me by the viewer undoubtedly.

5148. (*Colonel French.*) Would not that imply that there were other boots sold at the Tower besides the 20,000?—I presume there were.

5149. Can you undertake to say that among those boots sent from the Tower to Weedon there were none of Wright's patent?—I can only say I never saw a pair of Wright's patent; they were manipulated under my own observation more than once or twice or three times.

5150. You did not examine the whole lot, but as soon as you began to issue from the Tower boots surely you found out that they were inferior?—Yes.

5151. What quantity might you have seen at the time that that conviction of inferiority was impressed upon you?—The first lot was 2,000 or 3,000. Mr. Folkerd and I went through a portion of them, and we found that their general character was not up to the standard pattern. We then represented the matter to Mr. Elliott, and he directed us to go to other parts of the stores, and open a cask here and there to see if they were of the same character. We did so; and we reported the matter to Mr. Elliott.

5152. How many might you have seen out of the 170,000 pairs before you made your report?—I should say we had had 3,000 or 4,000 through our own hands.

5153. And you can positively say that none of them were Wright's patent?—Not a pair of them.

5154. How do you prove that in the remaining quantity of the 170,000 there were none of Wright's patent?—They were under our own eyes in the inspection room from morning till evening, and I never saw a pair of Wright's patent among the Tower supply. I could almost pledge my word that there was not a pair.

5155. (*Chairman.*) Is there anything in the pair of boots No. 2. that enables you to say that they have been at Weedon?—No; nothing. If they had passed through my hands I should not have condemned them. I consider them serviceable boots.

5156. (*Mr. Turner.*) If the boots went to the Tower to be sold, would they have the Weedon mark upon them?—No; not those which originally came from the Tower, if they formed any portion of the 170,000.

5157. Nos. 3. and 4. were issued to the Dumfries Militia by you?—Yes; and they have our mark upon them.

5158. It may be that No. 1. and No. 2. have been at Weedon, but that being among the rejected boots, they have not the Weedon mark upon them?—No.

5159. (*Chairman.*) Are you under any suspension?—At the present moment I am.

5160. That suspension arises from something that has yet to be cleared up?—From the dispute in Isaac and Campbell's contract. I should mention that the moment I came away to be examined here, we had discovered a discrepancy which I have no doubt will lead to a settlement of the matter.

5161. Of course you expect to be reinstated?—Certainly.

5162. Have you and Mr. Folkerd equal authority?—Yes.

5163. Are you on perfectly good terms?—Yes.

5164. Have you a certain number of viewers told off to you as your subordinates, and has he the same?—Yes; since Captain Gordon has taken charge, we have done so.

5165. Previously to that time, had you a sort of joint responsibility?—Yes.

5166. Under those circumstances, has it ever happened to you, before Captain Gordon came, to interfere with the decision of Mr. Folkerd?—Never on any occasion.

5167. Have you ever taken upon yourself to pass boots that he has rejected?—Never.

5168. Or to your knowledge has he ever passed boots that you have rejected, or rejected boots that you have passed?—No. I can explain to the Commissioners that that is an impossibility; it could not occur, for this reason: when a viewer goes through a delivery of boots, he puts aside his rejections, which are not interfered with by myself or Mr. Folkerd till the delivery is completed. Then it becomes our duty to go through the whole of the rejections; and consequently the note is settled; so many are passed, and so many rejected, and the matter is done with.

5169. You supervise the viewers with respect to the rejections?—Yes.

5170. Do you ever withdraw from the heap of boots which have been passed by the viewers, any as improper to be passed?—I might upon some occasions, when I see that the viewers have been at fault, have thrown a pair back which I considered ought to have been rejected.

5171. As a general rule, the viewers were not too lax in passing?—Upon the other hand, they were generally too severe upon the contractors.

5172. Then you did think it necessary personally to revise their rejections?—Upon every occasion either myself or Mr. Folkerd went through every pair of rejections.

5173. You do not seem at all disposed to shrink from a fair responsibility. You consider Mr. Folkerd and yourself responsible as inspectors for all undue rejections, if there were any?—Yes.

5174. That responsibility cannot be shifted to the viewers?—No.

5175. Although it is possible that the viewer may sometimes have passed goods which would have been better rejected?—Exactly.

5176. Were you formerly in the habit of pointing out to the contractors the causes of your rejections?—Whenever they have desired that information, we have always pointed out what we considered the legitimate reason for the rejection.

5177. There has been a marked difference, as it seems to us, in some of the rejection notes. To Mr. Wild, for instance, very special notice has been given of the particular faults you found?—That has been the case with every contractor; it is our invariable rule.

5178. Have you ever contented yourself with such observations as these, "not equal to pattern"?—I do not remember that circumstance; it might have been so.

5179. You say "bad sewing," and "bad work"?—Yes, and "bad materials."

5180. Is the cross which the man makes upon the boot, to indicate the particular spot where the fault is supposed to exist?—Yes.

5181. Is your inspection generally as severe or more severe than it used to be?—It think it is equally as rigid as it ever has been.

5182. Not more so?—No.

5183. Do you find that there are fewer or more rejections now than there used to be?—The rejections are considerably less than they were some time back.

5184. To what do you attribute that?—To the improved quality of the boot.

5185. Probably, that improved quality you would attribute to the fact of the rigid inspection?—Certainly I should take credit for that.

5186. Do not you think there has been some relaxation lately? Had there not been pretty frequent complaints by boot viewers?—The only relaxation there has been, occurred in this way. After the meeting at the Tower, when the contractors were summoned, it was generally understood that boots faulty in trifling matters which could be repaired, should be overlooked; anything repairable that was not a fundamental principle in the manufacture of the boot should be overlooked.

5187. Have you had any reason to suppose that there has ever been at Weedon anything like corruption?—No.

5188. Or any kind of facilities given to one man over another?—No.

5189. Have any compliments ever passed to you from contractors?—Never.

5190. Grove was here in your time, was not he?—Grove is here now.

5191. He was suspended?—Yes.

5192. Was not it you who brought the matter to the notice of the authorities?—In conjunction with Mr. Folkerd I did.

5193. What did you complain of?—The laxity of his inspection of the boots. I did not consider that he was sufficiently careful.

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5194. Was it supposed that that laxity was occasioned by his having been induced by contractors to pass boots improperly?—No; it was attributed afterwards, to his sight failing, or something of that sort; but certainly not to any bribery.

5195. Did you ever hear anything of that kind at that time?—No.

5196. Whitham says that Grove told him that he received 2*l.* and 1*l.*?—I read Whitham's evidence, and that is the first I saw of it. I never heard of anything of the sort before.

5197. (*Colonel French.*) A number of contractors have complained that great violence was used to their boots in striking them against the table. Have you ever seen anything of the kind?—Never. It would have been my duty to have reported it immediately to the superintendent, if I ever had seen anything of the kind; I never saw anything of the kind.

5198. (*Chairman.*) As a whole, have you reason to be satisfied with the efficiency of the viewers?—Yes.

5199. Do you believe them to be all entirely honest men?—I do.

5200. (*Mr. Turner.*) What is your salary at present?—110*l.* with residence.

5201. Are you a married man?—Yes.

5202. Have you a family?—Three children.

5203. (*Chairman.*) Have you any private means besides your salary?—Only such as my parents afford me; I have no private means beyond that.

5204. To revert to the question with which we began; did you make any report in writing to your superior officers, Mr. Hoile or Mr. Elliott, as to the number of boots you had selected as serviceable, those that were doubtful, and those that were condemned?—No, I regret to say at that time we acted more upon verbal instructions than any written instructions. Mr. Elliott was constantly about the stores, giving instructions from day to day, and we acted upon those verbal instructions about the Tower boots.

5205. Surely there ought to have been some record somewhere of the result of the inspection which you thought it necessary to ask for?—I can show you in the Viewers' Ledger the current account running from week to week (*producing a book*). This is the weekly summary kept at the time the Tower boots were under examination. It might have been in existence before that time, but the system of book-keeping was altered then, and that is the first occasion it was brought into this book.

5206. (*Mr. Turner.*) What year was this account kept?—1856.

5207. (*Chairman.*) Were you directed to keep this book by Mr. Elliott?—Yes. These are the rules for keeping the inspection books (*the following paper was delivered in*).

" RULES for KEEPING INSPECTION BOOKS.

" Rule 1st. That each inspecting department keep a store inspection book.

" Rule 2d. That the articles received daily be entered from the invoices or inspection notes, as well as the result of the daily inspection, and placed in the different columns according to the headings.

" Rule 3d. That a certain number of men be assigned to each inspecting branch, and that the inspector keep a list of their names, call it over at eight o'clock every morning, form the men into working groups, pointing out if possible for each group separate work, so that the superintendent may at any time see how the men of the different inspecting branches were employed.

" Rule 4th. That a weekly summary be added at the foot of the page used for the week, showing the number of inspectors, viewers, and labourers employed in the branch, and the quantity of goods received, inspected, approved, and rejected, to enable the superintendent, by a comparison of the proceedings in the different branches, to ascertain their relative merits.

" Rule 5th. That the store inspection book be sent to the superintendent's office at three o'clock P.M. every Saturday, properly filled up as herein directed.

" Rule 6th. That should any inspection notes remain unexamined on Saturdays of each week, they are to be brought forward to the next week's account, with their proper dates, so that all the business of inspection in the branch may appear weekly on the same page of the inspection book.

" (Signed) J. S. ELLIOTT,

" 15th August 1856.

Superintendent."

5208. What do you call this book?—The Viewers' Ledger.

5209. That is not the "Store Inspection Book"?—That was the "Store Inspection Book" at that time. It contains the orders from the different contractors, and this was the "Store Inspection Book" showing the result.

5210. The then "Viewers' Ledger" is merely another name for the same book?—Exactly.

5211. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is not "Store Inspection Book" rather mixing up terms? Should not you have an inspection book and also a store ledger as two separate departments?—I think there ought to be.

5212. Was there ever to your knowledge any book kept except this inspection book, any store ledger subsidiary to the general ledger, which no doubt would be accurately kept in the office?—I should say I kept one for my own information, but I did not consider that an official document.

5213. You were inspector, and not storekeeper?—Practically I was storekeeper.

5214. Was there any other storekeeper than yourself in your department?—There was not.

5215. This book which you call the "Store Inspection Ledger" does in fact embrace two distinct operations?—No. I had separate books.

5216. One was a memorandum of your own, was it not?—Yes. I kept it for the means of furnishing Mr. Elliott with information. He was constantly sending for information, and I found it necessary to keep a book. That was rather in defiance of Mr. Elliott's instructions than in obedience to any instructions I received.

5217. That was not a book that Mr. Elliott ought to quote as a book that assisted him in his operations?—I think not.

5218. You were in fact inspector?—Yes.

5219. You were also storekeeper as well as inspector; were you also issuer of goods?—I was issuer of goods and I was inspector.

5220. We have in you a specimen of the combination of receiver, inspector, storekeeper, and issuer?—Yes.

5221. Do you consider that a good system?—I cannot say that it was a good system.

5222. Was there any check by the one department upon the other department?—No.

5223. You were in fact responsible throughout?—I held myself responsible to Mr. Elliott for the stores in my department.

5224. Your department was three-fold; you were responsible in each of those departments, and no one checked you in any of them?—No.

5225. (*Chairman.*) Assuming this book which you now call the Viewers' Ledger, although it may not be perfect, to be correct as to its entries from the time you were directed to keep it, will it not show us what amount of Tower boots were actually inspected?—So far as it goes.

5226. You finished with the last entry, because you go on afterwards with similar entries, but not relating to the Tower boots?—No.

5227. (*Colonel French.*) According to the present arrangement are the inspectors required to keep books?—Only one book, the Viewers' Ledger, which is a daily record of the inspection of each separate delivery.

5228. (*Chairman.*) There is a record even in these six or seven weeks of upwards of 118,000 boots

re-inspected; was Mr. Folkerd correct when he said that they were taken indiscriminately?—Mr. Folkerd had very little to do with the issue; he spoke from memory, and his memory may have misled him. I would not pledge myself that the whole of the Tower boots were gone through, but none have been sent away except those that have been examined; that I am quite certain of. Those that have not been examined are in store.

5229. Therefore Mr. Ramsay was right in saying that there had been a re-inspection?—Yes, substantially.

5230. Can you furnish the exact number, or thereabouts, of those that you divided into the two or three classes of doubtful and crosses?—I cannot with any degree of accuracy. I should not like to state it unless I could.

5231. It seems from some of these entries that in certain weeks a large portion of those that were looked at were condemned?—Yes; they were subsequently re-inspected, and marked with the cross those that were positively condemned, and those that were fit for certain service were kept.

5232. (*Mr. Turner.*) May it not be inferred, at all events, that those which remain in store now must be chiefly either doubtful, crossed, or rejected boots?—Most of them.

5233. Most of them must be those with the cross, if you have been going through the crossed boots to re-select from those what may do, owing to their size, to issue to the Militia regiments?—A great many I know are marked with the D. as doubtful.

5234. (*Chairman.*) When we had a cask of boots open at the stores we requested the shoemaker of the Kerry militia to examine them, and he took out perhaps forty pairs; about two-thirds he rejected as not fit for wear, and the rest he thought were tolerably good.—If he was right there was in the same cask a very considerable variety in the merit or demerit of the boots; can you explain that?—I should mention that there are some few casks that have not been looked at at all, and it might have been possibly one of those casks.

5235. Why were not they looked at at all?—We were taken off, because the ordinary work was getting into arrear; we were desired to discontinue the Tower inspection, and go on with the ordinary inspection.

5236. Do you undertake to pledge yourself to the accuracy of your statement that the 10,000 sent off to the Tower were those which had been re-inspected and condemned?—I do; because I selected them myself.

5237. (*Mr. Turner.*) Can you state how the cask would be marked if the boots which were taken from that cask were marked both B. O. and W. D.? Should

we know which class they were from that circumstance?—No; I do not think you would.

5238. Would the crossed boots be marked B. O. and W. D.?—Those marked with the cross are undoubtedly condemned boots.

5239. Would the boots be marked B. O. and W. D. if they were crossed?—No; there should be no W. D.

5240. Would there be "D"?—There might be some.

5241. You said that the cask was packed all of one class, either crosses or D for doubtful?—The first 10,000 that were sent away to the Tower were all, undoubtedly, from the crosses.

5242. And the second you think were also?—To the best of my belief.

5243. Supposing we opened a cask, and we found boots inside marked B.O. and W.D.; could those be crossed boots?—I cannot comprehend how they could be.

5244. Were they doubtful boots stamped W. D.?—No; there were no doubtful boots stamped with the W. D.

5245. If these boots were marked B. O. and W. D. they must have been the good boots?—Yes.

5246. Did you put your stamp upon those which you considered good?—No.

5247. (*Chairman.*) Before you re-issued good Tower boots they would be marked B. O.?—They would.

5248. Would you, before re-issuing them from Weedon, mark them W. D.?—No.

5249. Then how would a boot come to have both those marks upon it?—I do not see how it could. I never saw a boot marked W. D. and B. O. both, since I have been in the service.

5250. Who marks the boots?—They are stamped in the inspection room.

5251. (*Mr. Turner.*) When those boots came from the Tower and passed your inspection room, and you divided them into three lots, of crosses, doubtful, and good serviceable boots, did you not mark those good serviceable boots as having inspected them in any way?—No.

5252. (*Chairman.*) Why not?—They were issued as serviceable boots to the militia.

5253. Why did you not mark them as W. D. if you took the responsibility of issuing them?—We could not mark them as W. D. unless they were up to the standard pattern.

5254. (*Colonel French.*) Did you mark the casks?—The casks might have been marked to distinguish them; there might have been a distinguishing mark upon the casks; but I do not pledge myself to say that there was one.

WILLIAM HALL examined.

5255. (*Chairman.*) Are you a boot viewer?—No.

5256. What are you?—A labourer.

5257. Do you remember the casks of boots being sent away to the Tower?—Yes; I helped to pack them.

5258. What did you pack them from?—From the selection of boots which had been made previous and marked with the letter D., part of them was, and part from the general bulk, because the whole of the boots had not been inspected at the time they were sent to the Tower.

5259. Did you see the inspection going on?—Yes.

5260. What was done?—They classified the boots in three classes, "good," "doubtful," and "bad."

5261. From what were the casks that were sent to the Tower filled? Were they filled from the good or doubtful, or bad, or all three?—The generality of them was from the D's, the doubtful ones; the larger portion of them.

5262. And the smaller portion of them from what?—From the others; they were not exactly kept together,

but after they had been classified in the stores, being scant of stowage, the casks got mixed together.

5263. When they were classified, do you say that they were not separated, and the bad ones or the good ones sent off to another store, but were in the same place?—In the same place.

5264. And being in the same place, the packing of the 10,000 for the Tower went on in that place?—The packing for the 10,000 went on above stairs till we had got 10,000, and the remainder was sent into No. 2. store.

5265. You say that the generality was from the doubtful, and the smaller number from the others which had not been inspected; in fact they were taken higgledy piggledy?—Yes.

5266. (*Mr. Turner.*) When they were packed into casks and put into store, were those that were bad packed by themselves?—Yes.

5267. And those that were D's by themselves?—Yes.

WEEDON.

Mr. N. Watson.

30 Sept. 1858.

W. Hall.

WEEDON.

W. Hall.

30 Sept. 1858.

5268. And the good into other casks separate?—
Yes.

5269. How were the bad ones marked on the casks?
—With a cross.

5270. And the doubtfuls with a D., were not they?
—Yes.

5271. How were the others marked?—With a
double cross.

5272. Before this packing went on for the 10,000
to be sent to the Tower, were there three heaps in
the room packed indiscriminately into the casks?
—Yes.

5273. Why should they do that? Was it to make
room, or what?—As far as I understand, there was no
specified order for the quality of boots to go. I acted
under Mr. Watson to pack the 10,000 pairs of boots;
but the generality of them was the D.'s that we packed
them from.

5274. Not the worst?—No; the D.'s were not the
worst.

5275. (*Chairman.*) You had no directions, you say,
to take only crossed boots?—I had no order for it;
it was more the D.'s that we packed from than the
bad ones.

5276. Were the D.'s, good boots, and some that were
never inspected at all, in one cask?—No; different
casks; there might be a cask that had never been
viewed go along with those marked with a D. Each
cask contains 140 pairs.

5277. In delivering those casks, some were deli-
vered complete casks that had never been inspected
at all?—Yes.

5278. Do you know this to have been the case
from having been on the spot?—I have been working
in the boot room ever since. I came down here in
December 1855.

5279. (*Colonel French.*) Did you see any of
Wright's patent amongst the boots that were inspected
on that occasion?—I cannot call any one to mind at
all that I saw in the casks.

5280. (*Chairman to Mr. Watson.*) The substance
of Hall's evidence is that the 10,000 pairs of boots
for the Tower he packed principally from the doubt-
fuls, some from the good, some from the bad, and
some from those that had not been inspected at all;
and that he had no directions from you as to which
lot he was to pack them from; do you wish to offer
any remark or explanation upon his statement?—I
think he is under a misapprehension. They were
selected, as I saw myself, before they went away. I
saw the marks upon the casks; the first 10,000 I am
quite satisfied were marked with a cross.

5281. Were they taken out of the casks to be
packed for the Tower?—No; they had been inspected
some time before they were packed away as bad
boots. They were ready to be sent away anywhere
that might be required, and an order came down
that 10,000 pairs should be sent to the Tower keeper
of stores, and the worst of the Tower boots were then
taken from the crosses.

5282. Were they repacked on that occasion?—No,
they were already packed. They had been viewed
some time before.

5283. (*To Hall.*) Do you remember it perfectly
well?—Yes; I remember perfectly well that at the
time the selection was made there was a great many
bad casks; we took some of the best ones; there
were some of the best ones in casks that had never
been opened nor inspected.

5284. You are quite sure that some of those casks
that had never been opened were amongst those sent
to the Tower?—Yes.

5285. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did you actually pack those
casks for the particular object of going to the Tower?
—No.

5286. They were packed for store?—Yes.

5287. How do you know what particular casks
they did send to the Tower?—Those that were
marked with the letter D., as I said before, was the
greatest portion of them; and those that had never
been inspected and had no mark upon them at all.

5288. Can you take upon yourself to say positively,
and without any hesitation, that casks upon that oc-
casion were sent to the Tower that never had been
inspected at all?—I can.

5289. Is there any one who was your particular
assistant, or who would be with you on that occasion?
—Yes, a man of the name of Hooton.

5290. Is he here now?—Yes; he is working in
the store.

5291. Did he know as well as you yourself what
casks were forwarded on that occasion to the Tower?
—He might have some recollection of it.

5292. (*Chairman to Mr. Watson.*) I find on the
6th of September, and again on the 25th or there-
abouts, that the rejected boots from which you say
the 10,000 were sent to the Tower, were repiled;
does that mean in casks?—In casks.

5293. In order to re-inspect them, you would have
to take them out of the casks, I suppose?—Yes; they
had been taken from one and the other inspection
rooms, brought from No. 6, and opened and ex-
amined.

5294. I should have thought you would have said
that they had been repacked?—It should have been
stated so; it evidently means that they were re-
packed.

5295. There is another entry showing that much
of the labourers' time has been spent in re-packing
the rejected Tower goods?—Yes; and rolling them
from No. 6. store, and *vice versa*.

5296. If you expected at the time that the 10,000
were going away, that the whole lot, notwithstanding
the re-inspection, would be sent away for sale, you
might think it of less consequence whether the
10,000 sent to the Tower were middling or the worst?
—We never recommended that the whole should be
sold; we said that they were applicable to certain
services, but they would not do for the home service;
and when a draft was made for sale we selected the
worst boots that they should go forward.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 10 o'clock.

WEEDON.

Friday, 1st October 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

WEEDON.

Mr. R. Crabb.

1 Oct. 1858.

5297. (*Chairman.*) What are you?—I am foreman
in the issuing department of boots and shoes.

5298. Were you present when we went round the
stores on Wednesday?—Yes.

5299. Did you see the cask of boots opened?—I
was there when the cask had been opened.

5300. What boots did that cask contain?—Boots
returned, I believe, from regiments.

5301. Had they been originally issued from Weedon?—No, they were issued, I believe, by contractors to the regiment.

5302. They were new boots?—Yes.

5303. Half a dozen pairs are in the room. Are those some of the boots?—Those are some of the boots.

5304. How long have those boots been made, should you think?—Two or three years I should think by their appearance.

5305. These have "W.D." and "B.O." upon them?—I was present when that was put on them about a fortnight ago, before that they bore no mark at all.

5306. By whose directions were those marks put on?—By the direction of Captain Cooper, the principal storekeeper; he has taken office from Captain Gordon.

5307. Why did they come back from regiments?—Because they were surplus clothing. I believe they were returned about eighteen months or two years ago, and there have been little lots since that.

5308. What makes you know that those boots were returned from regiments and never were at the Tower?—Because all boots coming from the Tower bear the "B.O."

5309. Can you tell us Captain Cooper's reason for putting the two marks on the boots?—The "B.O." was to know that they belonged to the same class of boots as the Tower boots, and the "W.D." was to distinguish them from the Tower boots, so as to know that they were returned from regiments.

5310. Were any of the boots in that cask from which these were taken, and which you saw opened the other day, a portion of the boots returned from the Tower?—None.

5311. You have shown me this morning a variety of casks with "T." marked upon them. Are they the boots remaining out of the original lot that were sent from the Tower?—Yes.

5312. Do you know them by the marks upon them?—Yes; they are marked "T." and "B.O."

5313. It has been said that after the reinspection in August and September 1856, the boots returned from the Tower were divided into classes; do you know anything about that?—I did not belong to the War Department at that time.

5314. How is it that the casks which now contain the "T. boots" have not a cross or a letter "D." or anything else?—That was all erased about a fortnight or three weeks ago, because the boots had been dubbed and cleaned and put in new casks. Some of the old casks were broken, so that they have all been repacked and remarked.

5315. So that there is now nothing to distinguish, if there be any difference in quality, which are doubtful and which are bad?—Yes; they have been inspected.

5316. What is there outside the casks to enable you to distinguish between the good and the bad boots?—They have been classed first, second, and third class and unserviceable, and the unserviceable casks are marked "unserviceable."

5317. Upon how many casks is there "unserviceable"?—Two casks, one containing 140 and the other 161.

5318. What is the total residue of the Tower boots?—41,832.

5319. Are they all in one store?—Yes.

5320. How are those casks marked?—"T." and "B.O."

5321. The only distinction made is that two casks you say are marked unserviceable?—Yes; they are marked "B.O." and "T."; that means the Tower boots; "T.R." means returned from regiments.

5322. I have been down to see the original Tower boots, and they have "T." upon them; you say there are 41,000 of them?—Not of that class alone. I have the returns with that mark.

5323. What are there remaining of the original lot of Tower boots?—32,790.

5324. Of these 32,790 you say there are two casks unserviceable?—Those two casks of unserviceable include both the returns from regiments and the Tower boots.

5325. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are they mixed?—Yes; the two casks are filled with odd boots, and boots that have been worn.

5326. (*Chairman.*) The Tower boots which are not unserviceable are all simply marked "T."?—There is no division of them into classes.

5327. Do you understand boots yourself?—Yes, I served in the trade.

5328. Are those Tower boots marked from Gotch of Kettering serviceable?—Yes.

5329. (*Mr. Turner.*) Including the returns from regiments and the Tower boots mixed together, you have only the quantity you mention, which you now call unserviceable boots?—Only two casks.

5330. What has become of the original 40,000 which were marked with a cross, and said to be bad boots?—I do not know.

5331. It was said by Mr. Watson that there were 40,000 after the inspection that were laid on one side marked with a cross?—I was not at Weedon then.

5332. When did you come?—In April last.

5333. (*Chairman.*) Have any large quantity of those boots been issued since that time?—About 61,000 pairs, 20,000 out of those went to the Tower for hospital services.

5334. Do you know whether those were marked with a cross, or what they were taken from?—No, they were all repacked. I repacked them myself, and they were taken from the bulk.

5335. Did you find any marks when you packed them on the casks from which you took them?—Those that I packed were loose; a great number of casks had "D." and a cross.

5336. Did you take them more from casks that had a cross on than from casks that had "D." on?—I took them from the loose quantity.

5337. Were they loose in piles when you first came?—There were 53,000 in casks and 50,000 loose. Those that were packed for hospital purposes were taken from the loose ones.

5338. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were the loose ones classified?—The loose ones are classified now.

5339. Were they classified at that time?—No.

5340. (*Chairman.*) Besides those that went to the hospitals, what have been issued?—41,000 pairs have been issued to militia regiments.

5341. Were they taken from loose piles?—Yes; and from casks.

5342. Indiscriminately?—Yes.

5343. Then they could hardly have been classified?—No; not till these last three weeks.

5344. (*Mr. Turner.*) We understood that originally these Tower boots were separated into three classes; bad boots, of which there were 40,000; a great number of doubtful boots marked "D.," and others of a third class, that were considered to be serviceable boots?—When I took them in I took them in as one class. Nobody told me about their being classified.

5345. If there was no separation of these classes, practically the classification was of no use whatever, inasmuch as it was never explained to you that you were to fill the casks or send the boots from any one class more than from any other class?—No.

5346. Therefore the classification practically amounted to nothing for any useful purpose?—Not since I have been issuing.

5347. (*Chairman.*) Do you know anything about winter knee boots?—There are no winter knee boots in store.

5348. How long is it since there were any winter knee boots in store?—The commencement of May last.

5349. Where did they come from?—There was a large quantity in store that went to the Tower about May.

5350. You are quite sure that there have been no winter knee boots here since May?—Yes.

WEEDON.

Mr. R. Crabb.

1 Oct. 1858.

WEEDON.

5351. Were they new?—I only saw a few pairs, those were new, the remainder were in casks.

Mr. R. Crabb.

1 Oct. 1858.

The chairman handed to the witness a circular, dated the 25th September 1858, addressed to Mr. Dowie, desiring him to apply to the storekeeper at Weedon to see knee boots in store there, and inviting him to make a tender for their purchase.

5352. (*Chairman.*) Have you had many applications of that sort?—One gentleman came.

5353. (*Mr. Turner.*) Had he received an official letter from the War Office to come here and inspect those knee boots?—To make a tender for them.

5354. Was the applicant desired to follow the boots

to the Tower?—I do not know; they were sent to the office. Hall can tell you about those knee boots, because he helped to pile them. I did not take them over; they were not brought in the ledger.

5355. (*Colonel French.*) For what reason were those boots that came from the regiments marked with the Tower mark and the "W. D."?—Captain Gordon said that no boots should be issued unless the Government mark was upon them; and the two marks were used to distinguish them from Tower boots or Weedon boots.

5356. Do you know whether they were inspected?—Yes; they were inspected a fortnight or three weeks ago, and marked "W. D." and "B. O."

Mr. N. Watson.

Mr. NOAH WATSON further examined.

5357. (*Chairman.*) We have had from Mr. Crabb an explanation about the boots that we saw on Wednesday morning; you did not see what boots we examined?—No.

5358. Have you since seen the cask of boots that we examined?—I have not.

5359. Do you know where the boots which remain from the lot that came from the Tower are at present?—I have not the remotest idea; they are scattered, I believe, all over the stores; they are no longer under my charge, and they have not been under my charge since Captain Gordon took the remain.

5360. Where were they at the time that Captain Gordon took the remain?—I believe they were scattered in all parts of the store; they were not confined to any particular locality.

5361. How did you trust to identify them as Tower boots?—By the Board of Ordnance mark.

5362. But the Board of Ordnance mark is upon a great many casks?—The casks themselves did not bear the mark; I allude to the boots.

5363. Do not the casks in some cases bear the Board of Ordnance mark?—I never depended upon the cask, I always referred to the boots.

5364. Were not the casks ticketed outside?—They were ticketed outside as a general rule, but before sending any out of store we used to make a practice of opening them.

5365. Surely, for the purpose of knowing what casks to open, when you had to execute an order, you would ticket your goods outside?—Yes.

5366. How did it come to pass that the Tower boots were scattered all over the place? By whose direction was that done?—The bulk being so great, there was no one place sufficiently large to hold them all.

5367. Were they in bulk or in casks?—In casks, with the exception of 50,000 pairs that are now in casks, but which were then on the landing of No. 2 store.

5368. What class were those?—They have been taken out since they were classified, and brought up for the purpose of taking the remain conveniently.

5369. Were the different classes all jumbled together again?—They were all put together again.

5370. Supposing one half was serviceable, and the other half unserviceable, were they put in a heap together to be divided again if need be?—No; it had then been decided that the boots were not to be disposed of, and as soon as we knew of that decision it was a matter of indifference how they were placed; as they were to be issued, they were considered all serviceable.

5371. For the purpose of issue, if some were better than others, it would have been better to have kept them apart, would it not?—My own opinion is, there being so little difference between them, that it was a matter of indifference whether they were taken indiscriminately or selected.

5372. I think it is due to you to say that I have looked very carefully through the evidence, and at

present there is no reliable evidence before us that the two better pairs of boots ever were at Weedon. I am inclined to think, as far as I can see from Levy's evidence given before the Contracts' Committee, that Wright's patent boots never were at Weedon. Levy says he bought some at the Tower, but he believes they came from Deptford and not from Weedon; that they were boots which had been furnished to the marines; if that is so, the blame, if any, of selling those better boots at a low price, does not rest with the Weedon inspectors?—I would beg to suggest, if that is the case, there is as likely to have been a mistake in No. 2 boots as in No. 1.

5373. (*Mr. Turner.*) You thought the bad boots would be disposed of and the good ones kept, and you did the useful work of ascertaining which were serviceable and which were unserviceable?—Yes.

5374. You afterwards thought that none would be disposed of, and it would be better that they should have a lot of each?—Exactly.

5375. (*Chairman.*) Was it the custom in your department to hang up a ticket giving a sort of remain at such a date, and then showing on one side the issues?—No.

5376. Has that custom been introduced by Captain Gordon?—Yes.

5377. Assuming that account to be kept accurately, could not you tell at a glance, by adding up the figures, the number of boots in any particular store?—Yes. The remain is now much more easily obtained than it was in Mr. Elliott's time.

5378. Supposing Captain Gordon started with 20,000 pairs of boots in Store No. 6, and every issue is put upon that ticket, with the number and character of the boot—whether it was "B. O." or "T. R."—could you not see at a glance, by merely adding up the column, what the number of boots left in store should be?—I believe you could do so; you could not in Mr. Elliott's time.

5379. (*Mr. Turner.*) Independently of the account shown on the ticket, will not the books that are kept in the store, also show the state of the stock?—I am not aware.

5380. (*Chairman.*) Had you ever the charge of any winter knee boots?—No.

5381. Have you ever seen any here?—I have seen some.

5382. It has been stated that they were all sent away in the commencement of May; is that so?—I think it was about that time; I had nothing to do with the issuing of those boots.

5383. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are you able to state that the discrepancy has been cleared up to which you alluded yesterday?—Mr. Munro has gone into the matter with myself, and we have discovered where the discrepancy exists; his report, which will be laid before the Commissioners, will entirely exonerate me from any blame in the matter. Mr. Munro will show you that the error arose from a circumstance over which I had no control.

5384. Has your suspension been removed?—I believe the report will be forwarded to-day; there has not been sufficient time.

5385. (*Chairman.*) There was a point mentioned at the meeting at the Tower about a number of boots having been rejected because certain holes were not punched in them. Are you acquainted with that case?—That was in connexion with the Tower establishment; it referred to Mr. Nicholls' supply of police boots to that establishment.

5386. Supposing any minor defects of that sort, which might be removed with tolerable ease, existed in a supply of boots, would there be convenience here for remedying them?—I should mention that we have done it to the extent of 40,000 or 50,000 pairs of boots.

5387. Where was it done?—In the store.

5388. By the contractors' men?—By our own labourers.

5389. Have you charged anything to the contractors for doing it?—No; the order was given to punch all the Army Regulation boots with lace holes, and those boots were supplied immediately after the order was given; and to avoid unnecessary expense to the contractor, we took the trouble of punching the holes ourselves.

5390. Supposing in some good boots there were certain small defects which could be remedied, do you think it would be possible and advisable to allow those defects to be remedied in the store, instead of sending the boots back to the contractors?—I think it would afford some satisfaction to the contractors, and be no inconvenience to the department, if the contractors were allowed to remedy some small defects of that sort.

WILLIAM HALL further examined.

5391. Can you state when the winter knee boots came?—They were here in December 1855, at the same time with the other boots, to the best of my knowledge.

5392. Were they here till last May?—Yes.

5393. Were any of them issued, so far as you know?—There were some, I cannot tell the quantity now, sent to America.

5394. Was there a quantity left this spring?—Yes.

5495. Were they good knee boots?—Yes; the same as we have been serving out to the regiments.

5396. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you any idea of the number?—I have not; they were all in bulk in one store. I could not say exactly how many there were. I should say there were as many as 20,000 both knee and thigh boots.

5397. (*Chairman.*) Were you employed in helping to pack them up to send away?—They never were emptied out of the casks; they were in the casks ready to be sent away to the Tower.

5398. When were they sent away?—This last May.

5399. Do you know why at all?—No.

5400. Have you any knee boots left now?—No; not one pair, to my knowledge.

5401. Have you heard of any gentleman coming to look at them?—I saw a gentleman here one day who came and inquired whether he could see some knee boots.

5402. Did he come from London?—Yes.

5403. And he found he could not see any knee boots?—He could not; we informed him that they were sent to the Tower.

5404. Who was it?—I am not aware.

5405. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did he say how he got his information?—He had a note in his hand specifying that it came from the War Office.

5406. Has not Mr. Dowie requested to look at those boots?—Not to my knowledge.

5407. (*Chairman.*) You have had an opportunity of thinking over what you said yesterday; are you still quite sure that a portion of the boots sent to the Tower in September 1856 were never unpacked, and never had been inspected?—I am confident that there were boots sent away to the Tower that never were unpacked.

5408. Are you still clearly of that opinion?—Yes; because this last fortnight we have been clearing up every thing; every cask has been opened, and we found a great quantity that had not been opened or inspected since they first came from the Tower.

5409. Can you tell what quantity?—I should say 20 casks, 140 in each cask.

5410. (*Mr. Turner.*) Since you were examined yesterday has anything been said to you by any of the officers here with regard to the evidence you gave?—No.

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Mr. N. Watson.

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W. Hall.

5411. (*Colonel French.*) Do you know when the boots that are said to have come from the regiments came into store?—They have been coming in every day ever since we have been down here, some in small quantities, as fives, sixes, twenties, thirties, two hundreds, and as high a number as 400; some from the West Indies, and some from the home service. I have got a memorandum book in which I used to note every day what I used to receive from the different regiments, and then classify them myself. The "B.O's." were put along with the Tower boots; those which were not stamped we put by themselves, and ticketed them as returns from such a regiment on such a date. Now we have gone through them all and put "B.O." and "W.D." on them within the last fortnight.

5412. Have they been inspected and passed?—They were inspected within the last fourteen days by the viewers and Mr. Folkard the inspector.

5413. And approved of?—Yes.

5414. (*Chairman.*) Were any of them rejected?—I believe there was about one cask rejected out of them.

5415. What was done with that cask?—It stands in the store now.

5416. Is it marked in any way?—It is marked "unserviceable."

5417. How many casks are marked "unserviceable"?—Two; one with odd boots 161, that is, 322 odd boots.

5418. Do the two casks that are marked "unserviceable" contain only boots that have been returned from regiments, or boots that were condemned out of those that came from the Tower?—Both; most of them are odd boots that we could not pair together. Some, I think, have been worn for a very little time; we will say twice a man had walked out in them; they had had no service, just as if they were misfits, or something of that sort.

5419. (*Colonel French.*) Was that cask which was opened for the Commissioners, one of the casks you allude to as unserviceable boots?—That is a cask of boots that had been passed in the inspection within the last fortnight as returned from different regiments; there was no mark upon them at all till they were passed by the viewers a fortnight ago.

5420. Were the boots in the cask that we saw opened and inspected by the shoemaker of the Kerry Militia approved, or was it a condemned cask?—It was approved.

5421. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are you in the store in which we first inspected the cask of boots that were supposed to be returned boots from the Tower?—No, I am not.

5422. Do you know how it happened that that particular cask was opened?—I think it was through a mistake of Mr. Boyd taking them from the wrong pile; they were all in one store.

WEEDON.

Mr. THOMAS HENRY MALLETT examined.

Mr.
T. H. Mallett.

1 Oct. 1858.

5423. (*Chairman.*) You are one of the cloth inspectors here?—Yes.

5424. And have been so from the commencement of the establishment?—Since February 1856.

5425. Who appointed you?—Mr. Elliott.

5426. Had you known him previously?—No; I had not known Mr. Elliott previously to my being appointed by him. I knew a gentleman in the War Office, a Mr. Dowling.

5427. Was it through Mr. Dowling's influence that you got the appointment?—No, I think not. I rather think it was through the testimonials which I was able to bring forward.

5428. What had been your previous occupation?—I lived ten years with Messrs. Bartlett and Company, woollen and Manchester warehousemen in Noble-street, Cheapside. I travelled for them three years. Previously to that I was two years with Messrs. Bull and Wilson in St. Martin's-lane, cloth merchants, and I had two excellent testimonials from those houses.

5429. Did you apply to Mr. Elliott personally?—I applied first to Mr. Dowling, and Mr. Dowling mentioned the circumstance to Mr. Elliott.

5430. What is your age?—Thirty-four.

5431. Are you married?—I am.

5432. Have you a family?—I have two children.

5433. What is your salary?—110*l.*, without residence.

5434. (*Mr. Turner.*) You are so far worse off than Mr. Watson?—I am worse off than any other inspector. I have made application on several occasions for apartments, or lodging-money in lieu of apartments, but I have not succeeded in obtaining either.

5435. Do you reside in the town?—I reside in Weedon.

5436. (*Chairman.*) Have you any private means of your own?—I have no private means. On joining this department I had money by me which I had saved during the ten years I was with Messrs. Bartlett. My wife has earned a good deal as a teacher of music.

5437. Is she living here?—Yes.

5438. Has she pupils?—She has many pupils here. When I have wanted money, I have obtained it from my friends; I have been obliged to do so, in order to support myself and family. I have remained to the present time in my appointment, in consequence of having been promised 250*l.* per annum by Mr. Elliott about eighteen months ago, which I need hardly say I have not received. I was distinctly promised that my salary should be raised to 250*l.*, to commence on the 1st of April 1857.

5439. Are you not aware that Mr. Elliott had no power to make that promise unless he was deputed by the higher authorities to do so?—I am not aware what authority Mr. Elliott had. I know that he distinctly promised me 250*l.* per annum. I spoke to him upon that subject several times, and he said I might set my mind at rest that I should have 250*l.* per annum, commencing at a certain date. I expressed a doubt to Mr. Elliott, whether this would take place, and he said, "Do you doubt my veracity?" After that I thought, as a matter of course, that I should receive the 250*l.*

5440. (*Mr. Turner.*) What was your salary in your last situation?—My income from salary, commission, and expenses was upwards of 200*l.* per annum.

5441. Did you give it up to come to Weedon?—No; I resigned the situation of my own accord.

5442. At the time you applied for the appointment at Weedon, were you in any situation?—No; I had left Messrs. Bartlett and Company in consequence of my wife objecting to my travelling, I had made up my mind to take a situation which would enable me to be more at home.

5443. (*Chairman.*) I presume that your wife, as a teacher of music, requires a pianoforte?—Yes.

5444. Was it a present to her?—It was not. I purchased the piano two years before I came to Weedon; I brought it with me as a matter of course.

5445. I think I understood you to say that you had realized some money before coming here?—I had saved money, having been in a situation ten years.

5446. Have you laid by any money since you came here?—Not any.

5447. You are not a richer man now than you were when you came here?—Not a farthing; on the contrary, I occasionally borrow a little money from a relative of mine, whose name and address I will give if you think proper. A short time ago I applied for money for lodging expenses, and I received a reply from the War Office, stating that it was under consideration, but I have heard nothing more of it.

5448. You have apparently some enemies, and one of them has sent me an anonymous letter. As a general rule every well-disposed man puts an anonymous letter on the fire, and takes no notice of it; but it is only due to those who are alluded to in such a case as this, and also justice to the public, that we should not treat an anonymous letter with the contempt we should under ordinary circumstances. I am asking you these questions upon suggestions from somebody whom I do not know?—What I have stated respecting the piano may be corroborated by my neighbours; they know that I brought it with me.

5449. Have you had presents of money during the two years you have been here?—No.

5450. Or plate?—I have received a present of plate, but not from a contractor. I presume you allude to presents from contractors.

5451. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did you receive that present of plate from any person who has any connexion with this establishment?—I received a present of some silver spoons and forks from a relative of mine, who is in no way connected with the Government, whose name and address I will give if you think proper.

5452. (*Chairman.*) Was that person in any way connected with any contractor?—Not in any way; the things were presented to me in consequence of his having stood godfather to my daughter.

5453. Have you had any presents of wine?—I have not; what little wine I have drunk since I have been here I have purchased. I think I have indulged in a bottle of South African sherry on one or two occasions.

5454. (*Mr. Turner.*) I suppose with a salary of 110*l.* a year and a family to keep, even with the assistance of your wife, you are not able to indulge in many luxuries?—Not any. I think we live as near as it is possible to live, to live at all.

5455. (*Chairman.*) Did you ever directly or indirectly receive any kind of douceur or consideration from any one connected with contracts for the supply of goods to Weedon?—I have not. I received three cigars on one occasion from a contractor, but in justice to that gentleman I think I ought to state that I have known him for many years.

5456. Do you know a Mr. Wollen?—I have seen him in the store.

5457. He was examined before us in London; have you seen his evidence?—I have read his evidence in the papers.

5458. You might see that he was examined upon subjects bearing upon you. Is it true, as he has stated, that he never directly or indirectly gave you anything or promised you anything?—Perfectly true.

5459. Did you ever see Mr. Wollen at any time?—Never in the stores, except in the presence of Mr. Hoile. I observe Mr. Wollen stated in evidence that he met me one day outside of the stores. I do not remember the circumstance; I believe Mr. Wollen mistook some other individual for me. I have no recollection of the circumstance whatever.

5460. Have you been in the habit of visiting in London any one who has furnished goods to Weedon?—No one.

5461. Have you ever visited Mr. Wollen at his house in London?—I have not. I have never seen Mr. Wollen except in the stores in the presence of Mr. Hoile, and that I solemnly assert.

5462. Nor Mr. Webb, nor anybody else?—No. I remember Mr. Webb asking me a question when I was waiting to take my turn to be examined in London, how I got on with the serge, and I believe he asked the same question of Mr. Hoile.

5463. Were you examined?—I was not; I was waiting to take my turn.

5464. Had Mr. Webb some trouble about some serge?—Mr. Wollen had; there was a good deal rejected.

5465. Then you solemnly declare that there is no ground for any imputation upon you?—No ground whatever.

5466. Neither in the shape of wine, grog, money, cigars, or anything?—Nothing of the kind.

5467. Something has been said by Eary about a person of the name of Archer coming to Weedon, and Whitham sending for you to see him; what was that about?—Mr. Whitham did not name to me who the contractor was; he said that a friend of his from Yorkshire had arrived here, and he would be glad if I would step over and see him. I was not aware what he wanted me for, because had he named a contractor, I should not have gone; he said it was a friend of his, and out of mere curiosity I went over. I saw a gentleman whom I had never seen before, neither have I seen him since. I do not remember that he mentioned at the time his name; he said he was a contractor; I excused myself from staying, and withdrew.

5468. Did nothing pass?—Nothing whatever.

5469. How did you know that his name was Archer?—I have heard so since.

5470. Have you no knowledge up to this time of what he wanted to see you about?—No knowledge whatever, because I left Eary's shop directly.

5471. Was Mr. Archer at that time supplying goods to Weedon?—I believe there was a Mr. Joshua Archer supplying goods.

5472. Surely you must know whether he was?—He was not supplying goods in my department, and I have not a distinct recollection of it.

5473. You say that nothing whatever passed, how did you find out that he was a contractor?—Because Whitham said he was a contractor. Mr. Whitham said "This gentleman is a contractor," and when he commenced to tell me what he was about to say—

5474. What was he about to say?—I do not know what he was about to say; when he commenced to tell me what he wanted to tell me, I withdrew.

5475. (*Mr. Turner.*) He must have given you some idea of the nature of the communication he wished to make?—Mr. Whitham said, "This is a contractor," and when I heard he was a contractor, I withdrew. I did not wish to have anything to say to a contractor.

5476. (*Chairman.*) Did not the contractor say anything to you?—Not a word to me.

5477. Whitham told you that he was a contractor, and thereupon you withdrew?—Yes; the name has been mentioned to me since.

5478. (*Mr. Turner.*) How did you learn the name since?—Mr. Hoile mentioned the circumstance to me that he had been told by Eary, or some one else, that this gentleman's name was Archer. I was not aware that his name was Archer.

5479. (*Chairman.*) When did this take place?—I think about eighteen months or two years ago.

5480. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you received any presents from Yorkshire, not luxuries, but anything that would make your table more comfortable than under other circumstances you could afford?—Nothing of the kind. I think an unjust imputation has been cast upon the competency and the integrity of the inspectors in consequence of the very low salary which they are paid. I do not know whether I am digressing in naming this circumstance, but we appear to be placed in precisely an inverse ratio to the responsibility

imposed upon us. The inspectors in this department are made to rank in the lowest grade, so far as pay is concerned. The inspection branch is the main-spring of the mechanism of this establishment, and yet so far as pay is concerned it is the least cared for. An inspector fills a position in this department analogous to that which a buyer fills in any mercantile house. An inspector is virtually a buyer of goods for the Government, and in any house doing business of the same magnitude as that which is done in this department, he would receive from 500*l.* to 800*l.* a year. I think I am right in stating that the inspectors, being paid only 100*l.* a year, have the same salary only as a porter would receive in any respectable mercantile house. I think, as I have said before, that the very low pay has been the means of causing an unjust imputation to be cast upon the competency and the integrity of the inspectors. I think it is much to be regretted that the salaries of the inspectors were fixed at so low a sum, because the trade has assumed that we knew but little about our business, or we would not have remained here on such small salaries.

5481. Is not a first-rate buyer in a Manchester house quite as independent as his master?—I think so; the buyer is looked up to in any firm; but in this department he moves in the lowest grade.

5482. Even Sergeant Brodie, the foreman of saddlery, who has now left this department, and who grumbled at his position, had a much higher salary than you have?—He had 127*l.* I think the Inspection Branch should be revised; the viewers, if they be competent men, certainly should receive much more than the sum they are at present paid.

5483. You are an inspector, were you also at one time acting as storeholder?—When I first came here I was the receiver of goods, the inspector of goods, the storeholder, and the issuer of goods.

5484. With the system of book-keeping in this establishment during the early part of your career, could not you, if you had been so disposed, have cheated the Government to almost any extent, without a chance of detection?—I think I might have done so. I have not thought much of the subject.

5485. It is a delicate thing to ask a man whether he could have done a thing which he is horror-struck at contemplating. Now that you do casually think of it, could you not have put it into execution if you had been evil-disposed?—I think I might have done it to a certain extent; not to a great extent, as you have suggested.

5486. Could not you have quadrupled your salary without much difficulty?—I do not know that I could have done it.

5487. (*Chairman.*) I presume you must have been in collusion with some one to have committed a fraud?—Yes; the viewers for instance would have been a check; they would know the length of the pieces as well as myself; they would know how many yards a certain invoice contained.

5488. (*Mr. Turner.*) You are of opinion that justice has not been done to you and the other inspectors in the amount of salary paid to you. Is it not one of the evils you have been suffering under, that you have been liable to great temptation to outstep the bounds of honesty?—Of course it places a man in that position which would lead one to suppose that he must be open to bribery or something of the kind, when he fills a position of importance and responsibility on so small a salary; there is suspicion resting upon him from that cause.

5489. Are you of opinion that the Government have done you justice in that respect in placing you under that temptation?—Decidedly not. I think they have done the inspectors great injustice in placing them in that position. I think they should place the inspectors above temptation.

5490. I think that the Government have acted most unwisely and most unjustly in placing men at 110*l.* a year, with the control of a large amount of public property, rendering them liable to temptation to be fraudulent in dealing with that property?—I quite agree with your remark. The general public,

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and the trade in particular, would assume that we must be bribed in order to live, or we should not accept situations for so low a salary. An inspector has the passing of goods to the value of from 300,000*l.* to 500,000*l.* per annum, which is a very large sum, and consequently if the inspector does not do his duty the public money is misapplied; if he does his duty, the money is properly applied; therefore the responsibility of the situation requires that the inspector should be properly paid. It would assign to him his proper status in this establishment, which at present he does not fill.

5491. (*Chairman.*) If you had a facility by reason of the absence of a proper system of checks of defrauding, that is a defect of the system in addition to its injustice to yourself. I am anxious to know, if you have no objection to state it, how the system afforded you that facility?—Only by filling up the invoices of goods passed a few yards more than were actually passed; that is the only way that occurs to my mind at the present moment.

5492. That does not convey to my mind the idea that there would be any ultimate fraud. A man has a contract for 10,000 yards of cloth, and he should deliver it, we will say, at four times, 2,500 yards at each time. You certify that he has delivered 2,500 the first time, when he has only delivered 2,400, and so on. You give him credit for more than he has actually delivered, but not for more than he has contracted to deliver?—Now you mention it, of course the check would be on completing his contract; if he contracted for 10,000 yards, when we had received 10,000 according to our invoices, the contract would terminate. That I did not think of when I mentioned it.

5493. He might only deliver 9,800, and you might have said that he had delivered 10,000, by merely giving him credit for more than he had delivered. Unless in the end his delivery was short, would there be any fraud? He would get his money a little sooner, but would not such a thing as that be certain to be found out?—It might be.

5494. Even under the defective system which formerly existed, unless there had been a great number of persons concerned, would not a short delivery, if you had given the contractor credit for a full delivery, have been certain to have been found out?—It would be found out by the clothier to whom the goods were delivered; the clothier would be a check.

5495. The clothier would know how many trousers he had contracted to make up; would not the men here know how many trousers were to come back from the clothier?—Yes.

5496. I wish to ascertain how any cheating could have taken place in the receipt or issue of goods by reason of the system that formerly existed here?—The only mode that occurs to me is, that I might fill up my invoice for more yards than I had actually passed; but when I consider the matter, there would be the check of the clothier to whom the cloth would be issued; he would discover that instead of receiving 10,000 yards, there were 100 yards short.

5497. When articles were sent back by regiments, did they come into your custody?—Generally, I think, the cloth returned from regiments was sent into the inspecting-room to be measured to ascertain that the lengths were correct, and then sent to the packing-room.

5498. When goods were returned from regiments, did you give to the regiment or the regimental board a receipt for what had been sent to you?—The receiving clerk would give a receipt, not the inspector. The goods would be sent into the room to be measured, and all I should have to do would be to measure them.

5499. Had you any opportunity, under the system as it formerly existed, of fraud in that respect?—No, I think not.

5500. (*Colonel French.*) It has been stated by several witnesses that no account was taken of the goods returned from regiments. If so, when you were acting as storekeeper as well as inspector, might

you not, out of those goods, when you were called upon to give a remain, have filled up any deficiency which had been caused by your previous collusion with a contractor to give him an improper invoice?—It might have been so in the supposititious case of the inspector's filling up an invoice for several yards more than he actually passed; it might have been done in that case as in the other.

5501. (*Mr. Turner.*) Without going into any details of how it may be managed, in a very general way we will suppose, as you were at one time receiver, inspector, storeholder, and issuer, that you were roguishly inclined; suppose that I, as a contractor or a clothier, were also roguishly inclined, as a contractor I should come into communication with you as the receiver and inspector, and as a clothier I should come in communication with you as the storeholder and issuer. Would anything more have been required than collusion between two rogues to deceive the Government to any extent?—I think it might have been done when the depôt was first established, so far as I am able to form an opinion at present.

5502. Supposing I contract for 10,000 yards of cloth, and I make you four deliveries, professing to be 2,500 each, and you pass a certificate for 2,500 to the War Office, and they pay for those 2,500 yards, but I have only sent you in 2,000, and we divide the plunder? how is that ever to be found out? You would be wrong in your stock account, but your stock account would not be balanced until the ledger of the 14th of May 1858 is balanced and compared with the cash account at the War Office. It would then be ascertained how much had been paid for, and the discrepancy would be discovered in that particular transaction between the 8,000 and the 10,000 yards. Short of that, was there anything in the former system that could detect the difference?—Excepting the check that the clothier would have upon us by receiving fewer yards.

5503. You would deliver the proper quantity to the clothier if you were not in collusion with the clothier, but if you had any stock here you could mystify that, could not you?—I am now speaking without having considered the subject at all. There might be many checks in such a case, of which at present I have no idea. I am merely stating what I could do myself. I could fill up an invoice for a few yards more than I had actually passed. As for the other checks that there might be upon my proceeding, of course at the present moment I cannot say.

5504. (*Chairman.*) Our object is to see whether a fraud of that description would be discovered with certainty. With promptitude it would not, as we are aware, but what in your opinion would be the ultimate check?—The check would be, in my opinion, the clothier to whom the cloth was issued.

5505. (*Mr. Turner.*) If it was immediately issued?—If it was immediately issued, or issued some time after the cloth was passed, because the inspectors are not sure to what particular clothier a certain cloth will be delivered. Assuming that a clothier was in collusion with us, and that we had filled up an invoice for ten or twenty yards of cloth more than we had passed, the cloth might not be given to that clothier with whom we were in collusion, but to some other clothier.

5506. If you had given credit for 10,000 yards, and only received 8,000, and were called upon to furnish that cloth to some clothier, you would be soon found out?—Yes.

5507. In process of time it would be discovered that your stock was deficient?—Yes.

5508. Mr. Munro was asked, when he was examined before the Contracts' Committee, at Question 7749 (June 18, 1858): You think that the system has been "so imperfect, and the manner of conducting the business has been so loose, that if a contractor had been evil-minded enough, he might have got from Government payment for goods which had never been delivered?" His answer is, "Supposing that an inspector was fraudulent, it could be done, because the inspector received the goods, he inspected

"the goods, he stored the goods, and he issued them "or put them in the general stock." The next question is, "There was no check kept by one man "against the other in the establishment to prevent "fraud being perpetrated if the parties had felt so "inclined?" He says, "I have seen none." Then he is asked: "The system has been so loose, that no "check existed?" He says, "I have seen none." Then he is asked: "The receipt, the inspection, and "the issue were in the hands of one man?" He says, "In one man." Does your opinion correspond with that?—I partly concur with Mr. Munro in his opinion, but as I have said the check would be with the parties to whom the cloths were issued.

5509. (*Colonel French.*) You would represent to your chief to make a requisition for more cloth from the contractors, consequently you would keep a floating account, and unless the remain was taken, your fraud could not be discovered, because when you found your cloth getting low you would apply for more?—The inspectors would not apply for more.

5510. Who would?—The superintendent I presume.

5511. (*Chairman.*) Will you tell us the whole process, which we have not had yet from any witness, in your department, attending the receipt and inspection of cloth. In the first place, is this the specification now used with respect to cloths (*handing a paper to the witness*)?—This is the form of specification.

The Specification is as follows :

SPECIFICATION for the Guidance of Persons tendering to supply Cloth for the Service of

Number of Pattern.	
	CLOTH.
	To weigh lbs. oz. per yard, and not less.
	To be dyed with and to be exact
	in colour, quality, make, and finish, and to be similar
	to the sealed pattern in every particular.
	The cloth to be delivered shrunk.
	The cloth to be made from new sound wool; if it
	is discovered that any portion of a delivery of cloth
	contains wool made from woollen rags, known by the
	terms "shoddy," or "mungo," or anything else than
	new wool, the whole of the cloth at that time under
	inspection will be rejected.
	The cloth to measure quite 54 inches between the
	lists, or be subject to the following deductions;
	viz:—
	If 52 inches wide deduct 2 yards for each 36 yards.
	" 52½ " " 1½ " 36 "
	" 53 " " ¾ " 36 "
	No cloth will be received under 52 inches wide.
	If necessary, for the purpose of inspection, a por-
	tion of cloth, 6 inches by 8 inches in size, will be cut
	out near the end of each piece; the same will be sub-
	jected to "Hebdon's" cloth testing machine, and no
	cloth will be accepted that will not bear a strain of
	lbs. warp, and lbs. weft.
	The whole of the cloth to be delivered at Weedon
	free of expense, and all cloth that may be rejected by
	the inspecting officer, to be repacked and removed
	from the place of inspection, at the contractor's ex-
	pende, within seven days after he has received notice
	to do so.
	The cloth supplied to be stamped on one end of each
	piece with the name of the contractor and manu-
	facturer of the cloth, and the date of the year in
	which it is delivered, in clear and legible characters;
	the length of the cloth to be stated, the name of the
	contractor to be distinguished from that of the manu-
	facturer, thus—
	Smith & Co. Jones & Co.
	C. M.
	1858. 1858.
	and each bale marked so as easily to be identified with
	the invoice.
	In the event of the contractor being also the manu-
	facturer, the cloth supplied to be marked thus—
	Smith & Co.
	C. & M.
	1858.
	The decision of the Secretary of State for War to
	be final.
	Patterns to be seen at the War Office, Pall Mall.

5512. How long has that specification been in use here?—So far as I can recollect it has been in use about four months; it was drawn up by Mr. Hoile.

5513. The specification contains at the end a statement that the patterns may be seen at the War Office, Pall Mall. We wish to understand quite clearly how you get the patterns for the cloth in the first instance. Do you ever see the original patterns at the War Office?—Never; I am speaking of my own experience. I have never seen the original patterns.

5514. You get a duplicate pattern, or what professes to be a duplicate pattern?—A pattern is sent to us for each particular service, which professes to be the standard pattern for that particular service.

5515. You have not a pattern for each supply, only the standard pattern?—Only the standard pattern.

5516. Are you consulted as to the excellence of those patterns before they are sealed?—Not during the past twelve or eighteen months. So far as I can recollect for the first nine months the inspectors were consulted. When a pattern was sent by a contractor for sealing, or by the War Office for sealing, it was submitted to the inspectors, Mr. Hoile, Mr. Hebdon, and myself for our opinion, and according to our opinion it was either approved or rejected. That system has not been carried out, I believe, during the last eighteen months.

5517. Do you get new patterns upon which you have never had an opportunity of giving an opinion?—Occasionally we have new patterns, but not frequently.

5518. When the cloth first comes it is received, as we understand, in the first store-room by the receiving clerk?—Yes, and he takes an account of it.

5519. Merely of what it purports to be?—Yes.

5520. Is it opened there?—It is not.

5521. He then gives a receipt to the person who brings it, I suppose; Pickford, or whoever it may be?—I believe so; I am not sure of that.

5522. In the case of cloth, as a general rule, how soon after its reception by the receiving clerk is it taken to the room to be inspected?—That will depend upon the business we have in hand; sometimes it is inspected within a week after delivery, sometimes a fortnight, and sometimes as long as a month.

5523. What is the period between reception and inspection at present?—About a week or a fortnight.

5524. Would it be inspected by either Mr. Hoile or you?—By me.

5525. I believe you are now sole inspector here?—Yes.

5526. How many viewers have you under you?—I have two, who are paid as viewers; and several assistant viewers, who are paid as labourers at 15s. a week.

5527. With your present staff, there being only one perch instead of two, how many yards of cloth can you examine in a day?—It entirely depends upon the character of the cloth to be inspected. If the cloth runs even, and it is good perfect cloth, we can inspect 1,500 yards a day. By inspection, I mean to say that it is examined by the inspector in the first instance and passed for quality, it is then perched for damages, and is afterwards stamped, measured, and made ready for packing; that is the process which I term inspection, and 1,500 yards would be about the average. When the cloth runs what we term uneven, and it is inferior in quality, bad in the make, and has numerous imperfections, as in the case of the red cloths, we can only do perhaps one half the quantity a day, or it may be one-fourth.

5528. Have you a sufficient staff now to inspect within a week or a fortnight after receipt the cloth which is now being delivered?—I think we have.

5529. When do you weigh the cloth?—We weigh it the first thing.

5530. The specification says that it shall weigh so many ounces to the yard?—Yes.

5531. If it does not come up to that weight, do you reject it?—We allow a minimum weight, we give

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the contractor a margin of an ounce or an ounce and a half per yard, according to circumstances, in consequence of its being impracticable for any manufacturer, however good his intentions may be, to bring up the cloth exactly to a given weight.

5532. Per piece or per yard?—Per yard.

5533. How can you weigh every yard?—It is weighed in the piece, and so many yards in the piece at such a weight would be so much per yard.

5534. Would the weight per yard of a piece of cloth be pretty sure to be much the same?—The weight per yard is calculated from the number of yards in the piece, taking the weight of the piece; it is reduced to weight per yard from a table.

5535. Will a piece be uniformly the same throughout? May not one half of the piece be over weight and the other half under weight? Would you then take the average?—Yes.

5536. Do you ascertain the weight by Hebdon's machine?—Yes.

5537. What is the next process?—The inspector then proceeds to examine the quality.

5538. By quality do you mean the texture?—I mean we ascertain if the value of the cloth be equal to that of the sealed pattern; we must decide that first, because if it be not equal in value the texture is a matter of no consideration.

5539. That is a general sort of survey?—Yes; the quality of the wools I am alluding to.

5540. I see the specification says, "The cloth is to be made from new sound wool; if it is discovered that any portion of a delivery of cloth contains wool made from woollen rags, known by the terms 'shoddy,' or 'mungo,' or anything else than new wool, the whole of the cloth at that time under inspection will be rejected." Is that adhered to?—It is not; that cannot be adhered to, because a few of our sealed patterns are not made of pure wools.

5541. If you have a sealed pattern that contains what is not pure wool, why do you ever issue this specification for a contract?—That form of specification is always issued, but our sealed patterns are not in accordance with the requirements of the specification.

5542. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is not that rather a trap to the contractor?—It is a discrepancy; of course the manufacturers cannot comply both with the terms of the specification and the peculiarities of the sealed pattern, when they differ from each other.

5543. Which is he to follow?—That is a matter of opinion; sometimes contractors will follow the sealed pattern, and sometimes the specification.

5544. Would it not be wiser if the contractor acted as I have upon several occasions when an application has been made to me to supply an article for which some contractor intended to send in a tender. I have received a pattern, and if I have followed it I should not have followed the specification. I have then said, "the terms are incongruous, and I do not choose to be led into a trap?"—You would have nothing to do with it.

5545. (*Chairman.*) This specification states that cloth is to be made from new sound wool, although the sealed patterns contain to a greater or less degree shoddy or mungo. Is not the covenant with the contractor that he shall follow both the specification and the pattern?—Yes; but generally speaking the contractors follow the sealed pattern.

5546. The contract being to make cloth according to the specification and pattern, would you, if you found the supply was according to the pattern, reject it? If, for instance, the pattern contained shoddy, and the supply also?—Our rule is to follow the sealed pattern.

5547. (*Mr. Turner.*) Supposing the supply was in your opinion not fit for the service it was intended for, and you found that the contractor had a justification for sending that quality in, so far as the sealed pattern was concerned, would you endeavour to avail yourself of a quibble, and reject the supply upon the specification because you thought it not fit for the

service?—We should not feel ourselves justified in rejecting the supply if it were equal to the sealed pattern. If the contractor had a pattern and made his cloth equal to it, it would be unjust and unbusiness-like to reject it.

5548. Even supposing it was unfit for the service?—Yes; we should be bound to pass it, if it were equal to the sealed pattern.

5549. (*Colonel French.*) Should not the contractor see whether the specification is at variance with his pattern previously to his undertaking the contract?—It would be well for him to do so.

5550. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is it fair to put him in that position?—It is not; the sealed patterns ought to be in conformity with the specification; as a matter of course any business man would understand that in a moment.

5551. (*Chairman.*) In your department you follow the sealed pattern?—Yes.

5552. Do not you invite the manufacturer to put in nothing but pure wool?—The specification states that the supply must not contain any portion of shoddy or old wool. If the sealed pattern contain either of these ingredients, we pass the supply if it be equal in quality to the pattern.

5553. I can understand texture, and I can understand dye; what do you mean by quality?—The quality of the wools; the materials of which the cloth is made.

5554. Of a certain strength or certain fineness?—Yes; fineness as regards the wools.

5555. I believe you ascertain that the supply is apparently equal in quality to the pattern by the eye?—Yes, from experience.

5556. What is the next step?—We see that it is the proper width and the proper colour.

5557. First the width; it is to measure fifty-four inches, but you make an allowance for anything down to fifty-two inches, do not you?—For fifty-two inches we allow two yards in thirty-six yards, as is mentioned in the specification.

5558. If it is under fifty-two inches wide do you reject it?—Yes.

5559. It is also a condition that the cloth shall be shrunk; is that always complied with?—No, the cloth is not thoroughly shrunk.

5560. Would you reject cloth if it was not shrunk?—No.

5561. What should you do?—Pass it; very few cloths are sent in thoroughly shrunk.

5562. Then what on earth is the use of a specification which says that all cloths shall be shrunk?—If they were thoroughly shrunk they would perhaps run up too much in the width.

5563. Why do you put such a clause in the specification if it is not adhered to?—Some cloth is delivered thoroughly shrunk.

5564. Can you tell me why that clause is in the specification, that it should be shrunk?—I cannot.

5565. (*Mr. Turner.*) You did not draw up the specification, I understand?—No.

5566. If I had drawn up such a specification for my business, and my viewer had passed goods with shoddy in them when I had specially stipulated that they should not have shoddy, I should discharge him?—You would take care to have your sealed pattern without any shoddy in it. It is impossible for us to comply with the requirements of both the pattern and the specification, if they differ from each other.

5567. (*Chairman.*) After you have weighed the cloth, measured it, and examined the quality, what is the next thing done?—To see that the strength is equal to the sealed pattern by Hebdon's machine.

5568. I see this specification requires that it should bear a test of a certain number of pounds according to Hebdon's machine; is that an invariable item in the specification?—Yes.

5569. Does not that almost require manufacturers to purchase Hebdon's machine?—They require to

have the machine in order to ascertain whether they are making their cloths up to the required strength.

5570. Do you find Hebdon's machine answer well?—It is a very useful auxiliary in the inspection of cloth. I need not say that strength is a very important quality in cloth, and in testing the cloth by hand in the ordinary manner, you are unable to express the strength in a definite manner to contractors. The contractor will say that the cloth is as strong as the pattern, and the inspector will say it is not; of course much will depend upon the manipulation of the pattern, and the peculiar manner of trying it; but the machine enables us to express the strength in figures, which is a great advantage. The supply is submitted to the same test as the sealed pattern.

5571. Is it only in case of suspicion, or do you subject most pieces of cloth to that test?—Generally we subject two or three pieces of each bale to the test.

5572. Do you agree with some of the witnesses who have been examined, that there may be a good deal of shoddy in cloth, and yet it may stand the test?—There may be some shoddy in it; shoddy or mungo, if used judiciously, is an improvement in cloth, inasmuch as it gives it a better appearance than it would otherwise have.

5573. (*Mr. Turner.*) From what part of the piece do you cut the sample to try in Hebdon's machine?—Occasionally we cut it from the head end, and occasionally from the middle of the piece; from the body of the cloth I may term it.

5574. (*Chairman.*) Does not the specification say that it shall be cut near the end?—That is in the specifications only for artillery cloths. We find cloth rather weaker at the head end; our new specification stipulates that the patterns shall be cut from one end of the piece; but the contractors generally prefer that we should cut them from the middle of the piece, because it would be a fairer test.

5575. Have you had experience enough in cloth to be able to say whether cloth only tested in that way is made of pure wool or not?—It is a very difficult thing indeed to be certain of that. You may feel confident that the cloth is made of pure wools, but if shoddy or mungo be judiciously used, say to the extent of ten or under twenty per cent., it would require a very experienced man indeed to say for certain that that cloth contained shoddy or mungo. It is when it is used to a great extent that we find it out without testing in the machine.

5576. To what extent can you detect shoddy without resorting to the machine?—Fifty per cent.

5577. To what extent can you undertake to say that there is not more than so much per cent. of shoddy in cloth?—I think when it gets to 40 or 50 per cent.

5578. Not less than that?—No.

5579. You think that Hebdon's machine enables you to detect shoddy more accurately than you otherwise could by tension, and, as I think you explained, because when the cloth splits you can see the texture more accurately?—Decidedly; it opens the texture, and you can see how the cloth is made.

5580. With that machine how small a per-centage of shoddy may be detected?—I can hardly say, but if a cloth be sent in to a certain pattern, and that cloth be equal to the pattern in wools, in make, and in other respects, it should bear the same tension, or very nearly so; if there be much difference, the cloth will be inferior to the pattern.

5581. Is the machine useful for detecting a small per-centage of shoddy, and if so, how small a per-centage?—I cannot answer that question.

5582. Do you agree with a statement made by Whitham, that the more shoddy there is in the cloth, the better chance it has of passing inspection at Weedon?—I do not. The statements that Whitham made are so much at variance with the truth, that no reliance can be placed upon his testimony.

5583. Do you agree with Whitham when he says that he never knew of cloth made entirely of pure wool being passed at Weedon?—He was not able to form an opinion. I do not agree with him.

5584. Are you able to say that large quantities of cloth made of pure wool have been passed by you?—Very large quantities; there are many cloths which cannot be made with other than pure wools,—whites, scarlets, and reds, &c.

5585. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you not a very good blue cloth for sergeants?—Yes, very good cloth.

5586. Could shoddy be introduced into cloth of that description?—It might to a certain extent; mungo might be introduced to improve the appearance of it.

5587. But not the wear?—I am not able to say whether it would be better or worse for it.

5588. (*Chairman.*) After testing by the machine, is not the cloth perched?—Yes; there are two men, one at each list of the cloth, drawing the cloth down with their backs to the light, and one underneath for the ground of the cloth, as we term it, to see if there be any holes in it.

5589. I think we saw the principal defects were in the dye, grease spots, grey or dirty wool, and occasionally a coarse thread?—That cloth was rejected for too many damages, streaky places, stains, bracks, holes sewn up by fine drawing.

5590. Without a rigid system of inspection might not such a cloth as that with numerous bracks and fine drawing be passed?—Certainly, without a rigid inspection, the bracks would have passed unobserved.

5591. Whose cloth was it?—Pollard's; but the same thing occurs in every red cloth that we pass.

5592. And then the strings are put in to identify the various damages?—Yes.

5593. Did you ever know a viewer, where there was a small and comparatively immaterial damage, cut a hole for the purpose of drawing more direct attention to the damage?—Yes; occasionally we make a hole in order that the clothier shall not work up the damage into a garment. The small brack that you saw the other day, if sewn up, might be worked into a garment. As we deduct one-eighth of a yard from the contractor for each string, it is only fair that we should make a larger damage, so that the soldier shall not have it worked up in his garment.

5594. Do you give the clothier exactly the same allowance that you have made the contractor pay?—Precisely the same.

5595. What allowance do you make for the damage?—That depends upon the nature of the damage; for a small damage we allow one-eighth, for a large damage a quarter of a yard; if there be but a few streaks in the piece we should allow according to circumstances. I can hardly explain it to you. I can show you with a piece before me. Were there too many streaks, instead of allowing so many quarters of a yard, by which, as you observed the other day, there would be nothing left for the contractor to be paid for, we should reject the piece altogether.

5596. What amount of allowances would insure the rejection of a piece?—In reds we allow twelve strings, twelve damages of one-eighth of a yard each.

5597. If the number of strings would amount to an allowance of more than a yard and a half, that would reject the piece?—We should reject the piece, because it would be difficult for the clothier to make up garments were there too many damages in the piece.

5598. Is there anything more done in the inspection-room after perching the cloth?—After perching the cloth is stamped with the contractor's number. We give a number to each contractor to identify his cloth.

5599. Without having his name upon it?—Yes; we assign to each contractor numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and so on.

5600. Do you concur in an opinion which has been thrown out by Captain Smith, of the advisability of not letting the viewers, and perhaps even not the inspectors, know from whom the articles come, by

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giving the contractor a number?—The idea is a very good one; but I do not see how it could be carried out; because, in case of rejections, the contractor would naturally present himself, and he would be admitted to see his goods.

5601. (*Mr. Turner.*) The object is, that if the inspector has a favourite contractor he may not know that he is inspecting his goods; or if he has a prejudice against the contractor, he shall not suffer from that prejudice?—I do not think it could be carried out in the cloth department, because each contractor has a peculiar make by which his cloth is known. I should know the make of each cloth, whatever number might be given to me.

5602. A man who is constantly engaged amongst cloth you think can recognize the make of a cloth almost as well as handwriting or a work of art can be recognized?—Almost as well; we are able to do so in most cases.

5603. That might not be the case in saddlery?—It might not. I think such a system would be impracticable in cloth.

5604. (*Chairman.*) We have heard from Mr. Hunt that there have been a good many rejections from what can hardly be called defects, from slight deterioration in the transit, the bloom being rubbed off, or the finish not being quite good, and that it was vexatious to have the goods sent back for such things as those?—I think, were Messrs. Hunt and Barnard to pack their goods as cleverly as the Yorkshire people do, it would remedy the inconvenience they complain of; they send their goods in bales done up in a very careless manner, therefore the goods become chafed in the course of transit; it is their own fault, not ours.

5605. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do the Yorkshire people send their goods packed by hydraulic power?—Yes.

5606. Do the other people pack by hand packing?—I should say so, by the appearance of the bales.

5607. (*Chairman.*) Have you ever known cloth inspected in a damp state?—Never. All cloth is more or less moist; it must be so; but if cloth were sent in what may be called damp, we should reject it, because we should consider it to be an intention on the part of the contractor to make up the weight by moisture.

5608. Did you ever pass from the inspection-room into the packing-room any cloth which was unfit to pack from dampness?—Never.

5609. You undertake to say that that never has been done?—I am confident of it.

5610. One of Whitham's statements is, that cloth has come down from the inspection-room in such a damp state, that unless it dried in the bale it would arrive wet at its destination; is that true?—It is not true.

5611. How do you test the dye of the cloth?—By means of acids.

5612. Whitham has stated that you have only one test for woaded and unwoaded cloth, namely muriatic acid; is that true?—It is not true. Oxford cloth is required to stand the test of muriatic acid.

5613. That is woaded cloth?—It does not follow that it should be a woaded cloth; it must stand the test of muriatic acid whether woaded upon indigo or not; if it stands the test it is passed.

5614. (*Mr. Turner.*) Will it stand the test without being woaded?—Yes, if it be dyed "fast black." Oxford cloths are dyed, I believe I am right in stating, what is termed "fast black," and they will stand the test of muriatic acid.

5615. What makes it a fast black?—A peculiar dye which is used by the manufacturers, and which is less expensive than indigo.

5616. (*Chairman.*) Muriatic acid will not discharge a fast black?—No.

5617. If it does, do you reject the Oxford cloth?—Yes.

5618. (*Mr. Turner.*) Will sulphuric acid touch it?—Yes; unless the Oxford cloth be dyed a fast black

a dilution of sulphuric acid, one part of sulphuric acid with eight parts of water will cause the cloth to what is termed "bleed"; it will discharge the dye.

5619. Do you apply the test of muriatic acid in all cases?—Not in all cases.

5620. Is there any other test which you do apply?—We apply nitric acid for indigo, and vitriol or sulphuric acid.

5621. Whitham said that muriatic acid was the only test employed; is that so?—We employ other acids.

5622. (*Chairman.*) I observe at the end of the specification it is stated, "Decision of the Secretary of State-for-War to be final." We have had a good deal of evidence upon the subject of appeal; have your decisions ever been reversed by Mr. Hoile?—I do not remember that our decisions have been reversed.

5623. Can you suggest any reason why there should not be, as in ordinary cases between man and man, an appeal against your decision? You represent one party, and the contractor is the other; you decide against the contractor, and the specification says, that the appeal to your superior officer is to be final; but a good many of the contractors desire to have an appeal to an independent tribunal?—I think that the decision of the inspector should be final.

5624. The contractor is to satisfy the Government officer, who may be very competent as a general rule, but he is fallible like other men. The contractor may say that that is good which the inspector says is bad. They have nothing but the specification and the pattern to go by; and the contractor says, "I ought to have an appeal to an independent tribunal." Why should not he have that appeal?—I think the difficulty would be in finding an independent tribunal or referee to whom the case might be referred. After all it would be as much a matter of opinion with the referee as with the inspector.

5625. You think the difficulty would be in finding an independent and capable man?—I think it would; that is my opinion.

5626. Why should there be any more difficulty than in any other dispute between man and man?—I think an inspector who is every day engaged in inspecting cloths must be as good a judge as a man who is in all probability not so employed.

5627. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have been complaining of your position, comparing it with that of a buyer in a large house. Supposing you were a buyer in the house of Messrs. Henry of Manchester, Leeds, and other places; and you had a contract with me for 10,000 yards of cloth, and I sent them in according to sample; you said, "these cloths are not equal to sample I will reject them;" I should have the power, either of insisting, with Messrs. Henry's consent, upon an arbitration, I fixing one arbitrator and they the other, or if they did not consent to that, to go to a court of law. Why should not the contractor have the same privilege of appealing from your decision, as an inspector at 110*l.* a year, as I should have if you were a buyer at Henry's with perhaps 600*l.* a year?—I think, were an appeal of the kind allowed, that every contractor would appeal against the decision of the inspector, and we should never get through the business of the department.

5628. Supposing he had to pay the expenses if the decision was against him?—It might be well, or it might not.

5629. (*Chairman.*) Do you remember the case of Mr. Joshua Ellis's cloth?—I do.

5630. He sent in 5,000 yards of cloth under contract, which were rejected wholesale, and the Government offered him an arbitration in that case. And both the Government arbitrator and Mr. Ellis's arbitrator passed the cloths unanimously?—Yes; after we had rejected them, they passed them. I was not present when it was done, but to the best of my belief they passed the whole of those cloths in about three hours. I contend that that was not a fair way

of passing them, inasmuch as they did not afford themselves a sufficient opportunity of examining each piece of cloth. I may say that I had little or nothing to do with the transaction; Mr. Hebdon and Mr. Hoile had.

5631. Were there not 100 pieces?—There were nearly 14,000 yards.

5632. I understood Mr. Hebdon to say that he only examined fifteen pieces and rejected the whole 100?—I am not sure.

5633. That matter was rather under Mr. Hebdon's control than yours?—Yes; the arbitrators passed the goods in too short a time, in my opinion, to be able to satisfy themselves as to the value of each piece; they ought to have perched them as we do.

5634. Were none of the cloths perched?—I believe none of them were perched; the head ends were simply looked at, "that will do," and so on throughout the number of pieces. Were we to inspect goods in the same manner, we should get through about 200,000 yards a week.

5635. Do you know how long it took you to reject the cloths?—It would not take long to reject the cloths, when we were satisfied that the quality was not up to the pattern.

5636. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did you perch them?—I believe they were perched before they were rejected. I do not think they would have been rejected without having been perched.

5637. Did not you say just now, if cloth was found not to be up to the mark in quality in the first instance, there was no necessity for further examination?—Occasionally you may perch a piece to see whether there be any additional fault.

5638. I thought you said it was invariably the case that if you found cloths defective in quality, or in weight, or defective by Hebdon's machine, there was no use in going on?—Yes.

5639. (*Chairman.*) Do you remember a quantity of Oxford grey cloth being at Weedon, upon which you and Mr. Hebdon reported?—I remember the circumstance.

5640. He says that you can give information about that cloth better than he could; what was your report?—The cloth was sent from the Tower; it came under my charge, and I was required by the superintendent to measure the cloth in the first instance, to examine it, and report upon it. I reported accordingly, and suggested that three-fourths of it should be considered serviceable, and the remainder obsolete or unfit for service, and my opinion was confirmed by that of Mr. Hebdon and Mr. Hoile, that three-fourths of the quantity, to the best of my recollection, should be considered serviceable. We recommended that it should be used for the militia, and that the remainder, in consequence of its being moth-eaten and mildewed, should be rejected or considered obsolete. The cloth which we recommended should be used for the militia, we suggested should be sent to a cloth worker's to be refinished; it was out of condition, the press had gone off, and it was inclined to be mildewed. If the cloth had been sent to a cloth worker's, it would have been in a fit state for the militia. What became of the cloth I do not know, only by what I have read.

5641. Do not you know that your recommendation was not attended to?—I have heard so.

5642. Do not you know that the cloth was sent away to the Tower for sale?—I have heard so.

5643. What was the value of it in your judgment?—From 4s. 6d. to 5s. 6d. a yard, taking one piece with another.

5644. Even with its defects?—Yes.

5645. Did you know that cloth when it came back again to Weedon?—I have not seen it; it might not have come under my observation. I have nothing to do with clothing.

5646. Who would have inspected it when it came back as clothing?—Mr. Dec. I think he is the

inspector of clothing. Some of the Tower cloth was, so far as I can remember, very good cloth.

5647. Can you suppose for what reason it should be sent away from Weedon upon that report from the inspectors?—I have no idea.

5648. By whose authority would it be sent away?—I am not able to answer that question.

5649. Would it be by the order of the superintendent, or upon orders from the War Office?—I presume the superintendent would be directed how to dispose of the cloth.

5650. Upon some report made by him, or upon your report?—A report made by the superintendent. I believe Mr. Elliott's report upon the cloth embodied our suggestions.

5651. Do you remember some cloth being furnished by Henry of Huddersfield?—Mr. Hebdon had to do with that cloth. I remember some cloth being rejected which had been delivered by Messrs. Henry, but I am not able to give you any particulars.

5652. Have you had many complaints of late from Government contractors as to the rigidity of the inspection at Weedon?—Not many I think.

5653. Do you think that you are a little easier than you used to be, or are you as strict as ever?—We are not so severe as we used to be.

5654. How is that?—Because we found that it was impossible to get through the business of the department if we acted up to the strict letter of the instructions which were furnished to the inspectors for their guidance by the superintendent. One of the rules was, if the goods differed from the sealed pattern in any trifling or unimportant particular, it was the bounden duty of the inspector to reject them; he was allowed no discretionary power whatever; therefore in acting up to that rule the inspection was necessarily severe.

5655. Have you taken upon yourself to deviate from the strict letter of the law in that respect?—I have.

5656. Without official sanction?—Without official sanction. I considered it was just to do so, that I should give and take, because in a large supply of goods it is impossible for any manufacturer with the best intentions to make every piece up to a given pattern. There would frequently be distinctions without differences. Although the cloth might differ from the sealed pattern, yet it might be equal to it in value. In such cases I have passed the goods.

5657. Then I may take it that you think the letter of those instructions is too strict?—Too strict and unbusiness-like. I believe that no business man would have drawn up such rules; because from his experience he would have known that it was perfectly impossible to manufacture a large number of goods so that they should be exactly alike, as in the case of coining money, where two pieces of money will be exactly similar.

5658. Are you still taking that equitable and liberal view?—Yes; and I think the contractors have no reason whatever to complain at the present time, and have not had for months.

5659. As a matter of fact have they complained, whether they have reason or not?—Occasionally contractors will complain; but I think they have no just cause for complaining in my department.

5660. Have complaints been made to your knowledge from regiments of undue laxity in passing inferior articles here?—The clothiers have complained; the complaint would be made by the parties to whom the clothing was supplied; the colonels, I presume.

5661. Have you had any cases of clothing sent back from regiments as being inferior?—I am not aware of many cases; there have been some few cases.

5662. Do you not know of any lately?—No.

5663. (*Colonel French.*) Can you inform me what

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quantity of cloth is allowed to the clothier for a pair of trousers?—A yard and a quarter, I think; I am not sure. The cloth is 54 inches wide.

5664. If you could tell what quantity was allowed of shrunk cloth to a tailor, and you only allowed the same quantity of unshrunk, of course it would be

insufficient?—The quantity for a pair of trousers is a yard and a quarter.

5665. (*Chairman.*) Shrunk or unshrunk?—As we receive it; not thoroughly shrunk; it is a yard and a quarter or a yard and an eighth. I am not certain of the quantity.

Mr. H. Hoile.

Mr. HENRY HOILE further examined.

5666. (*Chairman.*) How long have you been at Weedon?—Since December 1855; I came on the 12th of December 1855.

5667. Have you been here from the commencement of the establishment?—Yes; as first-class inspector.

5668. Have you the minimum salary?—I have now 310*l.*; an advance of 10*l.*

5669. And I believe you have the superintendence of the different branches?—Every branch. I have had the superintendence of the boots since Captain Gordon joined; previously to that I had everything except the boots and saddlery; cloth, clothing, necessities, garniture, and trimmings.

5670. Who is the inspector of garniture, trimmings, and miscellaneous things in lieu of Mr. Gray?—Mr. Moore was; he is transferred to the Tower for a short time.

5671. Who acts in that branch now?—We have nothing on inspection of that description; the necessities, the garniture, and trimmings are a separate department.

5672. Who is in the department?—Delabatouche, a man that I got appointed.

5673. A copy of your specification has been produced; we understand that it is now in use?—It is just introduced; it was approved two months ago. I am not aware whether there is any contract at present to which it would apply; I think not.

5674. Have you copies of the contract sent to you?—I have not.

5675. Do you know what the contract is for?—I merely have the inspection note for a certain number of yards of cloth, and the Contract Branch check me when I am to leave off inspecting.

5676. Can you examine articles under a specification as well as a sealed pattern, unless you know what the contents of the specification are?—The service is stated on the inspection note, and of course I know the specification which applies to that particular pattern. There is a specification to every distinct pattern for each service.

5677. Many of the clauses in this specification apparently would not be applicable to certain contracts?—They would to almost every contract.

5678. For instance, cloth should be delivered shrunk according to this specification?—Certainly.

5679. Mr. Mallett has told us that it never is thoroughly shrunk?—As far as we can tell, we cannot form an opinion exactly whether it is so or not; when we have reason to believe that it is not shrunk, we should reject it.

5680. I thought it was tolerably easy to ascertain whether it had been shrunk?—We should have to shrink several pieces to try it.

5681. Is it not discernible by the eye?—No; it is only ascertained by the test of shrinking.

5682. If the specification says that cloth should be delivered shrunk, do you adhere to that condition, or do you make the contractor adhere to that condition when you examine his cloth?—We do.

5683. That is hardly consistent with what Mr. Mallett has just told us. He says that cloth is seldom delivered shrunk?—It is shrunk in the manufacturer's sense of the term; as cloth will shrink again, it is very difficult indeed to determine.

5684. You always expect it to be delivered shrunk?—Yes; and if we found cloth that had too much press upon it, or racked out too much, and we considered it would shrink in the wear, we should reject it.

5685. Is it now usual to insert the clause as to cloth being made of new sound wool?—That has been in the specification throughout the whole time.

5686. Can you reconcile that with the fact, if it be the fact, that many of the standard patterns are made of cloth which is not pure wool?—That is unavoidable; those patterns have been obtained from army clothiers from some cloth that has been in use; at the same time we tried to avoid as much as possible accepting any cloth that we knew to have any old wool in it.

5687. We have not yet had any satisfactory explanation of what a man is to do when he enters into a contract to deliver cloth according to a pattern and specification, and finds, on looking at the pattern, that it is not made of pure wool, while the specification says that the supply must be?—We have difficulties; the contractors have told us that the cloth was made of pure wool, and the pattern was not of pure wool.

5688. What do you do in such a case?—We are obliged to exercise our judgment, and as nearly as possible satisfy ourselves that the cloth is equal in quality to the pattern, and also that it is of sound wool.

5689. Do not the instructions direct that the inspectors shall require a strict adherence to the specification?—They do.

5690. If the specification says one thing and the pattern says another, what is the contractor to do?—It must be our own judgment then which must determine the matter entirely.

5691. The contractor has done that which he agreed to do, so far as he can do two things which are contradictory; he has gone by the pattern, and you are instructed to reject the thing which is even better than the pattern. The inspectors are not to exercise a judgment, whether the supply is better or not, but whether it is like the pattern?—We are to keep the supply as exactly as possible to the pattern.

5692. Suppose that the thing is better than the pattern; for example, if cloth is made of pure wool according to the specification, and the pattern is not pure wool, would you reject the supply on that account?—No; certainly not.

5693. Suppose it be as good as the pattern, and not entirely pure wool, according to the specification?—We should not accept any cloth if our judgment led us to suspect that there was anything but pure wool in it.

5694. Although the pattern for the guidance of the contractor was not pure wool?—Yes; because the specification provides for nothing but pure wool.

5695. I asked Mr. Mallett whether standard patterns were ever submitted to the inspectors now before they are sealed?—Generally we have the selection of them.

5696. Then the responsibility for choosing good patterns rests with the authorities here?—Yes.

5697. How long has that been the case?—Within the last eighteen months.

5698. Are you responsible for that pattern boot that troubled Mr. Nicholls so yesterday?—I am not acquainted with the circumstance about that boot.

5699. If there be inferior patterns you are responsible here?—Yes; for those that we choose; we had patterns sent to us when we commenced from the War Office, and some of those patterns were questioned. We thought they were not so good as they ought to be, and when they were referred back, we were told that they were correct; of course our

responsibility ceased ; we could not do more. Lately, during the last eighteen months, we have been ordered to select samples of cloth for sealed patterns, and in doing so we have selected according to the best of our judgment.

5700. Would it have been within the scope of an inspector's duty to represent that a pattern, by which he was called upon to pass goods, was an inferior article?—I should say that it was his proper duty to do so.

5701. Have you ever made such representations, or backed them when they have been made by other inspectors?—I have.

5702. Have you had much inconvenience from frequent change of pattern?—In cloth we have had very little change of pattern indeed, and no inconvenience perhaps. The change of pattern for clothing of course has caused clothing to become obsolete ; it was at the termination of the war, when a large quantity of clothing had been got in.

5703. (*Mr. Turner.*) You say, if a sealed pattern had shoddy in it, and the specification stated that there should be no shoddy in the cloth, you would reject the supply if it came in containing shoddy, although it was like the sealed pattern, because the specification stated that there was to be no shoddy in it?—We should reject it if we were not satisfied about the purity of the cloth.

5704. Supposing there was shoddy in your sealed pattern, and there was shoddy in the cloth delivered on that pattern ; if the specification stated that there was to be no shoddy in the cloth, would you reject it?—To prove whether there is shoddy or not in cloth is a most difficult thing.

5705. I am supposing you to detect that there is shoddy?—If we detect that there is shoddy in the supply, we should reject it, although there was shoddy in the pattern.

5706. Mr. Mallett has told us exactly the contrary, that if it was equal to the pattern he would accept it, notwithstanding the specification stated that there was to be no shoddy in it?—So far as I am concerned I should never accept cloth if I were satisfied that there was shoddy in it, so as to deteriorate its value.

5707. (*Chairman.*) Mr. Mallett has told us that he should take a liberal view of his duties in that respect if he found the supply equal to the pattern ; although the pattern to his knowledge contained some portion of shoddy, he should pass the supply if it was as good as the pattern, although it was not according to the specification?—Whether the pattern contains shoddy is very much a matter of opinion.

5708. We are assuming that you know that the pattern does contain shoddy?—Then I should not pass the cloth if I knew it had shoddy, because the specification strictly forbids it.

5709. The specification is yours, and the pattern is not?—I made the specification.

5710. Perhaps you never sanctioned any pattern that contained shoddy in it?—Certainly not, to my knowledge.

5711. (*Mr. Turner.*) Then you would set at defiance Sir Thomas Troubridge's seal?—The patterns which we have had are supposed to be more for colour and substance than quality. They were very small, and we could hardly determine whether they had shoddy in them.

5712. (*Colonel French.*) Do you test them by Hebdon's machine?—We test them by the machine.

5713. (*Chairman.*) Perhaps if the contract requires that the supply shall be in accordance with the pattern and specification, you would think that the specification overrides the pattern?—Certainly, in that case.

5714. The Government having entered into the contract have set the pattern aside to that extent?—The Government wish for cloth like a given pattern, to be of that colour, substance, and quality, and they wish it to be made of pure sound wool. We cannot tell in selecting the pattern that it is made of pure wool.

5715. (*Mr. Turner.*) Has the contractor a pattern given to him?—Yes ; and he has also a specification by which he binds himself.

5716. Which is he to follow?—I believe a contractor for cloth signs a declaration that he will not use any shoddy or waste in his cloth.

5717. We have been told that shoddy rather improves the appearance of cloth. Is it fair to give the contractor a pattern to work by, with an admixture of shoddy, and yet compel him to produce the same appearance by pure wool?—It is hardly fair, perhaps, to compel him to do it.

5718. The contractor is compelled to do it by the specification, and you act upon the specification?—I have endeavoured to make the specification and the patterns agree as much as possible, but it was impossible to avoid a disparity in them at first.

5719. (*Chairman.*) Have you ever had any case in which a contractor has said, "You have rejected my cloth because there is shoddy in it, but the pattern has shoddy in it"?—No ; I have had a contractor say the reverse : "You have rejected my cloth because it is not as fine as the pattern, and I am bound to send in pure wool cloth."

5720. Did you ever reject cloth which Mr. Mallett or Mr. Hebdon had passed?—I think probably I may have reversed their decision occasionally. They are bound to appeal to me for a decision, and I exercise my judgment, considering theirs.

5721. Have those cases of reversal or variation been passing cloth which they had rejected, or rejecting cloth which they had passed, or both?—The cloth has never been actually passed by that time. I have generally been called in before a decision has been arrived at ; for instance, I have said I considered that it was not equal, and they have considered it equal, and I have said, "I will not have it passed." That thing has occurred occasionally, not very often. We have not had very much difference of opinion.

5722. Mr. Hebdon seemed to think that whatever he did as a matter of course was sanctioned by you ; is that so?—Quite so.

5723. Whatever he did ; that is hardly consistent with what I am now asking you, whether you have ever had occasion to reverse his decision?—Very seldom indeed.

5724. If the inspectors were in any doubt they appealed to you to decide?—Yes.

5725. Have you ever known cases in which they have actually passed cloth which you afterwards rejected?—No, I do not recollect a case.

5726. Have you found any inconvenience in the change of patterns? As regards cloth, you say there has been very little change of pattern ; have you ever known any quantity of cloth, in the shape of cloth, become obsolete by reason of a change of pattern in the cloth?—Not any large quantity. The only cloth we have had obsolete was the trousers cloth, the Oxford grey ; it was all used up for trousers previously to the new pattern being made, therefore the public did not suffer any loss at all ; but there was a portion of red cloth which became obsolete, which could not be used, because the new pattern cloth prevented it as regards colour and quality.

5727. What quantity have you now in store?—About 6,000 or 7,000 yards.

5728. At how much a yard?—The cost would be about 5s. 3d.

5729. To that extent is there a loss to the public?—Unless it is applied afterwards, it probably will be applied to some other purpose.

5730. To what purpose?—It may be used partly for military prisons and disembodied militia.

5731. You were saying that the change of patterns as regards cloth had not made much cloth obsolete, if any, because it could be used ; has it had much effect on made-up clothing?—It has had more effect in made-up clothing, because there was a very large accumulation of made-up clothing which came into store at Weedon at the termination of the war, an extra quantity having been obtained to meet the emergency.

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cies of the war, and that clothing is only now being brought into use. An immense deal of it has been brought into use the last few months instead of new clothing.

5732. Is it of an obsolete pattern?—Yes; the change of pattern throughout the army took place just at the time the war was concluded, so that it threw a larger quantity of obsolete clothing on the hands of the Government than otherwise would have accrued.

5733. Was there a larger stock of clothing on hand than was necessary, supposing we had continued at war?—I should say not at all.

5734. Was not it rather an inconvenient time to effect a change of pattern just when an extremely large quantity of clothing was in use?—I should say it was; it was a pity that it could not have been used up first before the new pattern was introduced; it would have been a great economy, no doubt.

5735. With such changes you have nothing to do here?—No.

5736. What was the particular change?—From the quality of the cloth, both in the tunic and the trousers, to a better quality, and also in the necessities.

5737. Was the colour different?—The colour was the same, but the quality was different; the change in the pattern of necessities threw a large quantity of shirts and woollen socks out of pattern.

5738. Are they available?—I do not know; they were sent away from Weedon.

5739. Were not there 312,000 pairs of socks?—Yes, they were obtained to meet an emergency; they would have done in time of war, but not since the new pattern, because the regiments would have rejected them.

5740. (*Colonel French.*) Did the change of pattern relate to the quality or to the appearance?—To both.

5741. If the socks were serviceable, what was the use of rejecting them?—A pattern is sent from the Horse Guards to each regiment, and no regiment would accept a supply unless it was perfectly conformable to the pattern.

5742. (*Chairman.*) I think it was stated by Captain Gordon that regiments refuse to receive old patterns since the new patterns have been established?—They do; there is no discretionary power. If the regiment refuses to receive an article on account of its not being equal to pattern, there is an end to it.

5763. Can no one compel them to receive the articles?—I have never known it done; in the case of the militia regiments they have to take obsolete stores.

5744. (*Colonel French.*) Who sends the pattern to the regiment?—They receive it from the War Office.

5745. (*Chairman.*) Your suggestion would be that they should not have the new pattern until the old stock had been exhausted?—I would have them use the old stock, and supply a pattern of the old stock. I would make it the regulation pattern till the stock was used.

5746. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were the 312,000 pairs of socks perfectly serviceable, although they might have been bought at various times to meet an emergency?—They were good useful socks.

5747. Were they such as you would have been content to wear yourself?—Many I would have been glad to wear; most of them were better perhaps than any labouring man would get.

5748. They were not quite the regulation pattern which the colonels would be willing to accept?—No, they were not; they were made of all worsted, and they were darker colours; they were various shades of colour.

5749. They were something like the facings of green; they must be of a particular shade?—Yes; consequently we are obliged to adhere to colour as well as quality in passing supplies of those things.

5750. What has become of those 312,000 pairs of socks?—I have not the slightest idea. They were

sent away from here to the Tower. I do not know whether they are in store or not now.

5751. Do you see any reason whatever, in any common sense view of the subject, why those socks should not have been used by the troops?—Not the slightest.

5752. (*Chairman.*) Have you any large quantity of the double-breasted tunics of the old-fashioned pattern?—There are about 30,000 in store now.

5753. What are you going to do with them?—We are sending them to the militia regiments; it is a question whether next year the militia regiments will have them. I believe they will be entitled to the new tunics.

5754. Are you altering them at all?—We are altering them at the present moment.

5755. Can you alter them to single breasted?—They could not be altered.

5756. Could they be altered with the new button to fit them to their new wearers?—Yes.

5757. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is it the fact that even the militia regiments are catching up the military spirit of the line, and objecting to the double-breasted tunics?—The embodied militia have the new tunic the same as the line this year.

5758. (*Chairman.*) Are there any other articles which have, to any large extent, become obsolete by change of pattern?—There are a great many forage caps, but those forage caps are being issued for military prisons and other services; there will not be any loss accrue from them.

5759. (*Mr. Turner.*) Can you furnish an approximate statement of the quantities of each article, and the approximate value of those articles that you now have in store which are considered obsolete, and which you cannot issue?—There is a great difficulty about it as regards myself; in the first place, it is a most difficult thing to determine what things really are obsolete; probably those that we may consider obsolete to-day may be ordered to be issued next week. I would rather that the return should be called for from the head of the department, the store-keeper, or even the War Office. (See question 6878.)

5760. (*Chairman.*) I think we were told that there were sixteen or seventeen shades of green facings?—There are sixteen shades of green facings, and of course there is great difficulty, as any manufacturer would know, in getting them dyed. We have to reject sometimes four or five deliveries before we can get the colour exact, and even then it has not given satisfaction to the regiments.

5761. Are not those things of which you purchase very small quantities?—A small quantity each year.

5762. Do you apply the principle of open competition to so small a quantity as that?—I believe it is supplied in the same way as the other clothing, namely, by tender.

5763. Was not the old system in such matters as that far more convenient, where there was a regular clothier who knew what the facing of his particular regiment was, and always had the same manufacturer to prepare it? Would he not be more likely to get the precise shade than the Government, who submit the matter to open competition?—The same parties who made those things then would come forward and tender for them.

5764. But they would not be all sure to get the contract?—No.

5765. (*Mr. Turner.*) As you have to keep a stock of every shade of green, and may not have a sufficient stock of that particular shade which is asked for, would it not be a great convenience to you if the entire supply was put into one vat and dyed to one colour?—It would be a great convenience as far as we are concerned.

5766. (*Chairman.*) I suppose there is a feeling of honour and attachment in the regiments to their particular facings?—Yes; the facings of the regiments are thought a great deal of.

5767. Have you found any inconvenience arising from changes of pattern in buttons?—No; inasmuch

as the new buttons were adopted at the time that the new tunics were, we got our supplies without any trouble.

5768. Have you any obsolete buttons?—A quantity of obsolete buttons, but they are of little value.

5769. Something was said as to the objection of the militia regiments to receive a new button; they wanted to continue their old patterns?—I believe it must have been an objection to receiving another regiment's button. The same device is used on the new button as on the old, but it is a much better button. (Farl. Paper, No. 438, 1858, page 203.)

5770. (Mr. Turner.) There is a return, No. 21, in the Appendix to the 3d, 4th, and 5th Reports of the Contracts' Committee, of a very large quantity of goods sent to Woolwich and the Tower in March and April 1858 from this depôt: what is your idea of the object of sending all those things to the Tower?—Merely to relieve this depôt, to give more room for the arrangements which Captain Gordon wished to make.

5771. Do you think it was intended to keep them still as stores, or were they sent there for disposal?—I have no idea what they were sent there for; I merely know that they were sent away to make room.

5772. Had you no instructions upon that subject, but merely to send them?—No.

5773. Did you send any stores to Woolwich, or were they all sent to the Tower?—I cannot say to which place any particular store went.

5774. From the list there must have been an immense bulk?—Yes, the depôt was nearly full; that was the great cause of our getting into a mess, having such a number of old and obsolete stores poured upon us from all parts without a sufficient staff to take charge of them.

5775. You acknowledge that you were in a mess?—For want of arrangement those stores took up so much room.

5776. (Chairman.) Who furnished the return?—Mr. Boyd, the principal store foreman.

5777. Were there any brown leather thigh boots and brown leather knee boots?—Yes.

5778. (Colonel French.) Do you know whether they were sold or not?—No.

5779. (Mr. Turner.) Have you any knee boots here?—No.

5780. (Chairman.) Have there been many inquiries for knee boots at Weedon?—Not that I am aware of. We sent a large quantity to Canada to last for some time; they are only used in Canada, and they were procured specially for the Canadian service. A large quantity was sent last winter.

5781. There appears from this list to be a large quantity of obsolete stores here?—There are not very many.

5782. Do you want them removed?—They are that kind of stores which probably may be brought into use. You can hardly determine whether they are entirely obsolete yet, some there being used now.

5783. Mr. Mallett has been examined about the faults which have been detected in cloth. Have you had any reason to think that any large quantity of cloth has been lately delivered with more faults than formerly?—Certainly; the last six weeks or two months we have had cloth with more faults than we had previously.

5784. Is that the result of your own observation?—Quite so; my attention has been drawn to it continually.

5785. Has there been a larger number of rejections?—Yes.

5786. Can you account for that?—I hardly know how to account for it, whether it is the winding up of the contracts, and we are getting back old rejections, I do not know. I fancied that might be the cause; we are not allowed to mark rejections, therefore, I cannot speak positively.

5787. Is it a stipulation that you shall not mark rejections so as to recognize them again?—Yes, I

endeavoured to do so when I came to Weedon, but I found the contractors against it, and it was disallowed.

5788. Although it would have been no damage to the cloth?—Yes; and would have prevented us from having to go over the cloth again.

5789. Would not such a mark, unless it damaged the cloth, be easily removable?—There might be a mark in the list of the cloth that would not be observable.

5790. Do you think there would be any advantage, or that it would be feasible to send in cloth without the contractors' names, distinguishing the goods merely by numbers, with the view of removing any suspicion as to undue favour being shown to one contractor more than another?—I think that might be done. At present the contractor is bound to put his name on every piece of cloth. At the same time cloth is a thing that is known; a maker is known by his cloth, and perhaps the object might be defeated even then; we know the manufacturer by the finish of the cloth.

5791. Would that apply more to cloth than some other things?—More to cloth than anything else.

5792. Does not a boot-maker generally stamp his name on the boots?—He is bound to do so.

5793. What is the object of that?—In case of complaints after issue, in order to trace whose boots they are.

5794. Would not that advantage be lost if you were to adopt the system of not allowing the viewers to know to whom the articles which were sent belonged?—We might have a number, which would answer the purpose as well, which the viewers would not know.

5795. Would not they soon know the numbers?—Then they might be changed. All the packages are marked with the contractors' names; and we get so many baskets and hampers, that they never would get them back unless they were marked.

5796. If you changed the numbers, would you not also diminish the security which you now have of ascertaining to whom the goods belonged, if after use they were found to be bad?—We should have difficulties of that sort.

5797. Do you make any mark upon rejected boots, except a chalk mark?—No; that will easily rub off. We used to mark them with a stamp, but the makers said that it rendered the boots unfit for sale, and so probably it might; the buyers would know that they had been rejected, and they would not be able to dispose of them therefore; so that practice was discontinued.

5798. I presume, as regards the cloth inspectors, from what you have said, you are satisfied with their ability?—Quite so; I have every reason to be.

5799. You think they are perfectly capable of examining the goods which are submitted to them?—Quite so.

5800. Should you personally see any objection to giving a contractor who is dissatisfied with a rejection the power of appeal?—I do not exactly agree with that sort of thing. I think it opens so much question, that every contractor who had a rejection would expect the same, and we should have nothing but appeals. I think if the Government have inspectors with whose ability they are satisfied, they should support them to the utmost.

5801. Although in the rare instances in which an appeal has been allowed in the case of cloth the decision of the inspectors has been reversed?—Yes.

5802. Perhaps that very award is the reason why you object to the existence of an appeal?—Not on that account; because in the case of the appeal about Ellis's cloth, which was passed, we were relieved entirely from the responsibility, however bad that cloth may wear.

5803. Did you ever hear that there were complaints?—I have heard that there will be very great complaints of it.

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5804. When was it issued?—I do not know. The inspector from Woolwich, who is here every month, told me that they had reports upon that particular cloth from battalions, which he should have to bring forward. I do not think the reasons for that cloth being rejected were fully stated.

5805. What were the reasons?—In the first place the cloth was not considered firm enough; it was spongy and loose.

5806. Was it subjected to the test of Hebdon's machine?—Yes, it was perfectly strong; but we considered that the cloth was not sufficiently firm and well made. They said they could remedy it in future deliveries; but we found, instead of remedying it in an honest way, they put a dressing into the cloth, which made it feel hard and firm, but the slightest wet caused it to bleed, as we term it, and the colour ran from it quite a thick blue substance, so much so that if a man got his jacket wet, his shirt would be stained completely. They then undertook to get this dressing out of the cloth, by which process the cloth was pretty well ruined and made like a rag, thin, poor, and impoverished; that was the reason that the cloth was rejected.

5807. You say that that rag,—poor, thin, and impoverished,—was passed by Messrs. Howse and Stephenson?—It was passed by the referees.

5808. Is that the only instance in which you know of an appeal from your decision as regards cloth?—That is the only one. There has been no other at all.

5809. Have you any explanation to give about the Oxford grey cloth that Mr. Mallett and Mr. Hebdon reported upon?—I have a copy of three letters here upon the subject. A quantity of cloth was received from the Tower; Mr. Mallett and Mr. Hebdon made a joint report, which I submitted to Mr. Elliott; and upon that report Mr. Elliott recommended that the cloth should be sold. I have a statement here, that "the cloth is all very stale and out of condition, and a great deal is moth-eaten and mildewed. I should recommend its being sold."

5810. Mr. Hebdon and Mr. Mallett have told us that they jointly recommended that it should not be sold?—I believe if the report be found it will be seen that it was recommended to be either hot-pressed or put in condition. It was a matter of question whether the cloth would answer the purpose then, or whether it would be the most economical way to sell it at once. We had already in store a large quantity of that description of cloth; it had become perfectly obsolete, and we had a large quantity of trousers, which were loudly complained of by the troops, made of that very description of cloth. Rather than make up a quantity of cloth that had the moth in it and was altogether unserviceable, it was thought better to dispose of it.

5811. What was the date?—The 21st of July 1856.

5812. (Mr. Turner.) Mr. Mallett told us that only a small portion was in that state, and that about two-thirds was serviceable cloth?—The report speaks generally of the supply; the cloth was then sent to the Tower.

5813. Did you join with Mr. Elliott in that opinion?—I joined with Mr. Mallett and Mr. Hebdon; and from our report Mr. Elliott formed his opinion.

5814. (Chairman.) Did your report to Mr. Elliott contain a recommendation, or merely a statement of facts?—Merely a statement of facts, submitting the two propositions, whether it was better to have it put in condition, supposing the cloth would be then available, or whether it should be sold.

5815. Mr. Mallett and Mr. Hebdon have both stated that they recommended that it should be put into condition, and not sold?—That applied to another lot; there were two lots.

5816. Would you take the responsibility of recommending that it should be sold?—I would.

5817. (Mr. Turner.) What was the value of it, if it had been good?—We were then buying new cloth of the same description at 4s. 9d. a yard.

5818. (Chairman.) How soon afterwards did you want cloth of the same kind?—We have had none of the same description.

5819. Are you aware that trousers came back to Weedon made from that very cloth which you recommended to be sold?—So it was stated; but I have no proof that it was that cloth.

5820. Mr. Gilpin bought it from Mr. Levy, and Mr. Levy, I am told, does occasionally have some little dealings at the Tower. He bought it at the Tower, and it had the Government mark upon it?—It must have been equal to the sealed pattern trousers or it would not have been passed. Those trousers were used for the pensioners. The pensioners have not had any change of pattern, and they have not had a change of cloth.

5821. (Mr. Turner.) Could not you have used the cloth yourself, instead of selling it, and allowing the clothier to buy it back at 3s. 8d. and 4s. 4½d., afterwards to send out in the shape of regulation trousers at the full price?—I gave my reasons for what should be done, and they were acted upon. When the moth once gets into cloth it is impossible to tell how far it will go. Trousers might be made up and afterwards found to be utterly unserviceable. It is very probable that a large quantity of the cloth was bad, and they cut trousers out of the pieces here and there, where it was sound.

5822. Do you think Mr. Gilpin in that case would have given 4s. 4½d. a yard for it?—No; except for the best portion of it.

5823. (Chairman.) What quantity of Oxford grey cloth was sent away to the Tower?—18,352 yards.

5824. Are these the only two instances in which your decision has been virtually reversed, once by arbitration and once by sale and repurchase of cloth?—I know of no other at all.

5825. Have you reason to be satisfied with the competency or the judgment of the boot inspectors?—Quite so; very much so indeed.

5826. If I mistake not we have had evidence from Mr. Sharman, and some other contractors to some extent, that he has carefully selected the best lot of boots from a heap, and in pursuance of a contract sent them in, and a large number has been rejected; that he has then sent in another lot without taking any care in their selection, and a small number has been rejected, and that finally he has sent in the worst of the lot, and that none were rejected; do you know of such a case?—I should be very sorry to say it is not true; it is possible that here and there a few pairs of boots may occasionally get passed that are sent in again, because it is a good deal a matter of opinion sometimes; but I do not think it is possible, after a whole lot has been rejected, that they would get passed, that is to say, if they were very bad; a few flaws might be remedied perhaps.

5827. Do you think it is possible to remedy flaws in made-up shoes?—I know that a great many were passed after they had been rejected in consequence of finding that the pattern was differently made to what the specification required.

5828. Then these boots were passed by the pattern instead of the specification?—Yes; by special authority from higher quarters.

5829. There is another case which is stranger still, in which it has been stated to us that a large number of boots were rejected, and chalk marks were put on to intimate the cause of rejection, that those marks were rubbed off, and the same lot were sent in without any alteration, and the whole were passed; are you cognisant of any such case as that?—No. I have frequently had occasion to speak to boot contractors who have had large rejections, and from what I have gleaned from them they have given the inspectors every credit for ability and judgment, even though they have been sufferers themselves. I think the inspectors deserve a great deal of credit for

what they have done. They came into the service at a time when boots were being supplied in a very lax way indeed. Every one knows that boots were complained of as being a very bad article indeed; they undertook reforming the sort of boots that were sent in, and had a great deal to contend with. I know that the whole of the contractors were very much opposed to them, but I think they have done wonders. If you look at the description of boot which is now in use, and the boot which was used three years ago, I think it will be seen that they have been of very great service to the public and to the soldier.

5830. Admitting that the boot which is now used is better than it was formerly, does not that arise from a better pattern being introduced?—Yes, to a certain extent.

5831. How does that make the boot better? Does not the superiority of the boot arise principally from the increased price that is paid for it?—Partly it does, but the workmanship of the boot is very much superior, and altogether the way in which it is made and got up.

5832. You attribute that to the wholesome rigidity of the inspection?—Yes; to the patterns and the way in which the boot inspectors have applied themselves to that particular branch, more particularly to the workmanship of the boot, and the fitting of the boot.

5833. When did the specification or pattern first require that the bottom fillings should be solid, and not curriers' shavings?—I can hardly recollect when that specification was introduced.

5834. Do you think it a great improvement?—I believe there is very little doubt upon the subject. I have spoken to many practical men, and they are all of opinion that currier's shavings are not proper things to use.

5835. Have you formed any opinion as to the expediency in a store like this of having the opportunity of repairing defects on the spot?—I think it would be very well for contractors to be able to remedy small defects without being put to the enormous expense of carriage. If they have an establishment at hand, well and good; but I think it would be very objectionable indeed to allow contractors and their workmen to be inside public stores; there are many objections to it.

5836. Do you think such a power of repairing defects would have a tendency to render them less careful in the first instance?—I think so; they might take the chance whether the goods would pass or not; and, for example, in the case of the mits, as they did not pass they could but take the threads out of them. I believe it took a great many men upwards of a fortnight to take the threads out of 25,000 pairs of mits.

5837. Was it an objection?—It was an objection, inasmuch as the men could not get their fingers into the mits, they were drawn up by a thread; it was thought trivial, but if they had been issued to the troops there would have been loud complaints.

5838. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do not you think the ingenuity of the men who had the mits issued to them would have enabled them to get the thread out?—They might not know how to remedy the defect. It was the duty of the inspector to see that the mits were like the pattern. It was merely a matter of omission on the part of the manufacturer in not having them finished properly.

5839. How many men do you think it took a fortnight to remedy that defect?—I should say twenty men.

5840. Then it was a matter of some expense?—I believe it cost the contractor about 40*l.*

5841. Is your calculation of the cost of removing the threads from the mits founded on 20 men being employed for a fortnight at labourers' wages?—I am not certain about the number of men employed, but I think that was the cost.

5842. Are you aware that if 20 persons were employed a fortnight in drawing the threads they would

only draw 104 threads in a day?—The mits would have to be tied up and sorted.

5843. Would not that be rather a slow day's work for a man?—I have not made any calculation about it.

5844. (*Chairman.*) Who told you that it was 40*l.*?—The contractor; he complained about it, and said it cost him 40*l.* including carriage; there was also a thread which would have to be removed at the wrist.

5845. Have you any practical knowledge yourself as to the application of tests to dyes in cloth?—Yes; I devote myself specially to that. I look very particularly after the dyes in the cloth, and I use a variety of tests for various dyes; in fact I introduced first of all the woading of the Oxford grey and the dark-coloured cloths for the army. The Oxford grey cloths were not formerly woaded; it is an expense of 3*d.* or 4*d.* a yard, but they keep the colour to the last; they used to turn all kinds of shades in hot climates, and on being exposed to the rain. We test all these colours by muriatic acid; for the Indigo blues we use nitric and sulphuric acid.

5846. Whitham has said that there never was any test applied to colours except muriatic acid?—He had very little opportunity of judging; probably his information was mere hearsay; when he was here the cloth had not begun to be woaded.

5847. Do you think he was a man fit to be chief inspector or anything of that sort?—He applied to me to be made a cloth viewer, and finding he was an intelligent man in the packing-room, I had tried to get him more wages than 15*s.* a week. He came to me to get him appointed as a viewer, and I said "If you will forward your testimonials you shall have the same chance as the other men." Mr. Hebden tried him as to his capacity about cloth, and he was so wide of the mark that I have a poor opinion of his judgment; he was shown some cloth worth 9*s.* a yard, and he guessed it at 4*s.*; he said if the Government paid more than 4*s.* they were robbed.

5848. (*Colonel French.*) Was it proved to be worth 9*s.* a yard?—It was the proper sergeants' cloth worth 9*s.* a yard which was then in course of inspection in the room.

5849. (*Chairman.*) Had that cloth been accepted by tender at the lowest price?—At 9*s.*

5850. Whitham also represented that no cloth came here made of pure wool. I am anxious to have that matter cleared up, because I think it is an imputation not only on this establishment, about which I do not care anything, but upon the whole of the manufacturers of England, about which one does care?—I could produce several cloths that are made of pure sound wool to the best of our knowledge. It is a difficult matter to determine; and a manufacturer himself can hardly tell whether shoddy is in cloth unless he has seen it put in. There are some manufacturers whom we suspect, and some whom we know do not use shoddy. In common justice to a manufacturer who intends to make a pure article for the Government, we do all we can to prevent another man making a low tender from sending an inferior article in.

5851. How can you prevent it?—By preventing any inferior cloth being accepted.

5852. As you have applied yourself very much to the subject of dyes, do you remember this case with respect to Henry's house at Huddersfield: "Mr. Parker sent in a vast quantity of goods; one half of them had been dyed improperly; the colour was loose and bad, and the goods were spoiled with the dye; the other half of the goods had been dyed properly; but, however, he thought he would risk the lot. He sent the lot in, and the goods that had been dyed fast, and were better altogether, were rejected, every piece, and those that were dyed loose were kept and passed"?—We never had a piece of goods from Mr. Parker; from Henry we had, and I have a statement which will show the amount approved and rejected.

WEEDON.

Mr. H. Hoile.

1 Oct. 1858.

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STATEMENT of the Blue Cloth supplied by
Messrs. Henry and Co.

Date of Delivery.	Quantity			Date of Inspection.	Reasons for Rejection.
	Supplied.	Approved.	Rejected.		
1855. Dec. 29	82 $\frac{3}{4}$	40 $\frac{1}{4}$	42 $\frac{1}{4}$	Feb. 3	Not equal to pattern.
1856. Jan. 22	372	370 $\frac{3}{4}$	—	Jan. 28	
Mar. 16	173 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	173 $\frac{1}{4}$	Mar. 20	Not strong, and bad dye. Ditto.
„ 20	635	—	635	„ 27	

5853. There was a total rejection of two lots?—Yes. I see it was afterwards taken by special authority. We were ordered to take it, although we had rejected it, and still maintained that it was not cloth that ought to be accepted.

5854. By whose special order?—The Director of the Stores.

5855. Who was then Director of Stores?—Captain Caffin. The cloth was bought in default, and we objected to the cloth purchased of Henry of Huddersfield.

5856. What colour was it?—Blue cloth, and was rejected as being of inferior quality, not strong enough; also because the colour ran; the colour was not fast.

5857. If I understand you, half of the lot was rejected, and then the whole lot afterwards was passed?—You can hardly call it being passed; it was taken into store and paid for because it had been purchased by commission.

5858. Not by open competition?—The first supply, for which that was bought in default, was from Archer, that was all rejected; and that brings me to notice a circumstance connected with Whitham. We had rejected Archer's supply of cloth twice; he had sent it in again, and we rejected it again; when it was rejected the second time this man Archer, as I am given to understand, came to see Whitham at Weedon. Whitham sent for Mr. Mallett one evening and said that a friend of his would like to speak to him. Mr. Mallett went, not knowing who it was, and this Mr. Archer began to talk about cloth, but Mr. Mallett refused to give him any information and went away. The next morning this Whitham contrived to get Mr. Archer into the stores, which was quite contrary to the regulations. I was told the next morning that there was a contractor of the name of Archer in the stores; that he had been brought in by Whitham; and I then went to the stores and found him looking at some cloth in the cloth room. I said to Whitham, "Do not you know that this is very wrong? Who gave you leave to bring this man here?" He said "Mr. Elliott," but not knowing who the man was, I requested him to leave. I told Mr. Elliott I had done so, and he said I had done perfectly right.

5859. (Mr. Turner.) Did Mr. Elliott give that leave?—He gave leave for Whitham's friend to come into the stores, not knowing who he was. There seemed to be some motive in bringing this man about the time the cloth was rejected.

5860. He was at that time a contractor?—Yes; and it seemed very suspicious that he should try to induce this man to meet Mr. Mallett to talk about his cloth.

5861. (Colonel French.) That cloth was rejected?—Yes.

5862. (Chairman.) Has Archer anything to do with Henry's house?—I do not think he has.

5863. As an inspector, I suppose you had something to do with the packing?—Yes.

5864. The most serious accusation that Whitham made was, the sending off goods to China or foreign parts in insufficient wrappers. We have already had evidence upon that subject. Is it true that all the packing for foreign parts takes place at

Messrs. Hayter and Howell's?—Decidedly; we merely pack goods to go as far as Hayter and Howell's, and there they are repacked; perhaps they do not unpack them, but they cover them with tarpaulings, having a contract for packing all bales going foreign.

5865. (Mr. Turner.) Did you ever pack a bale for China here?—No; although we could if we wished to do so.

5866. (Chairman.) Are there any other facts that you wish to state in connexion with this establishment?—I notice a cloth contractor states that the press of the cloth has been removed by the transit from his manufactory to Weedon, and was rejected on that account, and he was put to the expense of carriage back. It is a thing hardly possible that it should lose its press; instead of the press having come off during transit, the cloth was not sufficiently finished in the press before it came. I do not wish it should appear that we are frivolous in our rejections, and that we put contractors to expense on such a score as that.

5867. (Chairman.) Does the cloth ever get injured in the transit?—Not unless it gets wet.

5868. That of course is at the contractor's risk?—Yes; but it very seldom occurs.

5869. (Mr. Turner.) Are the goods of the contractor handpacked?—Yes.

5870. Would they be more knocked about in the carriage than if they were hydraulic pressed, as the Yorkshire goods are?—Yes; it would be a great convenience if we had the means of pressing goods. Our goods lie about and are exposed to the air and get out of condition.

5871. Could not you do that by enlarging your hydraulic presses?—Yes; the present presses are very small.

5872. Could not you have a very large press, such as is used in every packing establishment in Manchester, put a large pile of woollen goods in, give them a pressure, and almost the finish that is required, instead of sending them back to the contractor?—We could if we had the means; we should require ovens and hot plates and so on. I think it is a most essential thing, if this establishment is to be kept on, that all cloth should be shrunk by the Government themselves, for no dependence can be placed on the shrinking of the contractor generally.

5873. (Chairman.) Why do you put that condition in the specification that the cloth shall be shrunk?—On purpose to make the contractor do so if possible.

5874. Mr. Mallett has told us that, although the specification says it shall be shrunk, that he would pass it shrunk or not?—We could not tell the manufacturer that it was not shrunk, because there are so many ways of getting over it; but, properly speaking, it ought all to be thoroughly shrunk before it goes to be made up. Manufacturers hotpress their goods after they are shrunk, and that does away with it to a great extent.

5875. (Colonel French.) Are you aware that the Government are not going to buy any further quantity of cloth from contractors?—I am not aware.

5876. (Chairman.) Is there not much less bought now than formerly?—There is very little to what there used to be.

5877. How much a week is inspected?—About 5,000 yards.

5878. How much could you inspect when you were in full operation?—At one time we inspected 29,000 yards a week, but then we had more than double the staff that we have now.

5879. Did the amount you had then to inspect make you at all more rapid and lax in your inspection?—No, I think not.

5880. With regard to the boot department, how many can a viewer inspect in a day?—Not more than about 350 pairs, to do it properly.

5881. Is that about the average that he would inspect?—From that to 400 a day.

5882. What are the working hours of the boot viewers?—From half-past seven in the morning to

five at night, with the exception of half an hour's interval.

5883. So far as you have had an opportunity of judging, do they really examine every boot?—Every boot.

5884. With regard to the double mark upon these boots, do you confirm what Hall said, that that double mark of "W.D." and "B.O." was upon none of the boots till within the last fortnight?—Yes; the "B.O." is double the size of the Tower "B.O.," which settles that point at once.

5885. (*Colonel French.*) What do you mean to do with these boots?—They will be used for hospital services, military prisons, and disembodied militia, or militia out for training for a few days, if they will last the time.

5886. (*Mr. Turner.*) With respect to the general mode of conducting business here (I am not speaking of Captain Gordon's management), under the late management you were receiver of goods, were not you also inspector, and considered storeholder as well?—Yes; I was called upon to furnish returns of what I had in store.

5887. Were you issuer of goods?—Yes.

5888. Do you think it is a proper mode of conducting business, that one man should occupy those various responsible posts?—Most decidedly not; nor is it fair towards any man to oblige him to do so. I think it is very improper.

5889. Supposing you had been so much evil disposed as to desire to cheat the Government, had you the opportunity, filling those various offices, of doing so?—I think so, with the collusion of others.

5890. With the collusion of a contractor you could have done so?—And with the inspector under me; it would have required the collusion of those three parties.

5891. Are you of the same opinion as the late storekeeper, Mr. Elliott, was, when he gave this answer to the following question:—"Therefore, would it be possible for such a case as this to occur. Supposing a contractor undertakes to deliver 5,000 yards of cloth at Weedon, and he sends in 2,500, or half the quantity, the inspector might, by collusion with the contractor, give him a certificate for 4,950 yards approved, and 50 yards rejected; could such a case as that occur under the present system?" Mr. Elliott's answer is, "I think not." Do you agree with him in the impossibility of such a case occurring under the late system?—Provided the contractor, myself, and the inspector under me were in collusion, nothing could be more easy. (*Parl. Paper, No. 328, 1858, Question 1825.*)

5892. Do not you think Mr. Elliott's answer in that case was an unjustifiable one?—Mr. Elliott could not have considered the matter; he thought he was doing the best he could.

5893. Do you think he was right in the answer that he gave to question 3588: "Of course I am only making the supposition. Supposing there had been a collusion between the inspector and the contractor, and the inspector had given certificates into your office for more boots than he had received into the store, how could you have checked it?" His answer is, "I do not see how I could have checked it if he had been reckless enough to pass certificates for a larger quantity than he had received, knowing that I was holding him responsible." Do not you think the two answers are inconsistent, and the latter one is the correct answer?—Quite so. There was no check whatever; everything depended entirely upon the honesty of the inspector.

5894. You have a much higher salary than the gentlemen who are inspectors under you, who have only 110*l.* Do you think it is a fair situation to place them in as to temptation, to have so much responsibility with so small an emolument?—Not at all. I have done my utmost since I have been here to have the salary of the sub-inspectors increased. So far as concerns myself, I am receiving what I was

promised by the Government, and I have no reason to complain on that score. I think the inspectors under me are not at all adequately paid, looking at their duties and responsibilities. I believe they were induced to enter the service by a promise that they would have higher pay, and they have remained upon expectations.

5895. Do you think it is wise economy to keep them at such a low rate of salary?—I think not. I think it is quite the reverse.

5896. (*Chairman.*) I think I understood you to say that it would have required not only the collusion of a contractor and yourself, but of a sub-inspector to commit a fraud?—Yes.

5897. The question put to Mr. Elliott respecting cloth speaks only of the inspector and the contractor. Even under the late defective system, would it, as regards cloth, have required the further collusion of the sub-inspector?—The boot inspectors had no inspector over them; they did their business direct with Mr. Elliott, and in that case it would require no collusion except between the inspector and the contractor. There was more intricacy with the cloth, more measuring, counting, and so on. We might inspect 500 pairs of boots, and if the inspector was dishonest he might fill the inspection note for 1,500 if he liked; but in cloth the lengths had to be given in by the principal viewer to the inspector, and he checked them over.

5898. Where would the lengths be entered?—In a book kept for the purpose.

5899. Would that book go to you?—Yes; and that book would be a sufficient check. Seeing the cloth as I do, I should detect what I thought a small quantity of cloth for a large amount on the note. I think I could not fail to observe it.

5900. Would you be able to detect fifty yards or so?—Probably it would be observed by me.

5901. You think there was a great difference between the want of check in the clothing branch and in the boot branch under the former system?—Yes.

5902. (*Colonel French.*) I presume under the present system such a thing would be quite impossible, because the goods pass through so many hands before they come to yours. Is not an account taken of the quantity of cloth that comes in?—There is no account taken before it comes to us. When it comes to us it is re-measured on the part of the storekeeper before he takes it under his charge; if there is a quarter of a yard difference he finds it out. The same thing with counting the boots. They are counted in the presence of the foreman of his department, so that there is the greatest possible check against fraud of any kind.

5903. (*Chairman.*) If a return was made by the inspector to Mr. Elliott that a certain number of yards had been inspected when there had been a smaller number, was not a ticket sent to the packer stating the number of yards?—Yes.

5904. Did the packer ascertain what the quantity was before packing?—The packer would merely know the quantity sent to him; he would not know the quantity the inspector was passing his inspection note for.

5905. I am assuming that the inspector, having given in a false account to Mr. Elliott, sent the true quantity to the packer. Did the packer, under the old system, make any entry of that?—The packer entered every package in his book.

5906. So that by reference to his book, if he acted honestly, there would be that check subsequently, though not at the time?—Certainly; I have every reason to believe it was done honestly, and an account kept of what was passed.

5907. In order to avoid detection, it would be necessary that the packer should be in collusion with the inspector, and put in his book a larger quantity than he actually packed?—I think that would have been necessary. The packer's account would have been a check eventually, in case of any inquiry, but

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it might have gone on for a long time before it was found out.

5908. Eventually would not the packer's account have furnished evidence which would contradict the return made by the inspector to the superintendent?—Yes.

5909. (*Mr. Turner.*) If there was a rapid demand for cloth, I can imagine that; but supposing you had stock in store, would that discrepancy be found out till a remain was taken and the ledger balanced?—No, it would not.

5910. How often was that to be done?—Once in three years.

5911. And the first ledger has not been balanced yet?—I believe not.

5912. Then at present there never has been a period at which that error would have been detected?—Not yet.

5913. (*Chairman.*) If anybody chose to compare the accounts, were there not the materials to do it with? I am assuming that the inspector has given a false return, but that the packer has made a true one; would not a comparison of those accounts, whenever it was made, show the discrepancy?—It would if the comparison was ever made.

5914. You need not necessarily wait till the remain was taken to ascertain whether there was a correspondence between the packer's book and the inspector's account?—No; it would not have been brought out unless it was specially looked for.

5915. (*Colonel French.*) Could a remain be taken every year?—Probably it might be done.

5916. What length of time would it take to do it?—It would cause great inconvenience, and stop a great deal of work. It might be done in an establishment of this sort, if it was kept in the way it has been kept lately, in a very short time. The quantities of everything are kept counted and correct; therefore it would not occupy a very long time to do it, perhaps a fortnight.

5917. (*Chairman.*) How long did it occupy to take Captain Gordon's remain?—They were two or three months preparing for it.

5918. Did that arise from the confusion of the accounts partly?—I believe the arrangement of the stores took a long time. They had to get rid of the obsolete stores, and to have the stores properly arranged, so as to divide the stores from the inspection; a great deal of time was taken up in that way.

5919. (*Mr. Turner.*) Could not the leading man in each department have his tickets and labels so arranged, as that in half a day he could make out a list of all the articles he had in his room?—There are labels now attached to the different articles, with the issues marked off.

5920. When I take stock I expect the foreman in every room to have his stock so labelled, and so within his knowledge, that he can give me a return of the contents of that room in a very few hours?—It might be so arranged here.

5921. If a fire were to occur in my establishment, I could tell within a week the exact contents, so as to make a claim on the Insurance Company for every article in every room. Why should not that be the case here?—It is now: I believe it could be done; the same system pretty much is in work here.

5922. Why should there be any great difficulty in getting the remains?—I know very little about the Government remains. My opinion is, that if you were to tell the foreman three or four days before hand that you would require the exact state of their stock, you would get it from all of them without any difficulty.

5923. (*Chairman.*) Would not that be a paper transaction till you had actually verified it by counting the contents of each room?—The storekeeper would require to have a great many things opened. It is generally usual for two or three officers to go round, and count as much as they please, to satisfy themselves that the accounts are correct.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 10 o'clock.

WEEDON.

Saturday, 2d October 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY J. FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., in the Chair.

WEEDON.

*Mr.**G. G. Munro.*

2 Oct. 1858.

Mr. GEORGE GUNN MUNRO examined.

5924. (*Chairman.*) What office do you hold here?—Assistant military storekeeper.

5925. How long have you held it?—I have been at Weedon since September 1857.

5926. Were you appointed to take charge of the books?—I was appointed to the general duties of the department here.

5927. You wish to make a statement before you are examined, I believe?—Yes. Having seen in the appendix to the report of the Contracts' Committee that blame, although qualified, has been attached to me by the War Office Commission for not having, after remonstrating, "insisted upon an alteration" of the system, and "persevered more" in reporting the irregularities that were carried on at Weedon prior to my joining that dépôt in September 1857, and which, as an experienced Ordnance officer, I could not fail to observe immediately on arrival, I am desirous of laying before the Royal Commissioners a statement showing the manner in which the business of the department was conducted, and also what steps

I took to rectify the irregular practices that were in existence, assuming that they are not already in possession of the whole facts. Prior to my arrival at Weedon the establishment consisted of a principal military storekeeper, Mr. Elliott; a military storekeeper, Mr. Tatum; an assistant military storekeeper, Mr. Green; and 17 clerks; Mr. Tatum being in charge of the issue branch and the general duties of the department, and Mr. Green of the contract and ledger branches, while the registry and correspondence were conducted under Mr. Moore, first-class clerk. On my joining duty the management of the ledger branch was handed over to me, and I immediately saw that not only was there a large arrear, but that the mode of keeping the accounts was such, that in my opinion there was neither security to the public nor to the storekeeper; the Ordnance regulations being, as it were, positively set at defiance. There were neither receipt nor issue journals from which to post the ledgers, and those that were posted were made up in the most irregular manner from the

contract books and from such loose documents as may have found their way into the ledger room. There was no attempt to ascertain whether all the vouchers ever reached ; in fact, there was no system of any kind ; and instead of the proper books being kept, there was an attempt at a most ostentatious display of regimental ledgers, with only one clerk to keep them. In the storehouses I found what I considered a most objectionable and a most dangerous mode of conducting the duty ; viz., the receipt, inspection, custody, and issue of the various stores in the several branches being in the hands of one person for each branch, without any kind of check upon his correctness. In the contract branch I found the same laxity prevail, and a facility, almost incredible, for any clerk, in collusion with a contractor, by merely adding or altering a figure, to cause that contractor to be paid for articles that never came near the storehouses. On seeing this state of affairs, although a subordinate, being but the third officer at the station, I at once deemed it my duty to bring it under the notice of the principal military storekeeper, and I did so many times, both verbally and in writing, and a letter which I wrote within a fortnight after my arrival, found by Captain Gordon in Mr. Elliott's private drawer, will prove to the Commissioners that I not only at once saw and pointed out, as strongly as the rules of the service would permit, the irregularities in my own branch, and their remedy, but I ventured, as is shown by my letter, to suggest the necessity of establishing an issue journal ; the want of which, as well as of a receipt journal, I considered to be one of the greatest defects in the Weedon scheme. With regard to the system pursued in the inspection, alluded to in that letter, the chief inspector can inform you that I not only pointed out to him the defects, but that Mr. Elliott, as I am now informed, spoke to him about my report, not with the intention of rectifying the errors, but to make it appear that I was unnecessarily wishing to find fault with his branch, as I had already done with the store and contract branches. In respect to the contracts, having had experience at the Tower in that branch, I frequently pointed out to Mr. Green, in his own office, in the presence of the clerks, that from the manner in which the duty was conducted, any person who had access to his books could, in concert with a dishonest contractor, cheat the public to any extent ; and I strongly urged upon him to adopt a different system. Mr. Elliott a short time afterwards told me that Mr. Green afforded every satisfaction by the manner in which he kept the contract accounts ; and he gave me at the same time to understand that he did not wish me to volunteer any suggestions, or interfere with that gentleman's branch in any way. A reference to the state of the books in the contract branch will, however, show how much such interference was required. Mr. Elliott also informed me, that the system of inspection and store account was highly approved of at head quarters ; that he thought it much better and simpler than the mode directed by Ordnance regulations ; and that as it worked well no alteration was necessary. Thus was every attempt at improvement on my part completely frustrated, and I found it vain to endeavour to impress a belief that the Ordnance system of business, of which I had had fifteen years' experience, was preferable to a new scheme, which was productive of considerable arrears, and was likely to create inextricable confusion. Under these circumstances, as Mr. Elliott, the principal military storekeeper, was determined to carry out his own views, I had no alternative but to obey his orders, and devote my best energies to their fulfilment. This appeared to me to be more especially my duty, when I saw my other senior, Mr. Military Storekeeper Tatum (an officer of much longer service and greater experience), by protracted hours of attendance, at the sacrifice of his health, struggling to support a system I know he strongly condemned ; and I can now only assume Mr. Elliott to have impressed him with the belief, which he endeavoured to instil into Captain Gordon, that the Weedon system

was the best, and that none other could be carried out. At the time of Major Marvin's visit to Weedon I had no idea for what purpose he came down, further than the general surmise, that he was sent to report upon the arrears of the office, prior to the grant of an increase to the establishment, which had previously been applied for ; and when Mr. Elliott desired me to prepare a statement of the arrears, and the manner in which the duty was performed, I concluded the surmise was correct. This statement was given to Major Marvin, but I was never asked if the course pursued in posting the ledger was a proper one, nor was I ever called upon to give any opinion, as it must be apparent that if I had, I should not have hesitated for one moment in pointing out what I considered to be the proper mode of conducting the duties. In making this representation, I submit to the Royal Commissioners, that my statement given to Major Marvin, as well as my evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, went to prove that the Ordnance regulations, in regard to the keeping of the ledger, were not carried out ; that in this matter I was not blameable, as I had remonstrated so far as the rules of the service would permit a junior officer to do ; and that Mr. Elliott's statements having fully impressed me with the belief that the system pursued had gained not only the sanction but the approbation of the War Office, I could not, with that proper subordination which obtains in every well-regulated branch of the service, further express my dissent from a course which was recognized and assented to by the heads of my department.

5928. Then you consider that when Mr. Garrett, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Milton expressed an opinion that they could not wholly acquit you from blame in not following up the representations you made, and insisting upon an alteration, they were scarcely just to you, inasmuch as you were bound to report only to your superior officer ?—I do ; I was only bound to report to my superior officer, and I did so to the two senior officers above me. Had I gone further I should have been running in direct contradiction to the rules of the service.

5929. You refer to a letter which you addressed to Mr. Elliott on the 17th of October 1857 ?—I do ; that is in evidence.

5930. You never got an acknowledgment of that letter from Mr. Elliott, did you ?—I never did.

5931. He even denied having received such a letter ?—He did, at Morley's Hotel. When I stated before the Committee of the House of Commons that there were no day-books, he told me I ought to have represented it to him ; I told him I had already done so. He strongly denied that he had ever heard of or received any letter of that kind, and he moreover told me, that if I again mentioned it, he should be under the necessity of contradicting me before the Committee of the House of Commons.

5932. Having made that statement in your letter to your superior officer on the 17th of October 1857, you considered you had done your duty, and that it was his province then to act upon your recommendation ?—I not only gave him that letter, but I remonstrated with him so frequently that it became, I now understand, a complete byword in the department that Mr. Munro was constantly finding fault with the manner in which the duties of the contract branch and the store branch were performed.

5933. The absence of a day-book I presume you consider to be an omission fatal to the accuracy of proper accounts ?—I do.

5934. Do the Ordnance regulations require a day-book to be kept ?—They do ; they require a journal. It is not in the new regulations, but it is in the old regulations. Without a day-book how could the storekeeper post his ledger ?

5935. (*Mr. Selfe.*) In the present Ordnance regulations is there any provision that a day-book should be kept ?—I do not see it.

5936. Do you think them defective in that respect ?—I do.

WEEDON.

Mr.
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5937. (*Chairman.*) Will you be so good as to give us shortly the mode in which a transaction could be traced through the books as they were kept in Mr. Elliott's time?—In accordance with your desire I can give you an example of the Weedon books under the old system. An apt illustration as to the receipt of stores from contractors is given in the case of the discrepancy respecting the 1,500 pairs of boots in Messrs. Isaac's account. I made a report upon those to Captain Gordon yesterday, of which I can give you a copy.

The same was read as follows :

" Military Store Office, Weedon,
1st October 1858.
" Captain Gordon,
" With reference to Messrs. Isaac's claims for payment for 500 pairs boots delivered on 19th August, and for 1,000 pairs delivered on 15th January, I have the honour to report that, having examined Mr. Watson's books, I find those quantities were delivered on the days stated, but that no corresponding inspection note appears to have been acted on.

" Mr. Watson having stated that the inspection being in arrear, he has for some very considerable time been unable to identify the inspection notes with the various deliveries, I proceeded to examine the deliveries made by Messrs. Isaac from the very commencement of their contract, as the only sure means of arriving at a correct result.

" There being no record or day-book in the office to trace the deliveries, I have been necessitated to take Mr. Watson's memorandum book of the various packages received by him as the sole basis, and I endeavoured to check that by the book kept by Mackay, but on comparison I found so many omissions in the latter (twelve in three months), that I gave it up as being unworthy of confidence. Although purporting to be a day-book, it appears to have been a month in arrear, and has never been examined by any one.

" Having made a list of the deliveries, I identified them with the inspection notes and entries in the contract ledgers up to the 2d July 1857, when from that date to the 26th October the inspection notes appear to have been cancelled and re-made so often, that all trace of identity between inspection and delivery is lost.

" This was done in the contract branch, and therefore not under the control of Mr. Watson, and left the state thus :—

Hampers.		I. Note.		Boots.
July 10th	16	August 11th	1,915	2,000
			1,914	2,000
" 14th	18		1,896	2,000
			1,891	500
" 20th	18		1,890	2,000
		Sept. 12th	4,334	500
Aug. 3d	16	" 17th	4,442	850
		" 19th	4,478	500
" 8th	4	Oct. 10th	4,852	1,220
Total	72	Total	11,570	

" Assuming that these hampers contain the average quantity, viz. 125 pairs each, it would appear that Mr. Watson charges himself with 9,000 pairs, and passes notes for 11,570 pairs within the period stated; but to meet this, there appears by Mackay's book three deliveries on the 12th, 17th, and 19th September, for 15 hampers not in Mr. Watson's books, while Mr. Watson's book contains two deliveries on the 8th August and 26th September for 14 hampers not in Mackay's. The 15 hampers are stated to have been sent to No. 4. store (Mr. Gray's), but on reference to Mr. Hoile, and a search through Mr. Gray's books, no trace of these boots appear, and I therefore presume they must have found their way into Mr. Watson's room without any entry into his books; and again, assuming that these contain the maximum, viz. 1875, there would still appear 695 pairs in excess.

" Mackay's book, I must again say, I have no faith in; and as that and Mr. Watson's disagree, I see no possible way of clearing this without a detailed statement of all deliveries of boots made by Messrs. Isaac, to be checked by the contract ledgers.

" Mr. Watson appears from this period (26th October 1857) to have been in arrear with the inspection, and to have taken the boots on one note to meet another, and thus deferred the evil day; but I find that to the present day for every delivery of boots he debits himself with, I can find a corresponding inspection note, with but three exceptions, viz. :—

January 15th, 1,000 pairs, now claimed.
June 4th, 500 pairs.
August 19th, 500 pairs, now claimed.

" To meet this there are three credits given for boots for which there are no corresponding receipts, viz. :—

December 12th - - - 1,000.
February 3d - - - 500.
May 13th - - - 500.

" It therefore appears that Messrs. Isaac have been paid for all boots as far as our books show; and although the practice of taking stores from one note to meet another was extremely irregular, if I may give an opinion, I consider that Mr. Watson is not to blame in this matter, for a reference to the contract books will show that the notes were not only changed, but in a very irregular manner; for instance, a note for 8,000 pairs, No. 1821, when divided makes 8,500 pairs. How then was it possible for an inspector to make each note tally with the actual delivery?

" Many notes are cancelled, and the note for the 1,000 pairs in question is marked by Mr. Bennett in the ledger as "transferred to kits," but on looking at that ledger, and seeing no trace of it, I referred to Mr. Bennett, when I found the ledger now in use is only a copy" (the original has been found this morning), "and that the original, with all the remarks and alterations, is not forthcoming, and therefore a thorough investigation cannot be made.

" I would therefore suggest that Messrs. Isaac be requested to furnish a statement of all the boots they have sent into this dépôt, as that in my opinion is the only means we have of checking their accounts, and that as they had already done so months ago, when claiming this 1,000 pairs of boots, it is much to be regretted that the officer whose duty it was to do so did not then settle this question.

" (Signed) GEC. G. MUNRO,
" Assist. Military Storekeeper."

It will be seen by that report that the stores went direct to the inspector, and that the only books then in use were Mackay's (a labourer) book, purporting to be a daily record of all packages entering the dépôt, and which book was checked by no one; secondly, the inspector's book charging himself with the stores; and thirdly, his inspection ledger, in which he entered the notes with the result of inspection. Thus the inspector charged himself with the articles inspected, reported upon them, and then they were considered as stores in his charge, without any officer of the department seeing whether the quantities ever reached their destination. This ended the store transaction without any check whatever. This (*producing a book*) is the inspector's book, in which you will see that on the 15th of January Mr. Watson charges himself with nine hampers purporting to contain 1,000 boots, but the quantity not checked.

5938. (*Mr. Selfe.*) In whose handwriting is that?—Mr. Watson's. On the 15th of January also you will see that there is a corresponding entry made in the contract register for a thousand pairs, but without any result of inspection being opposite, or any remark whatever as to the note being "cancelled" or "inspected."

5939. (*Chairman.*) What do you infer from there being no remark opposite?—That the book has never been kept up. You will see in very many instances there are no results of inspections put to many notes.

5940. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Would not this entry be made before actual inspection?—Always.

5941. (*Chairman.*) But still the result of the inspection should also be entered?—Yes.

5942. (*Colonel French.*) You do not give the voucher to the contractor for his boots until the boots have been inspected, do you?—No.

5943. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Would not he have a receipt from Mackay or the person who received the hampers?—He would have the initials in his delivery book by the storeman, or the inspector who received the hampers. His carman would have a receipt for them at the time of the delivery in the carrier's book.

5944. (*Chairman.*) It was explained the other day that receipts were only given to the carriers, and that no receipt was given for goods delivered by carts?—No merchant would leave nine hampers of goods without getting some acknowledgment; his carman would have it in his book.

5945. It was distinctly explained that they did not give receipts for such deliveries?—Not in the olden time.

5946. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Who was the person entrusted to make this entry?—Mr. Green, or one of his clerks.

5947. Who was the person who furnished the material from which the entry was made?—Mr. Isaac the contractor makes a delivery note, and it is entered and registered here.

5948. Does he send it direct to the contract branch?—Direct to the office. I have the register number in the general register, "Inspection note, Messrs. Isaac for boots;" and it would be sent to the contract branch.

5949. Is not this entry a check upon Mr. Watson? Mr. Watson debits himself with the receipt of a thousand pairs of boots, and there is a similar entry on the same day in another book, over which Mr. Watson has no control, by which Messrs. Isaac are said to have furnished that thousand pairs?—Yes.

5950. In the books of the establishment, as then existing, there is a double admission that the goods were received?—That the boots purported to be sent to the store.

5951. (*Chairman.*) Then you trace them to the store?—On that note being registered it was entered

in the contract ledger, January 23d, No. 1,326, 7,326 pairs of boots supplied. I see the mark made opposite "transferred to kits;" but on reference to the kit account I trace no corresponding entry to it.

5952. The debit of the thousand pairs still remains, only it is transferred to another account?—Yes. I looked to this account, and I ascertained the day before yesterday that this was a copy of the original ledger. It is stated to be transferred to the kit ledger, but on reference to that ledger I find no trace of it; but it is stated by a gentleman in the department to be cancelled.

5953. How cancelled?—There were no boots for it; it was a duplicate of some other delivery.

5954. The person who receives the hampers acknowledges them, and Mr. Watson acknowledges them in his book?—Yes; he acknowledges to have received them; but he said he had other notes for which there were no corresponding deliveries, and that he took the boots that were there to meet the other notes; it was an irregular practice.

5955. (*Mr. Selfe.*) How could notes without boots have come into his possession?—When the contractors sent in their notes before the goods. I believe Mr. Isaac, as well as others, used to send them in before he sent in the goods. Sometimes the note might be made at the office if they got the goods without a note, and the note from the contractor came afterwards.

5956. (*Chairman.*) In order to clear this up you wish to have a statement from Isaac and Company of the exact deliveries?—Yes.

5957. Therefore, to check the books, you have to ask the contractor what he has sent, in the same way that Commissary-General Adams said he must ask the regiments what they had received?—It is the only way I see of clearing the discrepancy.

5958. (*Colonel French.*) There is no statement to show that Messrs. Isaac were paid for those boots, since there is no statement to show that they were inspected?—They have not received payment.

5959. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Boots are sometimes transferred to the necessities department, are they not, for the purpose of making up kits?—They would be sent there to be issued. They would be packed in the boot room and sent to be issued as a portion of a kit. You must know that Mr. Isaac had two contracts at the same time, one for a certain number of boots on a contract of the 12th of August, and he had another one besides at a different price. I should say he was keeping the two contracts going at the same time, and occasionally he transferred the boots from one contract to another to save himself from being fined; for instance, if he was in excess of the one, he transferred them to the other to make good his deficiencies. If he was ordered to deliver 2,000 in one and 2,000 in the other, if he had 3,000 upon the first, he would transfer 1,000, so as to keep faith with the Government in both contracts.

5960. Have you ever seen this statement by Mr. Isaac, showing the quantity which he says had been delivered at certain dates?—I have not seen it, but it should tally with this book. Up to 24th December 1857 Mr. Isaac had delivered accepted 10,567 pairs of boots on this contract; I see the sum total exactly corresponds; 30,485 he has been paid for.

5961. That would show that the payments correspond; but does it show that the deliveries correspond?—It is a statement of the deliveries on this kit contract.

5962. (*Chairman.*) What light can Mr. Isaac throw upon this more than he has already thrown?—This is only his kit contract, but he delivered other boots on other contracts. If he gives us every separate delivery, with the date on which he has delivered it, we shall be able by the contract ledger, or by Mr. Watson's book, to check each delivery. We have paid him for three quantities, amounting to 2,000 pairs of boots, for which we do not see any delivery in Mr. Watson's book. On the other hand, Mr. Watson charges himself with 2,000 pairs, which we have not paid for, on a different date.

5963. May not that have arisen from the mixing up of the different contracts?—Yes; and the mixing up of the different inspection notes.

5964. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Do you think it possible that a surplus of a thousand pairs of boots may be found in the kit department?—No; the boots are all kept in Mr. Watson's store.

5965. Wherever they are kept, do you think it possible that any surplus may be found?—I should say, certainly not; when Captain Gordon received this charge, I went round the store, and I saw all the boots in the inspection room, and identified them with the different deliveries from the different contractors.

5966. The whole quantity?—Those waiting inspection. Mr. Watson's explanation is, that he took them from the boots delivered that day, and applied them to another inspection note, for which he had no boots.

5967. Who would have the custody of the former inspection note with which there were no boots?—Mr. Watson. They were altered—changed; they were sent up to him; he would keep those inspection notes until the arrival of the boots.

5968. By whom were they altered and changed?—In the contract branch.

5969. Anticipating the actual arrival of the boots to fit into the inspection note?—Perhaps to meet a particular desire of the contractor, in getting payment for them. I conceive that the whole transaction was very irregular.

5970. (*Chairman.*) In that case he would get paid under one contract, whereas the boots were delivered on another contract?—Yes; but he would not be paid for them twice.

5971. (*Mr. Selfe.*) If the boots appeared in Mr. Watson's book as received by him, and also appeared in the contract ledger as received, or acknowledged to have been received, and transferred to the kits, why was not Mr. Isaac paid before?—That I cannot say; it should have been looked into at the time. Mr. Isaac made his complaint some months ago.

5972. (*Chairman.*) This matter has been in suspense for a considerable period, and is not cleared up now?—No, it is not.

5973. Mr. Isaac, at all events, seems to be under the impression that he has not received the money for those boots?—He has not received the money for that actual delivery.

5974. He says that he is deficient in payment for a certain number of boots?—He does.

5975. If it is to be explained, that the boots have been transferred to another contract, has he not been overpaid on one contract as much as he is short paid on the other?—No; the contract was a running contract; he was bound to deliver so many pairs within a certain time on each contract. It may be, on sending the boots in, he might send in a larger quantity on one contract, and none on the other, and they were transferred on paper from one contract to the other; he would be paid on the one they were due on, that they were transferred to.

5976. (*Mr. Selfe.*) You want Mr. Isaac's account, not only on the kit contract, which is printed, but on the other?—We must have a statement of every delivery made in the store to enable us to clear up the transaction.

5977. How could this confusion have been avoided?—By the system as at present, when the boots are sent into store, the inspection note is not registered until it bears upon the face of it the inspector's acknowledgment that the boots are received; it is then returned to the inspector, and entered by him in his journal; he inspects it and fills up the columns with "approved" or "rejected," as the case might be. The officer of the department then attends and counts over those approved, and hands them over to the storeholder; the storeholder and the officer both signing the inspection note, and vouching that the boots went into the store, and were taken on the ledger by Captain Gordon.

WEEDON.

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5978. If there had been in January last a proper storeholder, distinct from Mr. Watson, either in the kit department or in the boot department, you would have his acknowledgment of having received the boots?—Certainly, and this could not have happened.

5979. (*Chairman.*) Did not Mr. Elliott, in giving his evidence, declare that there was such a man as the storeholder when there really was not?—I believe that was in the report of Major Marvin.

5980. Major Marvin, I presume, derived his information from Mr. Elliott?—He did.

5981. Without ascertaining the fact, perhaps?—That I cannot say. With regard to the office transaction on the receipt of an inspection note, it was first entered in detail in the register and in the contract ledger, and then sent to the inspector; he reported upon it in the column "approved" or "rejected," as the case might be, and returned it to the office, when the contractors got credit for the approved quantities in the contract ledger, and were paid on that entry, without any check or the signature of any officer to verify the receipt of the goods on the storekeeper's charge.

5982. Would that apply equally to cloth and to boots?—To every article.

5983. Mr. Elliott has given evidence, and Mr. Hoile gave as evidence yesterday, that the inspector after inspecting, approving, and so forth, sends the cloth to the packer?—The inspector might send down 1,000 yards of cloth to be packed; how would he know that that inspection note was not filled up for 2,000 yards? you might arrive at the result when there was a balance taken. There is another point; many bales of cloth were half opened. I know for a fact, when I arranged the stores in March last, I found many bales half opened, and I sent them down to the packer to be packed; therefore, if he entered those all in his book he might show an excess packed beyond what he had received, because he might have packed the same bales twice, unless he kept his book to show what he received from the inspector above.

5984. Mr. Hoile states that the packer kept an account of all that he received. If the inspector had given in the inspection note credit to the contractor for a larger portion than was packed, whenever those two entries were compared, and not till then, the discrepancy would appear?—Certainly it would.

5985. Whenever they were compared, even without actual counting, would not there be a check upon the inspector in that respect?—If the books were kept correctly there would be a check.

5986. That would not be so in the case of boots, because the same person packed them?—The same person packed them. The inspection note was kept in the contract branch for reference until the contractor's bill was received, and it was then sent to the ledger branch; but it was never considered necessary to support a certificate for payment even by these documents. As Mr. Elliott's statement to the Contracts' Committee, in answer to question 3513, differs materially from this, I perhaps may be allowed to observe, that the sending an inspection note to the office does not form check 1. on the receipt of the goods. The entry of that note in the receipt register, called for the occasion a "receipt journal," does not form check 2. (Parl. Paper, 1858, No. 328.)

5987. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Will you explain why?—Because no person ever sees the stores. It is a mere transaction on paper on a given document sent in by the contractor.

5988. Is not the inspection report which the contractor sends back furnished to him from the office?—He is furnished with a blank form, and he fills in certain dates, and says that he sends in certain articles; that is at once sent to the office, and it is entered, but that forms no check upon the goods; it is merely a clerical operation; because the officer who enters it has not the remotest idea whether the things were ever there or not.

5989. Whose writing is it?—The contractor's; the inspection note is sent in by the contractor, and it is

entered in this book (*The Contract Ledger.*) The entry of the approved portion in the register does not form check 3., for it is merely filling from the same note, first one column and then another; for on reference to that book it will be seen that of so little use was it that very many of the entries of approvals or rejections are not made. If you look through the book you will see a considerable number of instances in which no result of inspection is stated. The sending the note by a messenger to the inspector, and his entering it in his inspection book, I do not consider check 4., neither do I consider his filling in the column "approved" check 5., nor the entry in the ledger the 6th check. In fact, as regards the stores themselves, the transmission of the inspection note by the messengers to the store and back might as well be called the 7th and 8th check, and so ad infinitum.

5990. Have you a copy of an inspection note?—Yes. These notes are furnished to the contractor; he sends them by post to the office, and the gentlemen who get them enter them in this book, sometimes before and sometimes after the goods; the note is entered whether the stores have been there or not.

5991. (*Chairman.*) I suppose the inspection note comes before the inspector, and he enters upon it the result of his examination?—Yes.

5992. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Is that book which you have shown us a mere transcript of the original inspection note?—A mere transcript.

5993. If it is a mere transcript of the inspection note, is it anything more than an acknowledgment that a piece of paper has been received?—The step that would be taken on the note would be that it would be sent to the general register, and it would receive a number, and be headed in that register, "Inspection note for boots—Isaac's," so and so; and it would be then charged to the contract branch. The clerk in the contract branch would enter it in the register, without knowing whether the stores had come in or not. It is still clerical work. He then hands it to another gentleman, who enters it in this book; it is then handed to the messenger to be sent to the stores; nobody has seen the boots; and there it remains in the store till the quantity approved comes down. If the inspector were dishonest, which might or might not be the case, all he has to do is to put "950 approved," and "50 rejected," signing his name to it; no one sees the boots, and the note is brought back to the office, and the same individual writes "950 approved," and on that approval the contractor is paid.

5994. With nobody's signature?—No; except the inspector, whoever he may be; no other officer sees it, and no other officer counts the boots.

5995. That is assuming the inspector, as well as the contractor, to be fraudulent?—Yes; you must have two parties to every fraud.

5996. (*Chairman.*) If that is so, the acknowledgment by Mr. Watson of the thousand pairs of boots in the book which you have produced is no acknowledgment at all. He merely says: "I have copied the inspection note into a certain book?"—He never enters them till he gets the boots from the contractor. This was the only bonâ fide book in the establishment of the receipt of goods into store (*Mr. Watson's book*).

5997. By that you hold him bound?—Yes.

5998. Can you give an illustration of the course at present pursued?—The present course is, an inspection note on being received is sent to the inspector, who, on the arrival of the stores, notes it on that document, and returns it to the office; it is then registered, and the quantity entered in the contract ledgers to the contractor's particular account; it is then returned to the inspector to report upon; on that being done, an officer of the department attends, and sees the stores handed over to the storeholder, who signs the inspection note with that officer, and enters them in his ledger; the articles approved are then entered in the daily receipt journal, and the note

sent to the contract branch for the approved quantities to be credited to the contractor. No payment is made, unless the certificate is supported by the inspection note, which in addition to the inspector's signature, shows, by the daily report number, that the stores have been entered in the journal, and by the signatures of an officer of the department and the storeholder that they have been received into the stores. The course pursued in the ledger branch was, as I have already stated to Major Marvin, to post the receipts from the inspection notes and delivery notes from regiments or storekeepers, as the case may be, and the issues from the receipts of contractors, officers commanding, and others, to whom the stores may have been issued, while the present and proper course is to post the ledger from the journal, and check it by the vouchers, thus the chance of a loose document being lost is avoided. I may also state, that every entry in every book is now checked.

5999. (*Colonel French.*) In spite of all the checks and counterchecks, which we will suppose exist at this moment, to prevent the inspector defrauding the Government, or being in collusion with the contractor, could not the head of the department, Captain Gordon, if he chose, commit a fraud?—No, he could not, because I make out the certificate, I vouch that certificate by the inspection note, and I see by the daily report, the number that has been daily entered in the journal; I also see, in addition to the inspector's signature, that the storeholder has received the quantities approved, and taken them into stock, and that is vouched by an officer of the department; I have three signatures to prove that the goods have come into store.

6000. Is that the document that goes up to the War Office, upon which the contractor is paid?—No; the contractor receives a notification of the quantity approved, and he sends in his bill for that quantity; I see by the contractor's ledger, that that quantity has been approved; I then get the inspection notes, to prove that they have been taken on to the storekeeper's charge, and on that proof I make out a certificate. I am speaking of what is done now.

6001. I wish to know whether that document which you have signed, and which has gone through that process, goes up to the accountant-general with Captain Gordon's certificate, or whatever it may be?—No; Captain Gordon certifies that the approved quantity has been received into his charge, and that certificate is also signed by the chief inspector, but they must have this document to show that that quantity has been passed.

6002. (*Mr. Selfe.*) How many more checks are there under the new system than there were under the old? Is there anything besides the storekeeper's acknowledgment of receipt?—The officer of the department sees the goods in the first instance, before the note is ever entered in these books; we never enter them unless it is written on the face of the note that the goods have been received into store; and upon that identical note the inspector must give an account of the articles, whether approved, rejected, deficient, or surplus, as the case may be.

6003. If the inspector and the contractor under the old system were dishonest, and were in collusion, they might have got credit between them for the receipt of goods that never were received; but now you require in addition evidence of their receipt from the storeholder?—We do.

6004. That makes a third person?—Yes; and the clerk or officer of the department who also sees them makes the fourth.

6005. Does he count them?—He sees every article counted from one to the other.

6006. Has he any technical name?—No.

6007. Is that a new office?—No; it is a duty that ought to have been done by the clerk, but he never did it.

6008. Therefore there must be four persons in collusion before anything improper can take place?—Yes.

6009. (*Chairman.*) If this document goes up to the accountant-general, would it not be impossible for the head of the department to be in collusion with the contractor?—Quite; it would require the accountant-general to be in collusion with him.

6010. Will you endeavour to trace how articles are issued?—I never had charge of the issue branch. So many changes have been made in the system, that I am sorry I cannot give you any information regarding that. When I came here, there was a Mr. Suggate,—he is at Mark-lane; Mr. Gordon was in charge of the store issue branch; Mr. Deegan,—he is here; and Mr. Dwyer. They were the only gentlemen I knew in charge of the stores.

6011. Were they in charge separate from the inspector? We have understood that the receivers, inspectors, and storekeepers were also in many instances issuers?—Yes; but those gentlemen conducted the issuing of the whole establishment in the stores according to the rules laid down by Mr. Elliott.

6012. Did those rules place a sufficient check upon the issues?—No, I conceive not.

6013. Can you explain to us in what respect they were deficient?—They had no daybook of issues.

6014. And no record except the issue notes, as you call them, which went with the goods?—No.

6015. You once stated that those vouchers were satisfactory to you, and that you had given to Mr. Elliott a list of the missing vouchers; have you seen reason to alter your opinion as to the satisfactory nature of those documents?—I stated so in answer to question 2030 before the Contracts' Committee. I now have.

6016. Upon whose information?—From a statement made to me by Mr. Travers, a first-class clerk. In Major Marvin's report the arrears of the ledger branch are already correctly stated; but I cannot subscribe to the statement of my predecessor in the contract branch, that there was only an average of six days' arrear for each clerk as the number of certificates for old accounts, some of 18 months' standing passed by Captain Gordon, coupled with the fact, that last week Messrs. Dolan stated that they had no less than 600 claims unpaid, while Messrs. Isaac sent in a list of 197; this also disproves the statement that certificates were forwarded for all inspected articles.

6017. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Do you know whether those claims referred to a period anterior to Major Marvin's report?—Yes, the majority of them. Now that Major Marvin has published his report, and we know for what purpose he made his visit here, I can see how completely he was deceived by Mr. Elliott, for to my knowledge there were 500 sets of cavalry necessities then in store uninspected, some of the items having been in the depôt upwards of five months; that fact seems to have been passed over.

6018. Who would have been the person to have given Major Marvin information upon that point?—I do not know. He evidently appears to have had a return from some person of the quantity of goods inspected.

6019. (*Chairman.*) Major Marvin was only here three days I think?—I think that was all.

6020. In those three days would he have an opportunity of ascertaining the fact with regard to the union of the four offices of receiver, inspector, storeholder, and issuer in one man?—I saw it the first time I went through the stores, and Captain Gordon also saw it the first day; but he was accustomed to stores, and I understood Major Marvin was not a store officer, and therefore would have, in a great measure, to depend upon information that he got from the various gentlemen employed; he must necessarily have been in their hands.

6021. (*Colonel French.*) Major Marvin, I think, came down to the stores with the idea that Mr. Elliott was a man of the highest character, and he was not

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in any way put on his guard?—I should say he was not.

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6022. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Were there at that time, as there are now, tickets hung up purporting to show the amount of stores in hand?—No.

6023. What books were there which would purport to show the amount of stores in hand at that time?—Such books as you see,—the inspection books. I heard a good deal about subsidiary ledgers from Mr. Elliott, but I have never been able to see one yet.

6024. (*Chairman.*) I think Mr. Elliott stated that there were subsidiary ledgers from which the accounts could be made up, so as to enable him in a very short time to give a return?—I never have been able to see one.

6025. Believing Mr. Elliott's statement, you did not wish to contradict him; but when you returned to Weedon, did you ascertain the fact whether there were in existence any such subsidiary ledgers?—I did; and he promised to show them to me. I asked him several times, and at last I began to have a suspicion; I went to satisfy myself, and I did satisfy myself that there were no such books.

6026. We can only infer that Mr. Elliott was trying to deceive the Committee, and I suppose you came to that conclusion also?—I came to that conclusion also.

6027. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Will you refer me to the books which you say must have been those which would purport to show the amount of stock in hand?—It must have been made up from the viewers' books of the quantities they had passed. There never was any debtor and creditor account kept; I never have been able to see one.

6028. Were the totals added up?—Not to my knowledge.

6029. Major Marvin says: "I found the books of the viewers or storeholders kept with much accuracy and completeness to show satisfactorily the amount of stock in charge of each"?—I have never seen those books.

6030. (*Chairman.*) Could Major Marvin have made that statement without seeing those books?—I do not know what may have been produced to him.

6031. If such books could have been produced to him would they not be accessible to you?—I think so; I was not with Major Marvin; I have not the remotest idea what books were shown to him. I have several times tried to obtain the information from various sources, but I could not get it; Mr. Travers will tell you that, because the information was kept from me. How Mr. Elliott's statement of the 5th of May that went up to the Committee of the House of Commons was made out, I do not know.

6032. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Could such a book as that in which Mr. Watson debits himself with the receipt of the 1,000 pairs of boots be called a subsidiary ledger?—I really do not know.

6033. Captain Gordon has furnished us with a schedule of various books that are now in use. Could you or some one else furnish us with a statement showing the additions to or alterations from the old system?—I could make out a statement showing Captain Gordon's books on one side and Mr. Elliott's books on the other side.

6034. (*Chairman.*) In answer to question 1823, Mr. Elliott makes a statement conveying his idea of the checks which he had. He is asked by Mr. Liddell: "Supposing an extreme case; I do not make this as a charge, but supposing both the contractor and the inspector to be dishonest and collusion to be arranged between them, as you say you have not taken stock for three years, supposing the contractor, by complicity with the inspector, had chosen to make up those accounts, could not he have any amount of stores passed to his credit without detection?" Mr. Elliott says, "Certainly not; when the cloth inspection is completed, a docket is made out and it is passed on to the packer; the packer satisfies himself as to the number of pieces.

"I have a packer for the establishment, and that man keeps a packing book. The inspector sends down fifty pieces of cloth, and he sends with it a docket, saying there are fifty pieces containing so many yards; the packer's duty then is to see whether he has got that number to put in the bales; he prints on the outside of the bale a description of the cloth, what it is, and the quantity which the bale contains, and then he hands that over with another docket to the foreman of the stores, who takes charge of it on my part, and he enters it in his book to my debit. The packer keeps a book, and the foreman of stores keeps a book, and when it reaches him, he passes it to my debit, as it were." Then the following question is, "How often do you compare notes between the books?" Mr. Elliott says, "Constantly; we are constantly obliged to keep a look-out to see that we have got enough to meet the demands; so that it is almost a daily operation." Was that operation a daily operation or anything approaching to it?—There was never one instance known of it; there was no foreman of stores, but a man who was there as a labourer kept a book; in fact, when Mr. Elliott saw that book himself, he laughed at it; the first time he ever saw it, was when he was attempting to bring something of the kind before the House of Commons in the month of May. Mr. Elliott says, "The inspector sends down fifty pieces of cloth, and he sends with it a docket saying there are fifty pieces containing so many yards." That is no proof to the packer that the inspector had not signed for 100 pieces of cloth if he were dishonest, because he never sees the inspection notes, and he only packs what the inspector chooses to send him.

6035. Then Mr. Elliott's idea of the perfection of his system of checks, in your opinion, amounts to nothing?—To nothing. Now I recollect, the total quantities received and packed, can be no check of the total quantities received by the inspector, for in many instances cloth has been issued from the inspection room without being packed by the packer, so that that as a check falls to the ground.

6036. Your name is mentioned in question 1898 by Mr. Baring. Mr. Baring says, "In question 1238, which I put to Mr. Munro, I asked him whether he could not tell the balance of red cloth in store, he says, 'No, not from the books, but we could by counting it.' Could you tell the quantity of cloth that ought to be in store?" Mr. Elliott says, "From the storeman's books; not from the ledger to which Mr. Munro referred?"—There were no such books in existence that would show it, and never were.

6037. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Would the books kept in Mr. Elliott's time, accurately shew the amount of money paid on certificates?—Certainly; to a sixpence.

6038. That is merely a transcript of what has been done elsewhere?—A transcript of the certificates passed for the goods received.

6039. Mr. Elliott put in a paper, No. 12 in the Appendix, showing the amount of money certified for goods delivered at Weedon. From December 1855 to April 1858, the amount is 1,366,266*l.*; can you undertake to say that that is correct?—Except an error in adding, a 6*d.* or something of that kind, I should say it was substantially correct.

6040. Was that return extracted from the books kept in the contract branch?—Yes, from the amount of certificate granted.

6041. Who has verified them?—The amounts are copied when the certificates are sent out of the office.

6042. Then we know to a sixpence what has been paid for all stores received at Weedon?—You do.

6043. (*Chairman.*) Did you send up to the War Office a quarterly or a periodical return of the remains of stores?—No. I believe there was what was called the Queen's return, made up quarterly and sent to the Director of Stores every quarter, what was

supposed to be a transcript of the ledger, showing what quantity of goods were in store at the beginning of the quarter, what received, what issued, and the balance at the end.

6044. Have you cognizance of any of those returns?—Yes, I have seen them.

6045. How were they made up?—From the loose vouchers or the contract books, the inspectors books, or in fact from any books by which any item could be arrived at.

6046. Professing to be a correct return of what existed here?—Yes.

6047. Do you conceive that those returns were correct on any occasion?—From the manner in which I saw them made out I should say it would be a perfect accident if any one item in the whole length of the returns was correct.

6048. Were those returns supplied to the War Office in case of information being required as to any particular article?—Yes.

6049. Were the returns of any use?—Not the slightest. They were more likely to lead them astray than otherwise.

6050. When they received the returns sent from this place to guide their proceedings, they were rather led into the dark than into the light?—They were.

6051. We are hoping at some time, how many months or years it will be I do not know, to get the books here balanced, so that we may compare the balance in the books with the remain taken over by Captain Gordon. In your opinion, from what you have seen of the books, are we ever likely to get a valid return?—You will get a return made up from all the documents that can be found; but it is another question whether that return will be a perfectly correct one. My own opinion is, that it will be a mere chance if anything agrees with Mr. Elliott's remain and Captain Gordon's.

6052. Then Commissary-General Adams, the eight commissaries, and all the clerks who have been employed in balancing the books, after working at them for a period I am not able to calculate, will not, in your opinion, be able to arrive at the truth as regards the transactions here?—My own opinion is, that all the accountants in England would not make the thing perfectly correct.

6053. In your opinion, we shall be at last obliged to acknowledge that we cannot disentangle this web?—My opinion is, that you will never arrive at the correct statement.

Captain HENRY WILLIAM GORDON further examined.

6065. (*Chairman.*) Have you just received a telegram from the Under Secretary of State-for-War, addressed to you at Weedon?—I have.

6066. Will you read that telegram?—The telegram is addressed from the Under Secretary of State, War Office, to Captain Gordon, C.B., Weedon. "According to the evidence in to-day's paper, Mr. Hoile is reported to have informed the Commissioners that 312,000 pairs of socks were sent up to the Tower for sale, which could have been issued to the troops. You will have the goodness to call upon Mr. Hoile to report, for the information of General Peel, upon what authority he made that statement, seeing that those socks are at this moment in store at Woolwich, and in course of issue to the militia, and that 61,000 pairs have been issued to the militia. You will take the opportunity of explaining this circumstance to the Commissioners to-day."

(*Chairman.*) I should say, that whatever the Under Secretary of State-for-War may have seen in the public journals, with which we have nothing to do, the answer which Mr. Hoile gave to my question as to what had become of those 312,000 pairs of socks was: "I have not the slightest idea; they were

6054. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Will you give us, a little more in detail, on what you ground that opinion?—In the first place, in the total absence of day books of receipt and issue; and in the second place, that many articles, to my knowledge, have come into store that have never been taken on the store-keeper's charge. Therefore, if you cannot come to a correct statement of the receipts, all the correct statement of the issues that you may be able to get will be of no use.

6055. Why cannot you, by supplementary information, arrive at that?—You may arrive at it to a certain extent; but I do not think you ever can arrive at a correct account.

6056. Articles come in from contractors and from regiments; do they come from anywhere else?—You get them in from regiments; then you get them from various store-keepers' establishments. If there were any that came in from militia regiments disembodied, which I am given to understand there were, there was no account kept at all, and no receipts given for them, or anything. For instance, you take credit for things issued, but perhaps those stores were returned again, and you may have issue notes of things that may never have gone out of store.

6057. As regards returns from militia regiments, disembodied or otherwise, if the storekeeper has not debited himself, would not that have a tendency to show a surplus?—It would.

6058. (*Colonel French.*) It appears, with regard to those stores which have come in and of which no account has been taken, that they are able to define them from the other stores now; we have ascertained that point?—They were all mixed up with the general stores, to my knowledge, in March last. Unknown goods as they were called were mixed up with the general stores, and Mr. Elliott would get credit for them although he never debited himself with them.

6059. (*Chairman.*) Were they included in the remain that Captain Gordon took?—Yes; Captain Gordon took a remain of everything that was in store.

6060. If your idea is correct, the probability is that there will be an immense surplus here?—There may be.

6061. We have already heard that there is a deficiency of 10,000 pairs of boots. Has that been at all cleared up?—I have not heard it said.

6062. (*Colonel French.*) By whom were the workmen here paid?—By Mr. Elliott.

6063. Are your salaries paid monthly?—No; only quarterly.

6064. In advance or in arrear?—In arrear.

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"sent away from here to the Tower. I do not know whether they are in store or not now." Will you be so good as to communicate from the Chairman of the Commission to-day, that this is the answer Mr. Hoile gave to my question, and that he said not a word about sale. I would also state that I and my fellow Commissioners feel exceedingly indignant that the War Office has thought proper to interfere with the witnesses whom we have called before us. We come here under a Commission from the Crown, and we consider that we are also representatives of the public, who are deeply interested in this inquiry. We call all such witnesses before us as we think proper to call. We consider that not only is this establishment in some degree under trial before the Commissioners now assembled, but that the establishment at the War Office is also under its trial, and we are by no means satisfied by our inquiries, so far as they have gone, that this establishment is alone to blame in the revelations which have been made. We desire that the War Office will not take the liberty of interfering in any degree with any evidence or with any witnesses whom we may call before us. We will not have them intimidated in any way, and we

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now declare that we feel exceedingly indignant that they have made any inquiries as to any evidence given before this Commission until they see it properly reported by our own shorthand writer.

(*Mr. Selfe.*) I am glad that it has fallen to Mr. Turner's lot to occupy the chair to-day, and to make that statement, in which I entirely concur.

(*Colonel French.*) I entirely concur also.

(*Chairman.*) I wish also to add what I ventured to remark yesterday to a man of the name of Hall who was examined here, and gave us valuable evidence, that I do hope no servant on this establishment, high or low, will be either intimidated or punished, or censured for anything that they choose to express as what they conceive honest evidence before the Commissioners.

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Mr. GEORGE GUNN MUNRO further examined.

6067. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Under the present management of the store are you of opinion that you could do what Mr. Elliott said he could do in his time, immediately ascertain the amount of goods of any kind?—We could, at a moment's notice.

6068. That would still only be made up from paper transactions?—The stores are in charge of the storeholder, and he is responsible that every item of store is correct with his ledger; he has tickets upon them, and as you have already seen, those tickets are constantly checked by actual counting.

6069. Had you been a military storekeeper before coming here?—I was deputy Ordnance storekeeper in the Crimea.

6070. Have you formed any opinion as to the expediency of having a store of clothing?—I have.

6071. Is your opinion in favour or against it?—It is in favour of it.

6072. To what extent would you keep a store?—I should keep a store equal to eighteen months' supply.

6073. Of cloth and boots?—Yes.

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Mr. HENRY FANE TRAVERS examined.

6077. (*Chairman.*) What position do you occupy here?—I am senior clerk in the ledger branch.

6078. We have understood that there is considerable difficulty in making out the account of issues from the want of a journal, and that it has been necessary to apply to regiments for a return of the articles they have received from Weedon. Are you aware of any instances in which colonels have objected to sign duplicate receipts on the ground that they never received the articles said to be issued?—I can only speak from recollection. I joined here in January, and I was immediately ordered to go to the ledger branch under Mr. Munro's orders. At this time they were making up the 1856-57 ledger, and they found that a lot of vouchers were wanted in accordance with those issue notes, and the question was how they were to get those vouchers, and Mr. Angell who opened the ledger under Mr. Green's directions, as I understood, showed me a list of vouchers outstanding according to his issue notes, and he proposed to send up his ledger with what vouchers he had in support of the entries, so that duplicate vouchers could be made out and sent to the commanding officers for their signature. I said to him, "You had better before your ledger goes up, get as many vouchers as you can, and send them up and account for the others afterwards as you best can." He did so. There were vouchers made out and sent to the commanding officers; some of them were signed and some of them were not. Some of them said that they had not the stores, and repudiated having received the stores, and therefore they would not give the vouchers. They signed some of them, and some of them they said they would not sign. A memorandum was put at the bottom of each voucher in pencil—

(*Mr. Selfe.*) I will add only one word. There is no inquiry whether Mr. Hoile made such a statement, but the correctness of the report in the newspapers is assumed (which in this particular case happens not to be perfectly accurate), and upon that assumption Mr. Hoile is called upon to justify his statement. It is substantially something very like intimidation to call upon a witness to justify a statement made before this Commission, even if it were erroneous.

(*Chairman.*) I consider it so.

(*Colonel French.*) I entirely concur in what has fallen from my colleagues, and I can only regret that the communication had not been made direct from the War Office to the Commissioners.

6074. Would not the cloth be liable to deteriorate in that time?—As far as I can understand from inspectors and practical men it would not. I have no knowledge of it myself. Keeping a store would place the Government in a position that they would not be in the hands of contractors, to raise their prices at pleasure.

6075. Cannot the Government, by giving longer notice to contractors of the goods that will be required at a future period, keep up a certain supply without having any large quantity in store?—I think that there is very good data on which to base calculations to keep up a store; we know that we have so many men to clothe, and we know that they will have to be clothed. I have no doubt, in entering into contracts, that certain specified quantities should be delivered at certain seasons, they may be received for the troops to take into wear on the 1st of April.

6076. (*Colonel French.*) Under the old system, did you ever know a clothier to fail in sending in the supply for the 1st of April?—I cannot answer that question.

"It is requested that this voucher be signed and returned immediately to the store office at Weedon," and it was considered at the time that the commanding officer would not inquire into the reason of their being duplicates, but would sign them and send them in.

6079. (*Colonel French.*) Surely the authorities could have required the commanding officer to sign a true copy of the quartermaster's accounts?—Certainly they could, if there had been an issue made.

6080. The quartermaster's books would show it?—They ought to show it.

6081. (*Mr. Selfe.*) You are speaking from hearsay; all you know is that Mr. Angell took certain means of supplying missing vouchers, and that those means were not at the time successful?—Certainly.

6082. (*Chairman.*) Can you quote any instance in which a colonel declined to sign that document on the ground that the stores had not been supplied?—No, I certainly cannot, because at the time I did not take much notice of it. Everything was in confusion in the office, and there was a regular drive to get things done as we best could. The vouchers were in great confusion, and we were obliged to classify papers sent in from militia regiments and so forth. We caught at straws to make up vouchers as we best could. I cannot call to mind any special instance of any commanding officer refusing to sign. I know there were some difficulties about boots, but I cannot recollect exactly.

6083. Did you enter in the ledger issues for which you had not vouchers?—Yes, I think we did. I will not speak positively.

6084. The authorities at the War Office when they

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found that they had not vouchers, sent round to the colonels commanding to furnish them, but whether they got them or not, you do not know?—I do not know. There was a long list of missing vouchers in the ledger for 1856–57.

6085. (*Mr. Selfe.*) When did you see that list?—I have not seen it I suppose since February.

6086. How can you tell whether there are any vouchers missing now?—Of course I cannot know anything about it now; of what steps they have taken at head-quarters I know nothing.

6087. (*Chairman.*) All you can say is, that at the time you were cognizant of it, there were a great many missing vouchers?—Yes.

6088. If Major Marvin was informed that they were in consecutive order he was misinformed?—I would not state that; they were arranged as well as they could be. If the ledger had not been in arrear, I would defy them to post them in regular order. They would post May after June if the vouchers happened to come in so; they could not observe any regular order.

6089. Can you give any information about a book that was kept here by a labourer?—I only know of one; Holland's book.

6090. Was that book of any value?—Mr. Elliott, some time before he went away, one morning when I was going to the office, asked me to go into the cloth-room and endeavour to find out a book kept by Holland, a labourer, as he wished to take it up before the Committee of the House of Commons; it was the receipt of cloth from the packer's room to go into the cloth stores. I immediately, of course, went up, and after some little trouble, I found that Mr. Hoile, I think, had got the book, or the book was there. It was taken down by one of the men to the inspector's room, where Mr. Elliott came immediately, and the book was opened by Mr. Elliott and myself. The object was to see what cloth was regularly sent in to the clothroom, red cloth, if I recollect rightly. However, we could not make anything out of the book; the totals were not carried out, and if I recollect, some of it was in pencil, and some in ink; we could not make anything of it, either Mr. Elliott or myself. I said, "Well, you had better send for the man himself."

6091. Why should it be necessary to send for a labourer, or any book kept by a labourer?—That was the only way of getting at it; there was no book to bear out any transaction of the kind. Holland came, and he could not explain parts of it; it had been kept by an uneducated man, who was employed as a labourer; we could not make anything of it. I think it was two or three months in arrear, besides being unintelligible. Mr. Elliott asked Holland, if he thought he could sit up all night and write it up, as he wanted to take it to the Committee of the House of Commons.

6092. Did Holland do that?—I do not know anything about that.

6093. Did you hear Holland ordered to write this book up?—Yes; the orders were given in my presence.

6094. There were quarterly returns made up in Mr. Elliott's time to the War Office of the quantity of stores he had of various descriptions fit for service, to guide them as to the supplies that they should order in the contract department. Can you state who made those returns up?—We sent forward a quarterly return of all stores in charge on the first day of the quarter. We also had a column including all stores received from the commencement to the expiration of the quarter, and the issues during that quarter; the issues were subtracted from the receipts, and the balance shown. This return is called the Queen's Return, which includes all stores; in fact, it is the ledger for the time being.

6095. Was that return made to the War Office?—Yes; and is still.

6096. How was that return made up?—I have a remembrance of making up the return up to December 1857, with a number of others in the office. Of course, as our ledgers were perfectly useless for the purpose, we made it up so far as the issues went, from the vouchers; and the receipts were made up from the contract ledger. For instance, clothing was sent in in material, and made up, and I endeavoured to show the clothing in material and that made up; but I found it impossible to do it from the imperfect state of the contract books. They used to have stars for one description of articles made up, and another mark for things in material; and I represented to Mr. Munro, under whose orders I joined, that I could not make out this return correctly; it was impossible. He represented it to Mr. Tatum, and Mr. Tatum said that the contract books were all nonsense, "damned bosh;" however, the return was completed, and I gave it to Mr. Elliott myself. He complained to me about the boots. I recollect the issues were about 20,000 pairs for the quarter. Supposing we had 320,000 he knocked off 20,000 and showed 300,000. He said, "That Queen's Return is all bosh; it will do very well." They used also to suppose the quantity of things in store; for instance, 20,000 shell jackets. If Mr. Elliott thought there were too many, he would knock them off or add on; in fact it was a cooked concern.

6097. I merely wish to ascertain from you whether those returns which were sent to guide the War Office were correct returns or incorrect returns?—Most incorrect returns.

6098. They were, therefore, no guide to the War Office?—On the contrary, they were quite calculated to mislead them.

6099. Had Mr. Green anything to do with getting up those things?—Not further than that the books under his control ought to have given correct information, as they were compiled from the contractor's ledgers, but they did not; they gave the most incorrect information.

6100. Not having a ledger to go by which was correctly balanced so that you could get your return from it, why did not you resort to actually counting the articles, so as to give a return of what was in store by counting?—I think if we had resorted to that, the return would not have been made up to the present hour. If we had made a return of the stores we could not have done it; we could not have told what was received in the quarter; because we could not get correct information to compile that return by.

6101. (*Colonel French.*) I suppose it would have taken too much time to count the articles?—We should not have finished the return by this time; we could not have done it; we were obliged to take what was in charge, what was received in the ninety days, for the quarter; we had no reliable books to go by.

6102. (*Chairman.*) Do you mean to say that the returns were really concocted?—Certainly. I made out the last return for Captain Gordon, and it was a very different return.

6103. I am speaking of the time when these false returns were made, as you say, during the time of the late storekeeper, Mr. Elliott; were you in the habit of rendering concocted returns that were of no value to the War Office when they were received?—I believe such was the system carried on here that they must have been given in that way or not at all, because the books were in such a state.

6104. You thought it was better to send a false return than send no return?—I pointed it out.

6105. Are any returns made now that you have no grounds for making?—Certainly not. I am in a position to know that, because I am senior officer in the ledger branch.

6106. Are the returns now correctly made?—Yes; I will answer for them, though I do not sign them.

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6107. (*Colonel French.*) Have not the War Office the means of checking those returns by comparison with the payments which they have made?—With regard to what was paid to contractors they might, but they could not with regard to the issues. They have not the smallest control over the issues.

6108. (*Chairman.*) To check them they would really have to make out an account of their own, which they expect you to render?—They could do

it in this way. When the ledger was returned at the end of the financial year, they could take the ledger and see if the accounts tallied; if they did, of course they would presume that the stores were kept properly, and so forth.

6109. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Do the quarterly or Queen's returns show the receipts and issues during the quarter, as well as the balance in hand at the commencement and at the end of the quarter?—Yes.

W. H. Holland.

WILLIAM HENRY HOLLAND examined.

6110. (*Chairman.*) You are a labourer here, are not you?—I am.

6111. In what department?—The cloth issuing department. The stowage of cloth.

6112. Did Mr. Elliott upon some occasion apply to you for a book?—He did.

6113. When?—I cannot exactly say the date. It was during the investigation in London before the Parliamentary Committee.

6114. Were you required to keep such a book?—There was such a book in the department when I was appointed assistant cloth issuer, which I was told to keep up. I understood, or partially believed it to be merely for my own information for the sake of supplying the quantities of cloth.

6115. It was not an official book which you were required to keep to verify the state of the stores?—It was in a manner a book to verify the state of the stores. If they wished to know what quantity of cloth was in store, they would come and refer to this book.

6116. Did you keep it regularly?—I kept it up to the time of being appointed to superintend the stowage of bales.

6117. Was keeping the book then neglected?—I am not aware of any other person having taken it up; in fact, I can positively say that no other person did.

6118. For what purpose did you understand that Mr. Elliott required the book?—There was no special purpose mentioned, it was merely said that I was to enter the receipts and issues in this book.

6119. Were you asked to perform any work upon it after it was required from you?—I was asked to balance it up; to add each column of figures.

6120. Were you required to make any entries in it?—None.

6121. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Were you desired to make any entry of the receipts and issues?—At the time I was first appointed to the situation I was desired to make an entry of the receipt of cloth coming into store after it had passed inspection, and when it was issued also.

6122. Did you measure the cloth for that purpose?—Yes.

6123. Were the entries in your book taken from another entry?—They were not. They were generally taken from the docket which I wrote myself. That is a docket or piece of paper on the sealed pattern—that is, a printed form—so many yards of cloth, to whom issued, for what service, and the supply.

6124. Who else besides you made any entry of the quantity of cloth received in store?—A person of the name of Brown who has since left the service.

6125. What was his office?—His office was cloth issuer. I came in to the store at the time that Brown left.

6126. You both kept books in which, as far as you could ascertain, you made correct entries of the cloth received and the cloth issued?—Certainly.

6127. From actual observation?—From actual positive observation. I kept a memorandum of the issues of cloth that came into store. As the cloth was received from the packing-room I checked the amount of cloth over from the packing, either myself or Cooke, and then I made an entry of having received so much cloth of a certain quality on that date.

6128. From actual measurement?—From the bales after they were packed.

6129. Did you keep that accurately?—I kept it accurately.

6130. Was it kept in pencil?—In ink.

6131. Was all of it in ink?—I might have made one or two entries in pencil, because at the time perhaps I might not have an opportunity to enter them in ink, but I was supposed to enter them in ink. It was very rarely that I entered anything in pencil.

6132. Can you write pretty well?—I can write a plain hand.

6133. Do you think the book you kept was an intelligible book?—Yes.

6134. Do you remember Mr. Elliott asking you to let him see it?—He merely said he wanted to see the book. I produced the book, and he told me to take the book and leave all other work, and balance it.

6135. Did you do so?—In part; not all of it.

6136. Did you give it back to Mr. Elliott?—Yes.

6137. Do you know whether he took it away with him?—It was out of my charge for some days.

6138. Did you have it back again?—I had it back.

6139. Was the book so far added up that he or any one else could see the result of the accounts that you had kept?—It was.

6140. Did Mr. Elliott ask you to make a copy of it?—No.

6141. What became of the book?—I believe the book is now in the cloth-issuing department; at least it was there the day before yesterday.

6142. You left it for your successor?—Yes; I left it there to be gone on with; the book itself is not used now.

6143. Have you any means of knowing from the marks on the bales or otherwise, to whom those quantities of cloth belong?—Yes; on each bale there is a number.

6144. Could you tell at a glance by whom the cloth was supplied?—Yes.

6145. Would the book show from what particular bales you issued, or only the quantities?—Only the quantities; it would show from the bulk.

6146. To a certain extent you were a sort of storeholder?—To a certain extent I was.

6147. Were you under the inspector?—I was under the receiving and issuing clerk.

6148. (*Chairman.*) Was he called "storeholder" or "issuer"?—It was the issuing and receiving clerk, Mr. Dwyer.

6149. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Did all the cloth which had passed through the packers hands, come into your custody?—It did.

6150. You say when you issued you only put down the quantity, and when you received you put down the marks on the bales, so as to enable you to identify from whom the cloth came?—We used to enter—Received so many pieces of cloth from each contractor,—and when we issued the supply we put the contractor's name to it.

6151. In each case from that book, you knew how much you had received from each contractor and how much you had issued belonging to that contractor, and that account was kept wholly independent of the inspector?—Certainly. I had nothing whatever to do with the inspector.

6152. Was that book ever called for except upon the occasion you have mentioned?—No; nothing

further than merely persons coming to ask what quantity of cloth of a certain description I might have in store.

6153. Who has done that?—Mr. Dwyer has done so, and Mr. Hoile has asked several times; the book never was out of my own charge.

6154. Was it a constant matter to refer to your book for the purpose of comparing it with anything else?—I am not aware that it was ever compared with anything else.

6155. (*Chairman.*) Was it used as the foundation for making up the ledger?—Not that I am aware of. I never knew a copy to be taken from it in any case.

(*The book referred to by the witness was produced.*)

Mr. Travers.—I understand that Holland's evidence and mine are conflicting. I wish to make a few observations.

6156. (*Mr. Selfe.*) In what respect do you think that Holland's evidence conflicts with yours?—With regard to the accuracy of what I stated, that nothing could be made out from the book. My statement that the book in question was not calculated to give any correct information from the irregular manner in which it is kept is substantially correct, as I referred to the state it was in at the time I alluded to. Since I saw it, it has been in the possession of Mr. Baker, a second-class clerk, and it now presents the appearance of having been made up; it looks cleaner than when I saw it. The balances were not then brought forward. Mr. Hoile can corroborate my statement in that respect.

6157. Is it the same book?—It may be the same book.

6158. (*To Holland.*) Have you any other book than that?—I have not.

6159. Is that the book that you kept by Mr. Elliott's direction?—That is the book I kept; but I had no idea that that was kept as an important book. I merely thought that it was kept for my own information; the book had been previously kept, and I kept it without any special orders from any person to make the book up.

6160. Was it regularly kept?—It was not regularly kept. I had so much business at times that I was obliged to discontinue the book. There were but two of us to attend to the whole of the cloth issue; and at times we were so pressed with business that for two days together I had not an opportunity of making an entry in it.

6161. Were the entries subsequently made, or was the pressure of business so great that it prevented you from making the entries at all?—It made me miss some entries at times. In taking those quantities in from the packer I had no other means but taking a sheet of paper into the packing-room and checking the bales. I had no other means of getting an account of the cloth, and that was not checked by any other entries.

6162. Did the irregularity of keeping the book extend as well to the receipts with which you debited yourselves as to the issues?—It is more likely to be incorrect in the receipts than in the issues.

6163. (*Chairman.*) Can it be relied upon as a proper record of the transactions in your department?—I should not like to give it in as a record of the transactions. The book was kept for my own information; it was not kept as an office book at all. I should say that it is a book not to be relied upon, for I cannot rely upon it myself in every case.

6164. Do you think it is any valid check upon other books?—I should not say that it was. I have no knowledge of what the other books are. I should say that it could not be a check.

6165. If the other books were not regularly kept, would that book enable them to be posted up regularly?—Certainly not.

6166. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Did you think it was intended as a check upon other books?—No; only for my own information.

6167. (*Chairman to Mr. Travers.*) What alterations do you suggest have taken place in this book?—It appears balanced, but it was not when Mr. Elliott saw it; the amounts were not carried forward, and he wanted to take it up to the Committee to show that he could tell you at once what cloth there was in store; he could not understand the book, and at my suggestion Holland himself was sent for. Mr. Hoile was present. I said, "You had better send for the man himself, as we cannot understand it." The book appears to be more complete than it was at the time, and Mr. Hoile can state that.

6168. (*To Holland.*) Did you ever afterwards post this book up from any documents?—Not from any documents.

6169. Were the entries made at the time the transactions occurred, or did you afterwards complete the book by writing it up in any way?—Many times I have been such a thing as days and weeks, I might say, in arrear with the book, and I have made the entries into the book from the sealed patterns; there is a small strip of cloth sealed, and a piece of paper stating what service it was for, and the number of yards of cloth, and I have made it up in that way.

6170. (*Mr. Selfe.*) How would that show what you had issued?—Each docket states the number and yards of cloth, to whom issued, and for what service, and the supply.

6171. Who made those dockets?—At that time I made them out.

6172. It is a sort of voucher that you made those entries?—I would not give that book in as a check upon any other book, because I might not be correct in many things.

6173. (*To Mr. Hoile.*) Have you compared any of the entries in this book with the contract ledger?—We have compared three or four different contracts, and we cannot make either of them agree; we find great deficiencies; for instance, in one case instead of being 30,000 yards, Holland's book only shows 19,000.

6174. Issues or receipts?—Receipts; and in another case we do not find any entry at all of receipt.

6175. (*Chairman.*) Is this the conclusion to which we are to arrive, that the book really is of no particular value further than it records certain transactions, but not as a check upon the general system?—Certainly; it is not of the slightest use as a check.

6176. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Only so far as it goes?—Yes.

6177. If it had been kept completely would it have been a check?—Then I should say it would have been a check.

6178. Do you think this was the sort of book Mr. Elliott was speaking of when he said he had books from which he could make up the ledger?—This is one of the books he alluded to, no doubt.

6179. (*Chairman.*) In fact the book is a broken reed altogether?—So much so, that when I had occasion to go to this man to ascertain what quantity of cloth was in the store, he used first to go to his book and then to the bales to get the quantity. The book was of no use, and was considered of no use.

6180. (*To Holland.*) When you were keeping this book as a labourer what were your wages?—15s. a week, and are so still.

(*Mr. Hoile.*) This man had the charge of getting cloth out of the packing-room; he took the quantities himself and he cast them up and entered them in that book, so that the book could not be correct without being checked. I may state that Holland was a most useful man, and did more than we could expect from a man of his class.

6181. (*Chairman to Holland.*) Was there ever a month in which you made no entry whatever in that book?—There might have been several; latterly, I discontinued the book; even while I was in the same position there were several months I discontinued the book altogether.

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6182. Since you kept the book or gave it up or after it was in your possession has there been any writing up of the book by anybody else?—Only in the balancing up of each column. Mr. Elliott asked me to balance the whole of it. I find it has been balanced by some gentleman in the office.

6183. Have any fresh items been entered in the book?—I do not see any fresh item entered.

6184. Taking that account with respect to Oxford

grey cloth, is that in your handwriting from beginning to end?—It is my doing from beginning to end; it is not my adding up. There does not appear to be anything introduced further than that addition of the columns.

6185. (*Mr. Selfe.*) You may sometimes have been in arrear, and there may sometimes have been omissions, but the entries were written in the order in which they stand?—Yes.

Mr. H. Hoile.

Mr. HENRY HOILE further examined.

6186. (*Chairman.*) Do you wish to make any addition to the evidence which you gave yesterday?—Yes. I omitted one important thing yesterday relating to the kits. I should like to put in a statement of the result of the inspection of free kits supplied to the regiments direct by the contractors.

6187. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Do you know the fact that those kits were furnished by the contractors direct to the regiments?—There is no doubt about that.

6188. Why were they sent here?—When Isaac's contract for kits was cancelled, the regiments got them supplied from two or three contractors direct, and they had more kits than they wanted; they were ordered to be sent into store at Weedon for re-issue, and of course they were inspected here to see the quality of them. It will be found by this return, that they were generally inferior to what Isaac had supplied before, and to what we had issued.

[The witness delivered in statements of the inspection of articles received from the 30th, 50th, 62d, 76th, and 82d regiments.]

6189. For what object do you produce those returns?—I wish to show that Isaac's kits were superior to the kits which the regiments got direct from the contractors.

6190. Do you know whether those were supplied under tender from the contractors, or whether they were purchased?—They were purchased by the regiments, and, in many cases, we found things that we had rejected in Isaac's kits had been bought by other contractors, and sent in to the regiments, and the proper price charged. They came back to us, and we found the "rejected" marks on them in the same state as when we returned them to Isaac.

6191. When Isaac's contract was cancelled on account of that money transaction, had you many kits in store?—We had a few.

6192. Had you sufficient for the service?—We had not, perhaps, sufficient to supply the whole of them.

6193. The Government allowed the regiments to get kits direct from the contractors, and the contractors furnished things which had been rejected here?—Yes; and the price paid for the kits by the regiments was a great deal more than the Government paid Isaac. The regiments in taking their kits from Weedon had scrutinized them severely, and rejected things for the most trivial reasons, and afterwards they took things from contractors which were far inferior.

6194. (*Chairman.*) Your present statement goes to justify the present system of examination pursued, though Isaac might or might not deserve punishment for that money transaction; you think it would have been better to have gone on with some other contractor, and passed the articles through Weedon, instead of letting the regiments purchase for themselves?—Quite so. In my opinion it shows how soon, without inspection, the regiments would get supplied with inferior articles.

6195. (*Colonel French.*) Is that more than an isolated case?—We had several cases of it. Every lot of kits returned from the regiments purchased direct have been inferior generally.

6196. (*Mr. Selfe.*) You think the general quality of Isaac's kits was better than that which the regiments now get from contractors?—Decidedly superior.

6197. Have you found that Isaac's accounts have been accurate so far as you have had an opportunity of observing?—I know very little about the accounts; but I know from the immense number of stores he has had to send in, that we have, perhaps, had some difficulty in recognizing the quantity which he has charged for sometimes.

6198. Is that the reason why certificates have not been sent to him with the same regularity as to other people?—I believe it is.

6199. (*Chairman.*) Have you not a considerable number of linen jackets in store?—A great many; and those I think are about the only things that will have to be sold as obsolete stores,—things that could not be converted to any use. The serge frock has been adopted for the use of the regiments in India, and I think that was the only service to which those frocks could have been adapted.

6200. Would not those frocks, but for this regulation of having serge frocks, be very suitable for troops employed in India?—Of that I am hardly capable of judging. I think persons who are well acquainted with the peculiarity of the climate in India would form a better opinion than I could.

6201. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Who determines whether stores are obsolete?—The Director of Stores.

6202. (*Chairman.*) Do you wish to make any other statement?—Yes, with respect to the supply of cloth. I have here a pattern of the old cloth which was worn by the army to the close of 1855,—it had got very bad; and you will see by the cut of it how white it wears. The drummers' red cloth was then adopted, and that has had a year's trial; but it has not proved satisfactory, inasmuch as it is too fine for the rough wear of a soldier, and, added to that, there is great difficulty in dyeing it.

6203. (*Colonel French.*) Is not the coat worn by a drummer subjected to as much hard usage as a soldier's coat?—I think a drummer does not carry a musket, and does not drill so much. The drummer's cloth is made of wools that mill up very close, and it is very difficult to dye. I have had a sample of cloth made, which will cost 2s. a yard less than the drummers' red, and which I assert will give greater satisfaction. The War Office have authorized me to get enough for 100 tunics next year for trial; it is dyed well through. The cost of my new pattern will be about 6s. 9d. a yard.

6204. (*Mr. Selfe.*) What quantity of cloth is used in the course of a year?—About 300,000 yards a year.

6205. If cloth 2s. a yard cheaper is substituted for the present supply, what saving will there be to the public?—Something like 30,000*l.*, and greater satisfaction will be given to the regiments, for they all complain of the drummers' red. A soldier's cloth requires strength as well as appearance. I consider my sample a more suitable article.

6206. When was the fine cloth substituted for the old cloth?—1857–8 was the first year we had it.

6207. Was there any large quantity of the old cloth left at that time, or was it all made up?—No; because the Government were not in the habit of buying cloth then.

6208. Do you know whether any trial was made of this cloth before it was determined on?—No; I believe not, the army were clothed in it because it was considered a far superior cloth.

6209. Whose cloth is it?—It is supplied by different contractors.

6210. Is the sample in your hand a portion of a sealed pattern?—That is a portion of the supply; the sealed pattern is even better than this. I have endeavoured by all means in my power to get the cloth dyed through and through, but I cannot get it done with pure madder.

6211. You have stated that you are generally consulted now as to patterns of cloth, were you consulted before that pattern was adopted for the army?—I was merely shown the pattern as to the quality. I was not asked whether it was suitable for a soldier's wear or not.

6212. Was your opinion given verbally or in writing?—In writing. I was not consulted before the pattern was fixed on. It was determined to clothe the army in drummers' red, and two patterns were sent, to know which was the best of the two.

6213. (*Colonel French.*) Is the specification drawn up, and the pattern selected by a different person?—The specification was drawn up by me, and the choice

of pattern now rests with us, so that I make them agree.

6214. (*Mr. Selfe.*) What is the real difference in the cloths you have produced?—This cloth is made wholly of colonial wool; it is a fine wool and mills up very close together. My sample has a portion of English wool in it, which adds to the strength very materially and makes it more durable, and this cloth takes the madder dye better because it is not quite so close in texture.

6215. What tension will each of them bear?—The drummers' red cloth bears about 180 lbs., and the other about the same strain. I have not enough to calculate it yet.

6216. (*Colonel French.*) What will the old cloth stand?—The old cloth stood about 130 lbs.

The witness delivered in a statement, recommending that where the colours and quantities of the cloth assimilate, one pattern should be adopted. (*Appendix, No. 14.*)

Mr. SAMUEL BOYD examined.

6217. (*Mr. Selfe.*) What is your office?—I am chief foreman.

6218. Of the boot department?—Of the establishment at large.

6219. Did you sign the return of the obsolete stores sent off in March?—Yes.

6220. Were you present when the Tower boots were re-inspected?—No; it was not my duty.

6221. You are aware that there was a lot of Tower boots, and Mr. Ramsay and Mr. Charles Elliott came down, and subsequently a good many of them were re-inspected?—Yes, I remember that.

6222. Was it in the summer of 1856?—It was.

6223. Do you know what became of those boots after they were re-inspected?—They were packed up and put in store along with the others to the best of my recollection. I cannot say positively.

6224. Did you give any receipt for them?—No.

6225. Did you keep any memorandum of them?—Not of any transaction that took place upon that occasion.

6226. Do you remember the marks upon the casks?—I do not.

6227. Were they all placed together after being re-inspected in the same part of the stores?—I think they were.

Mr. NOAH WATSON further examined.

6234. (*Chairman.*) Do you wish to make any other statement to the Commissioners?—Yes. I wish to put that book in evidence, for the purpose of showing that if Mr. Levy could be induced to furnish the number of the casks, you might ascertain the particular quality of the boot that was sold at the Tower from my book.

6235. When was the first 10,000 delivered?—On the 27th of September 1856.

6236. What is your entry as to the character of the boots?—"10,000 pairs of boots, faulty; for disposal by auction or otherwise from the Tower stock. "71 casks, 140 each; one cask containing 60 pairs." The numbers of the casks ran from 1107 to 1178.

6237. (*Mr. Selfe.*) The original entry in the book was, "Mostly faulty"?—Yes; but the erasure was made at the time.

6238. Is it your own handwriting?—Yes.

6239. And your own erasure?—Yes; no one else had any access to this book but myself.

6240. (*Chairman.*) Will you refer to the second delivery of 10,000?—The second lot of 10,000 is dated November the 17th. "10,000 pairs of boots "from the Tower stock; 72 casks, 140 each, and "one small cask containing the remainder."

6228. Do you know that there were two lots of 10,000 each sent off, one in September and the other in November, to the Tower?—There were two lots of 10,000 sent; but I cannot speak to the dates.

6229. Do you know from what those two lots of 10,000 were taken?—It is my impression that they were taken promiscuously. I do not think there was any selection at all. I may be wrong.

6230. When the order came for the 10,000 to go to the Tower, you think the casks were taken as they stood?—It is my opinion. I cannot say positively.

6231. Did you superintend their being taken away?—I only saw them put in the boat. When the boats arrive at the store I supply the men, and I superintend backward and forward to see the thing carried on correctly; but issuers or storeholders have been lately appointed to see the boots delivered.

6232. You cannot remember whether the casks were marked with "D." or with crosses?—I cannot say that all the casks were marked with "D." or a cross; there were a number of casks marked with "D." that had been inspected; and I believe that "D." was put on to notify that they were either damaged or not fit for service.

6233. You cannot say whether either of the lots of 10,000 that went to the Tower were D.'s or crosses?—I cannot.

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6241. (*Mr. Selfe.*) The entry does not say from what portion of the Tower stock?—This particular entry does not give any description of the quality, further than that they were from the Tower stock.

6242. Are the numbers of the casks specified?—The numbers of the last lot began at 1,982 and continued till they had made up the 10,000 pairs.

6243. Were those numbers put upon the casks before they were sent off?—Immediately before issue.

6244. Were the casks numbered when you had reinspected and classified the boots?—No; it would have been impossible to have done that, for the simple reason that the number remaining in store would not agree with the issue book. There was another party who kept the issue book at the gate; every cask was numbered in his book, and his book also would agree with mine. If I had numbered the boots at the time they were reviewed, for instance, No. 1,982 might have remained in store, and No. 2,000 have been issued before No. 1,982.

6245. (*Chairman.*) Placing them in store in casks was for convenience in issuing them, but there was no particular object in having a number upon the casks, because the contents of the casks were suffi-

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Mr. N. Watson.

2 Oct. 1858.

ciently distinguished?—The only object was in case any dispute arose with the railway authorities. We could refer to a particular number in case any of the boots were missing, or anything that might go wrong at the time of issue.

6246. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Is the book you have produced a daily journal of your own issues exclusively?—Yes, it embraces everything; all the rejections which were returned to the contractors, and everything I sent away would appear in this book.

6247. I rather gather that it is a memorandum for your private information than for the purpose of an official book?—I hold it to be an official book, because it was necessary for every one who had issues to make to keep a book to enable him to answer any question that might arise hereafter.

6248. What check existed independently of yourself to verify the contents of that book?—Nothing beyond the ordinary issue vouchers, which ought to be posted in the ledger at the office.

6249. Who prepared the issue vouchers?—They were prepared at the office. I think Mr. Baker had the preparing of the issue vouchers at that time.

6250. Would the issue vouchers be prepared by a person entirely independent of yourself?—Entirely.

6251. Ought not the receipt of the person to whom those various issues were made to be somewhere or other?—Yes.

6252. Would not that be a check when it was obtained?—Yes.

6253. If the person had not received those articles which your book shows that you had issued, would not the discrepancy be shown upon the production of their receipt?—Yes; I should mention also that I considered everything that then passed out of the issue room as issued; although it might in fact remain in store, still I should be in ignorance of it; that is to say, if an order came to pack 1,000 pairs of boots for any particular regiment, those boots would be packed in the ordinary issue department; they would be lowered and given over in charge of the

issue foreman, whose duty it was to see that they went.

6254. Is the issue quite independent of you?—Entirely so.

6255. Has the issuer a book of a similar character to yours in which he charges himself with what he receives from you?—Yes.

6256. How does he discharge himself?—I think his duties have commenced since the period about which you are examining me. I do not think at the time this issue was made he did keep a book, or that there was an issue foreman.

6257. Who directed you to keep the book?—Mr. Elliott. I should mention that since I gave my evidence yesterday I have been at the office searching the register for the authority to issue those Tower boots, and I find that in that authority no mention is made as to the quality of the boots to be sent to the Tower.

6258. Have you that letter?—I have.

The same was read as follows:

“ War Department, Pall Mall,
“ 23d September 1856.

“ SIR, “ Y. 19946.

“ I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to request you to send to the Tower without delay 10,000 pairs of boots of those you received from the Tower now in store at Weedon.

“ I am, Sir,

“ Your most obedient servant,

“ The Superintendent G. D. RAMSAY.”
“ of Army Clothing, Depôt,
“ Weedon.”

6259. (*Chairman.*) There are no instructions in that letter as to quality, therefore it would not have been a departure from those instructions if you had taken the best boots?—None whatever. I only took it as a matter of course; if they were selling any boots, they would sell the worst boots first, as they were issuing the best.

Capt.

H. W. Gordon.

Captain HENRY WILLIAM GORDON further examined.

6260. (*Chairman.*) 50,000 pairs of boots were sent from this establishment to India. Can you state what description of boots they were?—22,510 were Tower boots and 27,490 were regulation boots, making 50,000 pairs.

6261. Had you any instructions as to what portion of the Tower boots those should be taken from that were sent to India?—I was not here at the time of the issue, but by the letter I see that Mr. Elliott was authorized to send 20,000 pairs out of the 50,000 of Tower boots.

6262. Not saying that they were to be the best part of the Tower boots, or anything of that sort?—Mr. Elliott said that he thought a selection could be made of 20,000 pairs, and the War Office ordered him to send them. I believe at that time there was not a sufficient quantity in store of other boots to have made the issue.

6263. Is there anything in the War Office directions to show that the 20,000 pairs to be sent to India were to be one bit better than the 20,000 to be sent to the Tower for sale?—That I cannot say.

6264. Have you seen the letter which has been produced by Mr. Watson from the War Office, directing Mr. Elliott to send 10,000 pairs of boots to the Tower?—I have seen that letter, and I have been endeavouring all day to trace an order to send 20,000 pairs of boots to the Tower, which Mr. Ramsay directed me to lay before you. Mr. Ramsay is under the impression that there is an order for 20,000 pairs of boots, directing that a careful inspection should be made.

6265. The letter which has been produced bears date the 23d of September, and on the margin of the letter there is a memorandum, “sent on the 27th of September.” I presume there is no doubt that the boots were sent on that day, the order for sending

them being just as general as the order for the boots for India?—The order was more specific about sending the 20,000 pairs for India.

6266. Have you found the requisition for the second 10,000?—No. Mr. Ramsay, as I stated before, is under the impression that a direct order for 20,000 pairs was sent, and that they were to be carefully selected out of the best part of the Tower boots.

6267. Is not it therefore inconsistent with the existence of the first order for 10,000?—Whether it is the first order, or the renewal of an order, I cannot tell. Very often an order is sent, and afterwards a letter, not calling attention to the previous one, is received, and that might have been the case in this particular instance.

6268. You think, if Mr. Ramsay is right, it is possible that a letter exists of prior date to that for the whole 20,000?—There might have been such a thing. I cannot find it. I have been trying to do so all day.

6269. (*Mr. Selfe.*) I wish to clear up the question about what boots we examined the other day. You are aware that we had a cask opened by your direction, with the B.O. and the W.D. upon them. Do you know when those marks were put upon those boots?—I know the full particulars about it. They were put on by my orders when I took over the Tower boots. There were 103,000 pairs, and it was presumed that they were all Tower boots; there was nothing to show to the contrary. We have gone through them very carefully within the last six weeks, and on going through them a very large number of pairs were found unmarked. The Weedon inspectors did not like the Weedon mark to be put upon them, which would be the W.D., and it would not be fair to put the B.O. upon them, because that would have been stating that the boots had passed the Tower inspection. Being obliged to mark them in some

way to show that they were the Government property, and thinking it desirable that everything in the depôt should be marked, I desired that the B.O. and the W.D. both should be put upon them for the purpose of identifying the boots in question, so that in case they were issued and complained of, we should have an opportunity of telling their history so far as we knew it. It was for no other object than to mark them as Government property, and at the same time not to saddle either the Tower or Weedon with the responsibility of having inspected them.

6270. You found them mixed up with the B.O. boots?—I found them mixed up with the B.O.'s, the Tower boots.

6271. They could not have been Tower boots, or they would have been marked B.O., I presume?—I do not think it is unlikely they may have come from the Tower, and yet not be Tower boots, because when I was with the army at Balaklava there were great complaints about the Government boots sent from the Tower being too small sizes. I found that the regiments were changing the clothing boots received from their contractors for Government boots, with the authority of the quartermaster-general, and that we were getting a quantity of boots that had never been issued from our depôts at all to the extent of 15,000 to 20,000, perhaps. I represented this to Sir Richard Airey, and he at once stopped it. Those boots would have come home when the rest of the stores were sent home from the army, and would not necessarily be inspected at the Tower. They would come to Weedon, and would be in store without any Government mark at all, never having passed the Government inspection. I can account for it in that way. Another way of accounting for it is, that they may have been returned by regiments, and got mixed up with the other boots.

6272. In the first case, would they ever have been in the Tower at all?—Not until they were sent home.

6273. (*Chairman.*) And they would come from the Tower to Weedon?—Yes; but being Government property already, it would hardly be considered necessary to re-inspect them, because there would be no object, they having already become our property. They undoubtedly came from the Tower here, although they may have been returned from regiments.

6274. Were the two marks put upon the boots at the same time?—One man stamped the B.O., and at the same time another man stamped the W.D. It cannot positively be said whether they came from the Tower or not, or whether they were returned from regiments. They do not appear ever to have passed the Tower inspection, and I may say they must have been returned from regiments; but it does not follow that they were returned to Weedon from the regiments, or to the Tower from the regiments. It is just as likely that they may have been sent back with the army. Other stores were returned from the army in the same way.

6275. (*Mr. Selfe.*) For those unmarked boots which you had marked, the Government is not responsible if they are bad, because they never have received official sanction, and never were issued from the Government stores?—That I am not so certain in saying. I am quite certain, so far as the Tower is concerned, that they never passed the Tower inspection; I am not so certain about Weedon. I do not think they were in the habit of marking everything at Weedon when they had inspected it; for instance, as to marking W.D., I am under the impression that they have not marked Mr. Dowie's boots, for the other day on taking charge I ordered them all to be marked.

6276. Those were not finally accepted, were they?—They were accepted, and if I had been in the same position as Mr. Elliott I should have issued the boots to the first regiment requiring boots.

6277. (*Chairman.*) I think you wish to make a little correction in some evidence that you gave

before with regard to the books?—Yes; it is merely to this effect: In saying that I upset all the books at Weedon, I did not mean to include the registry, as not materially affecting the receipt or issue of stores. Since I gave that evidence I have gone into the question, and I find that the registry and every document in it were so carefully compiled that great credit is deserving to the officers who were employed in that branch. I had had no reason whatever to change any of their books.

6278. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Is not that exactly what Major Marvin said in his report?—Yes; I think he gave great credit to the registry. A great many unnecessary documents are registered, but having been so registered they will afford much greater facilities for tracing the issue and receipt of stores than would otherwise have been the case.

6279. Have you made any alteration in the contract ledger?—I made an alteration, so far as having a new ledger for the next year's supplies; but the contracts being so mixed up in Mr. Elliott's time, it was not possible to change the books; they were only half acted on, and it would have been impossible to have shown the transactions by any transfer to a new series of books. All future contracts will be entered in the new books, and they have been entered in the new books.

6280. On an altered system?—Not on an altered system, but showing more details. The contract ledger of Mr. Elliott in some instances did not show what had been rejected; it merely showed what had been approved. This ledger will also show what stores were rejected, and further particulars as to the dates of the payment of the certificates.

6281. That branch is under Mr. Green, is it not?—He is at Mark Lane. Perhaps I may be permitted to observe that I do not think Mr. Elliott did himself justice in the report he laid before the Contracts' Committee of what books he kept. I think that his books were better than shown by him. Each branch employed by him would be able to draw up a statement of his books, and show exactly what the books which he did keep were.

6282. Can you speak as to the amount of arrears in the books in the Contract Branch?—No, I cannot; I can only tell you that the contractors themselves are continually urging claims. There appear to be a great number of outstanding accounts, if their statements are true.

6283. I understand that you have received a further telegram from the War Office since your reply was sent?—Yes. It is from "Mr. Ramsay, War Office, " to Captain Gordon. With reference to your telegram, you will inform the Commissioners that those " socks were removed to Woolwich, and from that " station they will be issued to the troops and the " militia, and that 61,000 pairs have already been " issued to the militia."

6284. (*Chairman.*) Then, in fact, the result is, that the 312,000 pairs of socks are now found to be useful for both the troops and the militia?—Yes.

6285. (*Mr. Selfe.*) Is it more convenient to issue those socks from Woolwich than from Weedon?—That is a matter more for the opinion of the War Office.

6286. (*Chairman.*) If it had been intended to issue them, perhaps they might as well have remained where they were?—If they had been intended for issue to the army, I do not suppose they would have been removed. At that time we had a very large contract with Isaac, and we had not room in the depôt. The whole of the staircases were filled with stores. I now hand in a statement, prepared at your request, showing how the military store duties are at present conducted at Weedon; (*Appendix, No. 15*); as well as a memorandum addressed to me by Mr. Moore as to Mr. Elliott's system of book-keeping. (*Appendix, No. 25*.)

WEEDON.

Capt.
H. W. Gordon.

2 Oct. 1858.

LONDON.

Wednesday, 6th October 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

EPHRAIM PERRY examined.

LONDON.

E. Perry.

6 Oct. 1858.

6287. (*Chairman.*) You were a viewer of cloth at Weedon?—Yes.

6288. It has been stated in evidence that, in pointing out damages, you have made unnecessary damages; is that true?—No, I never did so.

6289. When there was merely a thick thread or so, have you cut a hole?—I never took the trouble of marking thick threads; without they were very large indeed, I passed them. Where I have cut holes it has been for a sewed-up place, a brack, or where there has been two or three burl-pits. I might have made two or three into a hole, so that they should not put that piece into a garment.

6290. Have you ever done unnecessary damage to cloth?—No, never. The evidence that was given against me was given by a man that never saw me examine above half a dozen yards of cloth, and never came to the perch where I was.

6291. (*Mr. Turner.*) Had Whitham any duty to perform in your room?—No, when he came up there it was merely at dinner time; sometimes he would come up during the working hours.

6292. (*Chairman.*) Have you ever received anything in the shape of a bribe from anybody?—No, never.

6293. When you cut open those fine-drawn bracks, was the same allowance made as if you had not cut them open?—Yes.

6294. So that you did not damage the cloth worse than it really was?—No; in those cases, if I had not cut it open, I should have put a string in, and just the same allowance would have been taken.

6295. (*Mr. Turner.*) Sometimes you charge an eighth and sometimes a quarter of a yard?—Yes, when a quarter is allowed we put a string on each side.

6296. You charged a quarter instead of an eighth when the damage, such as a grease mark, extended a considerable length?—Yes.

6297. (*Chairman.*) When you were inspecting the cloth, was the delivery note by your side, so as to enable you to tell whose cloth it was?—No, the contractor's name was upon the seal; we had the delivery note to get the bales, and we knew from that.

6298. Do you think if the contractor's name was not on the bales and you had not the delivery note, you could tell whose cloth it was by its make?—Yes, every man has got a different make in the heading of the list.

6299. It would not prevent your knowing whose cloth it was, to cut off the name?—No, I believe I could tell cloth as well if the name was not there.

6300. (*Colonel French.*) Could you tell who made that cloth which is in that tunic?—I do not say I could tell a made-up garment; I could in the piece. I could tell by the look of it whether it was Mr. Taylor's or anybody else's.

6301. Why should you know it better in the piece than when it is made up?—There is a different finish in every piece of cloth, some is pressed more than others.

6302. (*Chairman.*) Do you know where Charles Coates and Martin are to be found?—They have both left the service; I do not know where they are.

EDWARD STOCKER examined.

E. Stocker.

6303. (*Chairman.*) You have heard what Perry has said, and the same statement has been made with respect to you?—It is perfectly true that in the first instance, when we first went to Weedon, it was thought proper to open those fine drawn places which we could detect with the perch, and it was thought that it would be better to open them, merely to loosen the thread to show that we detected that fine-drawn place, but afterwards it was thought advisable not to do so, consequently it was given over, and we used to put a mark in instead of opening the place.

6304. You merely did that to give a warning to the tailor who had the making up of the cloth, that he was not to put those bad places into the garment?—That was it.

6305. Afterwards, instead of cutting it, you put

strings?—We marked the place, and then put a string outside, indicating where the place was.

6306. Was the fine drawing of the bracks for any other purpose than hiding them?—That was all.

6307. (*Mr. Turner.*) If defects were covered up in that way, it was quite right to make them open, and you were performing your duty. Were you more severe with some contractors, or did you act impartially to all?—We acted straightforward; whenever we saw a place we marked it.

6308. (*Chairman.*) Did you ever get a bribe from anybody?—No.

6309. (*Colonel French.*) Did you know whose cloth you were inspecting at the time you made those marks upon the cloth?—Yes.

HENRY BROWN examined.

H. Brown.

6310. (*Chairman.*) What are you?—I was employed at Weedon, but I was obliged to leave from ill health; not from any bad character. I used to assist Perry and Stocker to perch cloth. I wish to confirm what they have said. I saw the statement made by Whitham, who, I think, is a very vindictive man, and I am quite sure that no damages were made in the cloth that were not there before. Sometimes when

the drummers' red cloth was looked at against the light, there would be those fine-drawn places, and Stocker, and sometimes Perry, would pick it open, and with the sharp side of the needle cut it open; there was a token then made at the sides of the cloth, and the measurer was directed by the inspector to allow an eighth of a yard, and the same allowance was made to the tailor.

Mr. CHARLES SANDYS ELLIOTT examined.

LONDON.

Mr.
C. S. Elliott.
6 Oct. 1858.

6311. (*Chairman.*) What situation did you formerly hold at the Tower?—I was appointed superintendant of inspectors at the Tower in February 1856, and I have continued to perform the duties in connexion therewith up to the present time; on the 16th of August last I was appointed military storekeeper of the army clothing depôt in London.

6312. On the 27th of September 1856, 10,000 pairs of boots were sent from Weedon to the Tower; did you see the casks when they came?—I saw the casks; the casks were not unpacked, but were received from Weedon by the inspector, and passed to sale without being inspected or examined.

6313. Had you an opportunity of seeing enough of the casks to enable you to tell us whether there were any marks upon them?—I cannot, at this distance of time, speak to that.

6314. When were the 10,000 pairs of boots, that were sent on the 27th of September, sold?—They were sold on the 23rd of October following.

6315. How do you identify them as the 10,000 that came from Weedon?—I am informed by the principal storekeeper, Mr. Eaton, that the 10,000 pairs of boots forwarded to the Tower on the 29th of September 1856, were sold on the 23rd of October. He has given me a statement, which I beg to hand in, for the information of the Commissioners.

The same was handed in, and is as follows:

Military Store Office, Tower, E.C.,
October 4, 1858.

STATEMENT OF ANKLE BOOTS received at the TOWER from
WEEDON for Sale, per Orders, { Sept. 12, 1856 $\frac{Y}{19948}$ A.
{ Sept. 29, 1856 $\frac{58}{W}$

Date of Receipt.	Date of Sale.	Quantities.	Amount realised.
29th Sept. 1856, } per Railway - }	23rd Oct. 1856 -	10,000 pairs -	£ s. d. 2,710 0 0
22nd Nov. 1856, } per Canal - }	3rd Dec. " -	10,000 " -	2,763 10 0
Total -			£5,473 10 0

MEMO.—The names of the purchasers and prices paid for each lot are shown in the printed Catalogues A. and B. annexed.

No other boots were sold at either of the above Sales excepting 196 pairs worn and unserviceable, returned into store from various stations, which were included in Lot No. 95, with unserviceable straps, &c., in the sale on 3rd December, Catalogue marked B.

RD. EATON, P.M.S.

I also produce the two catalogues of the sales which took place on those dates (*handing in the same*). The boots were received at the Tower in 72 casks, and those 72 casks were sent to the sale room; the boots were sold as they were received.

6316. Assuming the entries in those catalogues to be accurate, which you only know from Mr. Eaton, Mr. Levy bought none of those boots?—No.

6317. I think you have already stated before the Committee on Contracts, that there was no re-inspection of the boots at the Tower?—I have. The storekeeper at the Tower had an express order to receive 10,000 pairs of boots, and to lot them for sale.

6318. Have you that order?—I have. The storekeeper considered that the 10,000 received on the 29th of September, and the 10,000 subsequently received on the 22nd of November were the first two instalments of a much larger quantity which had been condemned by the inspectors at Weedon, and authorized by the Secretary of State to be sold as unfit for issue to the troops. If you will permit me, I will read the order to you. "War Department, Pall Mall, 29th September 1856. Sir,—The superintendent of the Clothing Department at Weedon having called attention to the large quantities of boots

"remaining in his charge, which are unfit for issue to the troops on account of their inferior quality, I am instructed by the Director-General of Stores to inform you, that under minute, dated 12th instant, 1856, Lord Panmure has ordered that these boots should be forwarded to the Tower for the purpose of being sold by public auction in quantities not exceeding 10,000 pairs at a time, and directions have consequently been given to Mr. Elliott to send the above quantity to the Tower at once, which you are authorized to receive and dispose of accordingly. I am, Sir, your obedient servant, W. Vincent, for the Director-General of Stores."

6319. Had you any means of ascertaining whether the boots were good or bad?—I have no knowledge. Since I received the summons to attend here to-day I asked Mr. Fessey whether he had had an opportunity of examining any of the boots, and he stated that he removed the heads of one or two of the casks to see that they did contain boots, and that they appeared to him to be of a mixed quality; he also considered that some of them were very good boots—that was his individual opinion only. He was not called upon to express an official opinion inasmuch as he presumed the boots had been inspected at Weedon and forwarded to the Tower for the express purpose of sale, according to the order of the Secretary of State. It is one of the Ordnance Regulations that when stores have been examined by competent inspecting officers at one station they shall not be re-examined as to quality at another station, unless expressly authorized. Therefore, the inspector had no alternative but to return the numerical account to the storekeeper, making no mention whatever of the quality of the boots.

6320. You are aware that there was a re-inspection ordered of a large quantity of boots at Weedon, in consequence of a report that a number of them were inferior?—Yes.

6321. I believe you shared in the preliminary inspection which led to that report?—I went down with Mr. Ramsay in May 1856 to take evidence.

6322. A re-inspection of the whole quantity was ordered, and in fact the larger portion were re-inspected. The evidence given to us at Weedon is that no distinction was then made between them, and that that re-inspection was, in point of fact, substantially a condemnation of the whole lot, because the 10,000 that were afterwards sent to you were sent off upon a direction not to send the worst or those that had been condemned, but simply to send 10,000 pairs of Tower boots?—That was contrary to the spirit of the report rendered by Mr. Ramsay and myself. We recommended that the whole of the boots then in store, which had been received from the Tower, should be carefully examined by the inspectors at Weedon, and that those not fit for issue to the troops should be sold. I presumed, in common with Mr. Eaton and the officers at the Tower, when 20,000 pairs of boots were forwarded for sale on the 29th of September and the 22nd of November, that the boots had been re-examined at Weedon, and that those sent were of the most inferior description.

6323. (*Mr. Turner.*) The impression at Weedon seems to have been that the whole of the boots were ultimately to be sold; and they sent off 10,000 of them in the first instance, and 10,000 in the second instance, without much reference to the quality at all. Would you not infer, from the order which you have just read instructing the sale to be made of 10,000 at a time, that the intention was that they should all be sold?—No; from the evidence taken at Weedon in May 1856, it appeared by the statements furnished by the inspectors there, Mr. Folkerd and Mr. Watson, and by a Mr. Burrowes, who was sent down by the War Office to assist in the examination, (I see in the evidence he is called by some other name, but that I believe is his right name,) and who supported the

LONDON.

Mr.
C. S. Elliott.

6 Oct. 1858.

opinion of the Weedon inspectors, that a very large portion of the boots in store received from the Tower were inferior and unfit for issue to the troops. I therefore concluded at that time that a very large number would be sent up to the Tower. I did not suppose that the storekeeper at Weedon had been authorized to send up the whole, neither did I think that he intended to do so.

6324. (*Chairman.*) Being under this impression do you know why only 20,000 pairs were sent for sale?—We had no convenience to receive more than 10,000 pairs at a time. By the order of the 29th of September 1856, it appears that the storekeeper was authorized to sell 10,000 pairs at a time, so as not to inconvenience the officers at the Tower, and that a better price might be obtained.

6325. Why should not Mr. Elliott have gone on sending 10,000 pairs every month?—I am not aware what instructions Mr. Elliott received.

6326. According to the catalogue of the sale of December the 3rd, when the 10,000 pairs of boots forwarded to the Tower on the 22nd of November were sold, Mr. Levy does not appear to have purchased any?—No, he does not appear among the purchasers of any of those boots. No further sale took place till the 9th of February following.

6327. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is Mr. Levy, or any other person making purchases at the Tower, generally understood to make use of his own name or that of a broker who may act for him?—It is generally understood that the purchaser gives his own name.

6328. Does it follow that Mr. Levy was not the real purchaser because his name does not appear among a variety of other names?—The auctioneer takes the name that is given in; he has no means of knowing whether that name represents the actual purchaser or not.

6329. Therefore the name in the catalogue is no indication as to who the real buyer is?—It is no legal evidence.

6330. (*Chairman.*) Can you undertake to say that the whole of the boots that came from Weedon were disposed of by the 3rd of December 1856?—Yes.

6331. (*Mr. Turner.*) The opinion that was given to you by the person who opened the heads of the casks coincides with the evidence we have received at Weedon, that the boots were of various qualities, and that some of them were good boots?—Such was Mr. Fessey's opinion.

6332. Then your recommendation was not carried out, so far as that delivery of 10,000 was concerned, that the boots should be carefully inspected, and only the bad sent for sale?—The examination by Mr. Fessey was very slight, very cursory. Few casks were opened, merely to see whether the contents were boots as charged. He did not examine them so critically as to justify him in making a report in opposition to the inspectors at Weedon.

6333. He saw enough to give that opinion?—Such was his impression.

6334. (*Chairman.*) Did you in any way identify the boots as having been at the Tower from being marked B.O., or anything of that kind?—No; boots marked with B.O. were all Tower boots; whether any of the boots subsequently received at Weedon were similarly marked I do not know.

6335. Do you know anything about the Oxford

grey cloth that was also sold?—I have this knowledge, that in 1854 or 1855, 40,000 yards were delivered at the Tower for the purpose of being made into trousers for the militia, with the view of employing the prisoners at Milbank and Pentonville. The directors of convict prisons had recommended that the prisoners should be employed in that manner. When the Weedon dépôt was established we were directed to send the whole of the clothing, boots, and other stores which appertained to the clothing department to Weedon, including 18,000 to 20,000 yards of this Oxford grey cloth. After a short time we received a communication from the War Office, to the effect that the superintendent at Weedon had been directed to send this cloth up to the Tower, on account of its being out of condition, mildewed, and unfit for service. The cloth was very carefully examined at the Tower by the Tower inspector of woollen goods, Mr. Page, who reported to me that he could find no fault with it, and that it appeared to him to be very good. When he examined the cloth, he called my special attention to it, and although I do not profess to be a judge of cloth, he could point out nothing to me which would justify the same being condemned. I reported in writing to Mr. Eaton, who was the storekeeper, for the information of the Director of Stores, very fully upon the subject, and suggested that the cloth should be returned to Weedon to be made up into trousers; that was in January 1857. In April following, the storekeeper had an order to sell the cloth by auction, if a fair price could be obtained for it. It was put up for sale, but the price tendered was considered by Mr. Eaton to be insufficient.

6336. How much was offered?—I have no knowledge of what was offered, but the price was considered insufficient, and Mr. Eaton stopped the sale and reported the circumstance to the Director of Stores, the result of which was that Mr. Eaton was directed not to sell it. The cloth was not sold at the Tower, but was sold subsequently by private contract or by tender under the authority of the Director of Contracts, Mr. Howell.

6337. Who can tell us the price that was bid at the sale?—Mr. Eaton could inform you.

6338. Could Mr. Eaton also tell us the price at which it was subsequently sold by private tender?—I do not know. Mr. Howell, the Director of Contracts, could.

6339. (*Colonel French.*) Do you know who bought that cloth?—I do not. I see by the evidence it is said to have been purchased by Mr. Levy and sold to Mr. Gilpin, but I do not know the fact.

6340. (*Chairman.*) Were you at the sale?—No; I do not attend any of the sales; it is no part of my duty.

6341. Do you remember the date of the sale?—The order to sell, I think, was in April 1857, so that it would be shortly after that.

6342. (*Mr. Turner.*) And that order to sell was in opposition to the report which you made?—It was; my report was based upon the opinion of the Tower inspector. I believe a further reference was made to the establishment at Weedon, and the result of that reference was that the cloth was sold. I have not seen the correspondence, as the subject did not relate to my department.

Mr. MOSES LEVY examined.

6343. (*Chairman.*) You have already been examined before the Contracts' Committee?—Yes.

6344. It has been stated that you were the purchaser of some of the 20,000 pairs of boots that came from Weedon to the Tower, and were sold in October and December 1856. We have the two catalogues in which the names of the purchasers are given, but your name does not appear. Did you buy any of the boots?—In 1856 I did not buy any boots at all.

6345. Nor any of your family?—Nor none of my family. We did not have any.

6346. It has been asserted that you bought the 20,000 pairs?—I did not buy any boots at all in 1856. I did not attend the sales in 1856.

6347. The boots you bought, 150 pairs of which you sold to Mr. Shaw, I believe you bought in July 1857?—Yes, I bought them at Deptford. I saw something in the papers that they were Wright's patent, and there were some of Wright's patent which I sold to Mr. Shaw. I never bought any of Wright's patent at the Tower.

6348. Is it not sometimes the case at auctions that

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there is an understanding that friends shall not bid against one another?—In some cases, if two parties require one lot, one will say if I buy you can have part. They will divide with one another, or give them a profit on any purchase that may be made, if both parties require the same lot.

6349. When goods are put up to auction, is it not sometimes the case that a certain number of people do not bid against one another, but the goods after being bought at the public auction are again put up among a select circle?—I cannot say.

6350. Have you never been concerned in a transaction of that kind?—I cannot say any further than if any person that I know had purchased a parcel of goods, and I required them, I would give him a profit upon them, which I did in this case. I did not buy them at Deptford; I bought them again of those who purchased them.

6351. In any cases where you have bought boots at the Tower, has there ever been an understanding that certain persons who might otherwise have run them up should have so much a pair?—I always bought on my own account; I never allowed anyone to agree to have any part or parcel of my goods, or to derive any profit upon them, excepting I wanted to purchase the goods afterwards; there was no understanding of that kind with anyone.

6352. You never said to anybody, "You must not bid against me," or anything equivalent to it. "I am going to buy these boots, and if you do not bid, I will give you so much a pair;" or "You shall have a portion of the boots?"—I may have said, if you will take one or two lots and drop the next to me, and not bid against me, I will not bid against you.

6353. Though you did not purchase any at the Tower in 1856, did any of those boots sold in October and December 1856, professing to have been purchased by Myers, Symons, Woolf, Hart, Tyler, Fonseca, Isaacs, and so on, come into your hands?—I did not attend the sale, and I did not purchase any of them. I did not have any boots at all in 1856 to my knowledge. I did not go to the sales in 1856.

6354. Or your son for you?—I do not know whether my son did in 1856; he is no more, poor fellow. I purchased no boots, neither my son nor myself.

6355. There is another point upon which I am sure you will be candid, about the Oxford grey cloth?—The Oxford grey cloth was put up to auction at the Tower, and I believe I was the last bidder at 2s. 6d. a yard; no one would bid any more.

6356. Do you remember the quantity?—It was put up in lots, about 20,000 yards, or near upon it. There was no bidding higher than 2s. 6d., and in consequence the Commissioners who sat with Mr. Baker, the auctioneer, consulted together and thought they would not dispose of it. It was knocked down finally at 2s. 7d. per yard; it was not sold, but bought in. I then sent a note up to Mr. Baker to ask whether he would allow me to take the whole of it at 2s. 7d. He shook his head, and said, "No; he could do nothing of the kind." About five or ten minutes afterwards he sent down a note saying he would see me after the sale. I went after the sale, and we consulted together, and Mr. King asked me would I give any more, would I advance anything. I said I had no objection to advance a halfpenny. He said as it was not bought at public auction, it would be better for me to give a 1d. a yard, and nobody would know what I gave for it. 1d. a yard was 80l. in 20,000 yards. He told me they would let me know, for they could not give me any answer just at present. I did not receive any answer from them till some time after, and then I received a tender; it was to be sold by public tender, and I consulted with Mr. Almond. I did not buy the cloth at all myself, although I had the cloth. That is the form of tender (*handing in a paper*), and that was the quantity to be disposed of by tender. I consulted Mr. Almond whether we should have anything to do with it or no. As I did not buy it at the sale, I did

not care about it. I was afterwards given to understand that it was a cloth which perhaps might be rejected upon some principle, and that would not be fit for use again, and not knowing what we should do with it, we doubted whether we should speculate. At last we agreed to give 2s. 7½d. a yard, and take the whole of it and chance it. I did not send my tender, but Mr. Almond sent his tender, and his tender was accepted, and I went a fair share with him. I sold the greater part of it.

6357. Then Mr. Almond paid 2s. 7½d. a yard?—Yes; I wrote to Mr. Almond to send me word what quantity there was, and I have received this note from him; it is dated 4th October 1858,—“Sir,—Mr. William Almond desires me to inform you that the quantity of cloth bought by him by public tender was 17,118½ yards, at 2s. 7½d. per yard.”

6358. Then it is a mistake to say that it ever was sold at a much less price than was offered at auction?—It is an entire mistake; that is the price it was actually sold for; we bought it at 40l. less than I actually bid for it after the sale.

6359. Was that the cloth that you sold to Mr. Gilpin?—Part of it.

6360. Mr. Gilpin says that he gave 3s. 8d. for a portion of it, and 4s. 4½d. for another portion?—That is the price he paid for it.

6361. (*Mr. Turner.*) We have the fact that there was not so great a sacrifice as we have been led to believe, still it was a sacrifice; and we have the fact that you bid a higher price for the cloth than it was allowed to go for by tender afterwards?—I did not bid actually at the public auction; I did in private afterwards. I bid 2s. 6d. by auction, it was bought in at 2s. 7d., and I requested to know whether they would allow me to take the whole at 2s. 7d., and they said they would see me after the sale, and then I offered another penny. I did not tender afterwards. When I found we were going shares with it I did not care a straw about it, whether I had it or not. I did not think it was so good a bargain as I found it was when I got it home.

6362. (*Chairman.*) You afterwards found that it was very good cloth?—Yes, very good cloth.

6363. And ought not to have been sold, in your judgment?—I do not see why they could not have made use of it.

6364. (*Mr. Turner.*) From what you saw of the cloth yourself, do you consider that there was any impropriety in the inspectors at Weedon passing trousers made from it, or do you consider that the impropriety was in sending such cloth to be sold?—I consider that the impropriety was sending the cloth to the Tower for sale. The trousers made from it were good, no doubt.

6365. (*Chairman.*) Are the Tower sales going on now to any extent?—There will be a sale on the 20th at Deptford of a lot of cloth and boots.

6366. Would the Oxford grey cloth that you bought be available for any other purpose than Government purposes?—It might be available for the Irish people; they buy low-priced cloth and make it up.

6367. Do you mean the Irish people generally?—Yes.

6368. Not the militia?—No; there is a great trade with the Irish people buying old clothes; they will buy anything strong and coarse.

6369. Would you have had any difficulty in finding a market for the cloth if it had not been made into pensioners' trousers?—I should have had a great difficulty in finding a market for a lot of 20,000 yards had it not been thought fit for the same purpose again.

6370. How soon after your purchase did you re-sell the cloth to Mr. Gilpin?—I think it must have been at least two months after; we did not sell any for the first month or two months.

6371. Did you give the fullest information in your power to the Contracts' Committee?—As far as I possibly could, I think I did.

6372. You seem a little shy in answering the ques-

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tions?—I do not see why I should be; I have nothing to conceal. I have bought goods at public auction, and I have bought goods from the Government that I have lost by.

6373. Has that been because you have given more than the value of the goods?—Yes; we buy goods in opposition, one against the other, and afterwards cannot make a market.

6374. Have you ever done so?—I have done so; I have lost as well as gained.

6375. Has that happened frequently?—I have got now 700 or 800 new brown blankets, sold at the last Tower sale, and they are all of them stamped. I should be very happy, indeed, to lose 20*l.* and get my money back.

6376. As a general rule, do you think that things which are sold at the Government sales are sold much under their value?—They fetch a fair price in general. I think people have a wrong idea when they fancy they can go to a Government sale and buy things at their own price. The Commissioners sit

there, and if the things do not fetch enough money, they buy them in. Persons cannot buy things unless they can get a living; otherwise it is no use going to the sales.

6377. Can you give any other instance besides the blankets in which you have made bad bargains at Government sales?—I cannot call them to memory; sometimes people buy goods and let them lie by at home; sometimes I lose, and sometimes I gain.

6378. In the cases in which goods are bought in at a reserved price, do you know what becomes of them?—They are not sold at that sale at any price. I believe at times they lay them by, and then they are resold.

6379. They are again put up; they do not let the public know that they have been rejected before?—They may sell them at another sale at some other time. They will not allow you to take them when once they are bought in; whatever price you may offer, they will not accept it.

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Mr. LAURENCE JOHN BAPTIST DOLAN examined.

6380. (*Chairman.*) You have been already examined before the Contracts' Committee?—I have.

6381. Is not your firm one of the establishments that formerly supplied the army clothing?—We furnished a considerable portion of the army before the late change of system.

6382. What number of regiments?—Twenty or twenty-two, and a large number of militia regiments, I think some thirty or forty. Since the alteration, during the last two years, we have furnished the cloth and the making up for about half the army, and the caps also.

6383. Then your business rather increased under the system of open competition?—A great deal.

6384. Have your profits been as great as under the old system?—As a matter of preference, I would rather do five regiments under the old system than fifty under the new.

6385. Would you get more profit out of five regiments under the old system than out of fifty under the new system?—If I did five regiments under the old system, I was sure of getting a profit; but if I do fifty under the new system, I have to consider the risk of loss. The question of profit would depend upon the success in passing the goods, and the deductions to which I was put in carrying out the contract; the result has been unsatisfactory, and I think the greater part of the business we have done has been unremunerative, looking at the large amount of capital involved in it.

6386. Then your answer to my question, whether your profits under the new system are less than under the old system is, yes?—Certainly.

6387. To what do you attribute that?—In the first place, when the change took place we had a large establishment on our hands, a great many people had been employed in our house for many years; we had a mill in Yorkshire where we made cloth, and with a view of keeping these parties together we took the contracts at a lower rate than we should at any other time, at a very small profit, and that profit we have found from experience is utterly incommensurate with the risk.

6388. Do not you attribute your having a smaller profit to the fact that there is competition, and therefore you have to tender low?—Yes.

6389. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is it worth your while to tender low rather than break up your establishment?—The inducement to tender low up to the present time has been that we did not think that the system which was inaugurated was one that could possibly meet the requirements of the army, and therefore, in expectation of a change, we took the contracts at a low price, in order to keep the people employed, and keep the place together.

6390. (*Colonel French.*) Have you to furnish a better article than you used to furnish?—There is more paid; the patterns have been altered since the change, and the price has also altered.

6391. (*Mr. Turner.*) If you get a less profit than you used to obtain, how do you make it out that the public has not some advantage? Do not the public get better served?—The contrary, I think, is shown by the paper put in by Messrs. Hebbert before the Contracts' Committee. If we supply the suit made up, of course we can do it at a less price than if we enter into separate contracts for the cloth, and for the making up; for example, we first of all have a contract for the cloth, which we send to Weedon; it is then sent back to us, we paying the carriage from Weedon to London; we then have to make it up in London, and then send it back again, either to Weedon or Mark Lane; there is a loss in the carriage, because we are put to additional expense which we should not pay if we furnished the garments made up; there is one item where a profit which could have been made under the old plan has been sacrificed under the new; of course we do not get the profit, nor does the public. (*See Parl. Paper, No. 398, 1858, Appendix 20.*)

6392. (*Chairman.*) Under the new system, you say your profits are less?—Yes.

6393. Is that, in the first instance, because you tender at a less price?—Yes.

6394. Is one of your reasons for tendering at a less price the fear of competition?—It has been.

6395. Although there may be counterbalancing disadvantages, is not the public to that extent benefited?—Yes; I would qualify that by saying that we have been put to more expense, and therefore the whole difference has not gone to benefit the public, because the mode in which the clothing is provided has entailed greater expense upon us in making it than if it had been done under another system. Though our profits are lower, the public has not got the whole of the difference, because a portion of it has been wasted.

6396. How does the fact that you are put to additional expense affect the public?—Because they make two contracts for the same thing where one was formerly made, and additional expense is caused by that process.

6397. Upon whom does the additional expense fall?—Upon the public, because I increase my two prices. I am put to expense, and I increase the prices in the contract for the cloth and that for the making up. I pay for the cloth to Weedon and from Weedon, and sending it back into store, whereas if I cut up my own cloth, I should make it up in one delivery.

6398. You would tender still lower in that case?—Yes.

6399. As far as it goes, is not the lower price at which you tender a benefit to the public?—Yes.

6400. And there would be a still greater benefit to the public if some alteration were made in the system which has been established?—Yes.

6401. What are the objections, in your opinion, to the present system?—One of the principal objections is, that the public has no means by any system of examination of ascertaining that the quality of the cloth supplied is equal to the pattern; it is admitted that however competent the inspectors may be, they cannot, by simple examination, tell whether the cloth has been deteriorated or not; nobody but the weaver who actually made it knows what is in the cloth, therefore I maintain that unlimited unrestricted competition for an article which can be fraudulently deteriorated without danger of detection does not necessarily tend to the advantage of the public, and it seems to me to offer a premium for fraud.

6402. Would you suggest that there should be no inspection at all?—A certain amount of inspection; but I should rely chiefly on the responsibility of the person who supplied the goods; taking the case of the introduction of shoddy into cloth, there is no means by which it can be ascertained.

6403. Have you known any actual instances in which bad cloth has been passed in consequence of the insufficiency of the inspection?—I think so; a large portion of the cloth which has been passed at Weedon has come to us to be made up, and we have seen a great deal of it which in our judgment is not equal to the patterns by which the contracts were made.

6404. Have you heard of any complaints from the regiments?—I have heard of them; many were stated before the Contracts' Committee.

6405. Do you know any instances of complaints from regiments in addition to those that are stated in the return before the Committee?—I am speaking more of the results of our own examination of the cloth which has been forwarded to us to be made up.

6406. Is it not matter of opinion rather than result?—A matter of opinion.

6407. Will you proceed to point out your objections to the system of inspection?—We delivered a very large quantity of cloth at Weedon in the piece, I suppose altogether 250,000 yards, and we have hardly made a delivery, at least not very often, where there has not been a rejection of some quantity, whilst, as far as we could judge, it was as good as that which was passed.

6408. Have you any schedule of the quantities you have delivered? Any instances of improper rejection?—The red cloth was the last order we had. We first had an order for 10,000 yards, then for 80,000 yards, then 80,000 yards after that, and then 17,000, all to be delivered at Weedon. The rejections, I think, have amounted to about 8 per cent., and the deductions to about 1 per cent.

6409. (*Mr. Turner.*) For faults?—Yes, allowances taken for small damages.

6410. (*Chairman.*) Do you object to those allowances?—I think they are excessive; we objected to the damages themselves; they would make a deduction for a damage which we should not consider one, or any fault in the cloth, a small speck, for example.

6411. (*Mr. Turner.*) Grease spots and fine-drawn holes?—A small hole, so trifling altogether that we thought the quantity taken for damage was too large; I do not make any imputation on the inspectors, because I really think, as far as I have had any opportunity of judging of them, they are anxious to do what is right; at the same time I do think they are liable to mistakes; and I feel that if my supply is right, I have no certainty that it will pass; it may pass or it may not.

6412. (*Chairman.*) Have you not always had the causes of rejection stated to you?—Always.

6413. In the case of cloth, is not there generally a string put through it to point out where there is a damage?—Yes.

6414. Have you not generally found that the causes of rejection assigned have had some foundation?—Some foundation, but they are too rigid. I mean to say, that cloth that would have been perfectly good made up in a garment, and where there would be no loss entailed in cutting, has had damages marked in it in the return of the parcel to us.

6415. Can you mention any particular instance? you are speaking generally?—I am obliged to speak generally, because we have been delivering red cloth every two days almost during the last two months, and I have noticed that as a rule in all deliveries there is rejection, so that we expect, in fact, to have a certain small amount rejected with every delivery.

6416. Do you mean to say that the causes of rejection have not generally been substantial?—I think not.

6417. We have been at Weedon and seen a piece of red cloth inspected, and certainly there appeared in that red cloth which we saw abundant grounds for very rigid inspection in the shape of grease spots and bracks fine drawn; did you ever send in cloths with bracks fine drawn?—I cannot say positively; I do not think we have ever done so. I am now speaking chiefly of red cloth; we have not lately had any rejection for quality; it has chiefly been for streakiness and perhaps too many damages in the piece.

6418. Are you a manufacturer?—Yes; our mill is at Horsforth, near Leeds.

6419. Can you give any other instances of unnecessary severity in the inspection?—We had a contract for 20,000 yards of artillery cloth, and we subsequently had a further order for 10,000 yards more, making it up to 30,000, and we have had to make 50,000 yards to pass it. The first rejection I think consisted of about 6,000 or 7,000 yards, arising from a mistake of the War Office; we had a wrong pattern to start with, and they gave us 1s. a yard advance to complete the contract, we taking back what was rejected. I do not complain of that rejection, because there was an evident difference between the pattern given to us at the War Office and the pattern by which the supply was to be compared at Weedon.

6420. How did that discrepancy arise?—From some accident in giving the patterns in the pattern-room. After that we began again with the new pattern. I suppose 6,000 or 7,000 yards were rejected, I think improperly; that is to say, again the inspectors thought it was inferior, but I differ with them in opinion.

6421. I believe your attention has been directed to the question whether, when that difference of opinion exists, it may or may not be desirable to have an appeal?—I think it is very requisite in the case of army clothing, principally for this reason, that the articles in a general way are utterly unsaleable.

6422. Have you altered your opinion upon the subject of appeal?—To a certain extent.

6423. Have you consulted other persons upon that subject?—I have. The question was put to me in the Contracts' Committee, whether I was in favour of appeal. I stated then that I thought it would, in the first place, cause a great deal of inconvenience to the public; everybody would appeal whenever there was a rejection, and I think there is a great deal of truth in that now. On the other hand, we send in a very large quantity of cloth to the Government, perhaps 20,000*l.* worth, and if the inspector, either through ignorance or for any reason, says that it is not equal to the pattern, cloth which perhaps cost us 7*s.* or 8*s.* a yard really is not worth half-a-crown, therefore we are running an enormous risk.

6424. Did such a case ever occur to you?—In the case of the artillery cloth which has been rejected. It fortunately happens that it is blue cloth, and there-

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fore we are enabled to bring it in for the police, and for other purposes. We have sent some abroad, but if it had been red cloth, the loss would have been nearly total. I fancy that we should have lost nearly 7s. a yard, and that is a very serious matter. At present it depends entirely upon the opinion of two or three gentlemen at Weedon. If the rejection is upon a ground that you can prove on paper, for example, that through some mistake the inspector had compared it with the wrong pattern in colour, or any question of that sort, you can get redress from the War Office, and I am sure if they were satisfied that there was a mistake they would put you right; but when it comes to a question of quality, which is one entirely of opinion, where you cannot prove anything, I think you are liable to very great loss.

6425. In such a case, your opinion being one way and the inspector's another, you would like to have somebody as a referee?—I think it is requisite.

6426. Do not you see grave inconveniences which would arise from a system of appeal?—I do; but I think Government would be obliged to be more careful about it. I think they are sometimes very summary in their rejections. In the second place, it would operate in this way, that they would be obliged to employ competent people as inspectors.

6427. Does not the value of the appeal depend, not only upon the competency of the referee, but upon the rigidity of his inspection? Are you aware that in Mr. Ellis's case it is said that the referees passed the cloth in about two hours, and did not perch it?—I do not myself think that that was a good sample of an appeal; it is not the sort of appeal I should suggest. In the first place, I do not think either of the gentlemen who had the conduct of that appeal was previously acquainted with army cloth at all. Army cloth is an article quite distinct from the ordinary trade, and a person who is conversant with other matters would not necessarily be capable of giving an opinion in reference to army cloths. In the second place, in reference to what was done with that cloth afterwards, I see it was put in orders, that the coats made from it would be marked with a letter E., and the commanding officers of artillery were all directed to take notice of its wear. That is tantamount to raising a cry of mad dog in my opinion. I do not think, after that, there would be a fair chance of seeing how the cloth really did wear.

6428. Is that the only instance of arbitration you can mention?—It is the only time that the War Office has ever allowed it; it is at the option of the War Office.

6429. What sort of appeal would you desire?—I think if there was an appeal to a person of high character, who had been brought up as a manufacturer of army cloth, that would be satisfactory.

6430. (Mr. Turner.) Would you be satisfied with the Government appointing one man to decide between the contractors and the inspectors?—I think I should.

6431. (Chairman.) Does not that come to simply appointing another Government inspector? What advantage would there be in having a reference in that case? Would it not be better to appoint, in the first instance, a more competent person as an inspector?—I think he would be perfectly independent. I should be satisfied if a person were appointed in a higher position than any of the inspectors, whose opinion would be looked up to in a place like Leeds; for example, Mr. Gott, or any first-rate manufacturer there.

6432. (Colonel French.) Do not you think a cloth manufacturer would be inclined to lean towards his own trade?—That is possible; but I do not think he would if he were a person acquainted with the trade, but not actually engaged in it. In France the contractor appoints a person to act for him, and the Government one on their behalf, and if those persons cannot agree, I believe it is referred to a third person. I think there certainly would be this advantage in the appeal, that it would test the qualifications of the

inspectors themselves, because if they rejected good cloth, and contractors were continually appealing, and continually succeeding in having their appeals sustained, it would afford a very fair criterion to the Government of their capacity; on the contrary, if they passed bad goods, the regiments would complain.

6433. (Chairman.) Cannot the regiments complain now?—The regiments do complain; but if you sent in good articles that are rejected the contractors have no redress.

6434. Then you have altered your opinion when you said, "I think an appeal would be no benefit to 'honest contractors'?"—I have altered my opinion. My opinion then was, that competition would be very much increased if an appeal were instituted, because people would be led into contracting by the hope of passing an inferior article; that is to say, if they failed with the inspector, there would be an opportunity to get it passed afterwards on appeal; in that way I thought the honest contractor would be damaged.

6435. (Mr. Turner.) Suppose you were dealing with me or any other person for cloth, would you be quite contented with our decision as to whether the goods ought to be rejected or not?—No.

6436. You think, in that case, it would be necessary that each party should appoint an arbitrator if there was a dispute, and if they could not agree, an umpire; would not that be the ordinary course of proceeding?—Yes.

6437. You would be satisfied, you say, in the case of the Government, with one arbitrator, to be appointed by the Government itself?—I am not at all committed to that opinion. I think if a contractor appointed one person to act for him and the Government appointed another, there would be the same sort of appeal that took place in Ellis's case, which I do not think was a good appeal. I think very likely the contractor might nominate a person who was not competent to judge.

6438. You say that you have had eight per cent. of rejections and one per cent. of allowances, therefore the Government are rather, as you think, unreasonable persons to deal with. Why should you be content with an umpire appointed by them, and not be content with an umpire appointed by me, if you were dealing with me?—I do not wish to express any decided opinion as to the appeal; I merely give an opinion on the general subject, and not how the appeal should be constituted. I am not prepared to speak upon that. If any person of high position were appointed, who really was conversant with army clothing, as either umpire or as referee, we should consider that a great improvement on the present system. At present we feel that we are entirely in the hands of the inspectors, and that they may occasionally be wrong, and in that case we are running the risk of enormous expense.

6439. (Chairman.) What is the person appointed as the referee to do? Is he to go through the same inspection? Perch the cloth, for instance?—I cannot think so at all.

6440. How, then, can he tell whether there are flaws or stains in the cloth?—If there are flaws or stains it would be only a question of deduction, and not a question of total rejection.

6441. Do not those damages amount to rejection when they exceed a certain number?—That is not a very important cause of rejection, the great cause is quality. On the question of colour, or even on a question of flaws or anything of that sort, we could get redress from the War Office. If any case arose in which you could actually show a statement of so many flaws in a piece of cloth, and you wrote to the War Office, and could prove what you said, I think you would always have redress. The difficulty is when cloth is rejected on a question of quality, which is a mere matter of opinion; your opinion is put against the opinion of the inspector; the War

Office refers your letter to the inspector, and on their decision you are very often left.

6442. (*Mr. Turner.*) You say that your rejections have been eight per cent., and the deductions for faults one per cent., is not that a very great drawback on your business?—Yes.

6443. Do you consider those items in the price at which you make your tender?—We did not consider them; we do now consider them, but we do not get any contracts.

6444. Do you mean that when you put down as one of the elements of price, a per-centage for the risk of rejection or allowance, you fail to get your tender accepted?—That has been the case during two years, for the clothing of 1857–8, 1858–9; we had, as I mentioned, half the army, speaking in general terms, to do.

6445. Have you been more successful since?—We have not got any, we failed in all.

6446. Have you since lowered your idea upon that subject and obtained the contract?—No; the only contract we have is a contract for free kits, that we got lately.

6447. You have taken into consideration in making your tender, that element of loss and risk by the mode in which the Government conduct their business at Weedon, and that has thrown you out in getting the contract; is not that so?—Yes.

6448. Supposing you had this right of appeal, and could rely more upon straightforward dealing as between one merchant and another, would you be willing then to tender at a less price?—I should.

6449. How much per cent. less?—I should make a difference of five per cent. in cloth.

6450. (*Colonel French.*) How do you dispose of the red cloth that is rejected?—We have had other channels through which to issue it; we have sold it to regiments in small quantities for shell jackets, which the men pay for themselves; a good deal of it we have refinished and sent in again.

6451. Then it is not a total loss to you?—No; I do not mean to say that we have lost eight per cent.

6452. (*Chairman.*) Do you prefer the present system of contracting for the made-up garments?—I think that is a great improvement, because, in the first place, we can do it cheaper for the public if we get up our own cloth and deliver it in garments made up, than if we have two contracts, one for the cloth and the other for making up the garment. In the first place, the deductions to which I before alluded we do not lose at all; if there is a damage in the cloth we avoid it, but if we send the cloth to Weedon they deduct the damage, and of course there is a loss.

6453. What is the difference?—Because, though they make a quarter of a yard deduction for a damage, the clothier would not lose it if he were cutting up his own cloth.

6454. If you were the person afterwards making up the cloth you would have that cloth sent to you, and the Government would not get the benefit of the allowance. Supposing a piece of cloth is sent in by the cloth manufacturer measuring ten yards, and, in consequence of damage, he is only allowed to charge for nine, and the Government pay for nine yards, would not they send that ten yards to the clothier, and call them nine?—I do not think we have found that the quantity sent to us has been much in excess of the net measurement.

6455. Have you ever had cloth which you furnished in the piece sent to you to make up?—A great deal.

6456. Have not you found the same allowance which had been made in the inspection of the cloth in the piece also allowed to you as a clothier?—I am not prepared to answer that question; we have never tried it.

6457. Then your answer is entirely speculative. You say, if you are cutting up your own cloth you would not lose a quarter of a yard; do you lose a quarter of a yard if the Government send you

that quarter of a yard?—If you are only alluding to the instance in which we get our own cloth, we do not, but we get a great deal of other cloth.

6458. We are informed that the Government does not get any benefit by the allowances, that they are sent to the clothier, and he cuts the damaged parts out of the cloth, and has the profit of them; assuming that to be so, is there any hardship upon the clothier?—No, not in that case.

6459. Have you ever taken the trouble to test it?—We have tested it generally; we have found as a rule that the quantity of cloth sent to us is not in excess of the net measurement.

6460. (*Mr. Turner.*) What becomes of all the allowances which the Government at Weedon through their inspectors deduct from the cloth that is supplied by the contractor, supposing it is one per cent., as you say?—That is what we have found.

6461. They deduct from you as a cloth manufacturer, and you as a clothier receive either that cloth or some other cloth from the Government to be made up into garments?—Yes.

6462. I wish to ascertain from you as a clothier whether it is the case that the Government do make an allowance, and you say generally you do not think you have any allowance?—My partner is in the room, and he can answer that question better than I can.

(*Mr. H. Dolan.*) The cloth that we receive from Weedon is always very tightly measured, and when we have measured the pieces, we do not agree generally with the Weedon measurement; we measure them with the yard stick.

6463. Do you mean when there is a piece with strings in it, denoting that damages have been found in that piece, fine-drawing, or grease spots, or anything else, that that piece is sent as full length?—A deduction is made upon it, but in measuring it ourselves we should not agree with the Weedon gross measurement.

6464. Supposing a piece of cloth is 40 yards actual measurement, and there are eight strings in it, each string representing a deduction of one-eighth of a yard, that would be one yard, they would only charge that piece, according to their statement, to be made up into garments as 39 yards; have you found a piece of that kind only charged 39 yards, or has it been charged to you as 40 yards?—Many such pieces I have measured, and should say, probably, we have found them to measure 39½ yards gross measurement of 36 inches to the yard.

6465. (*Chairman to Mr. L. Dolan.*) Have you a measuring machine?—Yes, but we do not often use it.

6466. (*Mr. Turner.*) Who was the inventor of it?—Mr. Hebdon; we did not receive it till nearly the completion of our contract.

6467. (*Chairman.*) Does not the length given by the machine tally with the measure by the yard stick?—I do not think it does; we have found small differences, not many.

6468. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you use that machine or the yard stick to measure other cloths?—The yard stick; I quite admit that without that machine they never could have measured the quantity they required; I think so far it is a very good machine.

6469. (*To Mr. H. Dolan.*) I suppose you are paid for your cloth by that tight-measuring machine?—I do not know how they measure it there; they may pay by it, and send out by it.

6470. They allow you all the deduction, that is what I want to know?—That would apply to our own goods.

6471. You would like your goods to be measured by the measuring machine, and you would like the goods of other people to be measured to you by the yard stick; is not that the fact?—No.

6472. (*Chairman to Mr. L. Dolan.*) You know the length of the pieces sent in by you as manufacturers; have you ever any dispute as to their lengths?—We have always accepted their lengths, though we have often thought they were hard upon us; if we send

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42 yards, they make it $41\frac{1}{2}$; we do not know how they measure it, but we presume that it is measured by the machine, still we lose half a yard.

6473. How can that be the case if it is measured out to you by the same machine?—If that piece happens to come to us, we do not lose.

6474. Do you make up as much cloth as you furnish?—We have made up more.

6475. If they apply the same system of measuring to all cloth, do not you get the benefit of what you call tight measure?—I find the cloth that is sent to us tightly measured; I get no benefit by that on other people's cloth, and I get a loss on my own.

6476. Do you find that $39\frac{1}{2}$ yards are sent to you as 40 yards?—I do not when it comes up to me.

6477. How can a piece which you say is 40 yards if it is tightly measured, come out $39\frac{1}{2}$ yards?—The whole question turns upon whether the cloth manufacturers' measure is given to us in London when the cloth is sent to us to be made up.

6478. If cloth is tightly measured, will not it make it more than it would otherwise appear to be? You seem to represent that it would make it less?—No, if I send in 40 yards, and they say it is only $39\frac{1}{2}$, I lose half a yard.

6479. Has that cloth been tightly or loosely measured to make it $39\frac{1}{2}$?—Tightly measured.

6480. Surely if the tight measuring is applied to all the cloth sent in, there must be a larger quantity sent to you to make up into garments?—I think I can explain it. The manufacturers who send cloth to Weedon would say that they received payment on short measure if the cloth was reported only $39\frac{1}{2}$ yards when it ought to have been 40; the clothier would say that he received tight measure if he only got $39\frac{1}{2}$ yards gross and they invoiced it as $39\frac{1}{2}$ yards net.

6481. (Colonel French.) Do you think the machine gives you shorter measure than if the cloth were measured by a yard stick, as in a shop?—I think it does.

6482. (Chairman.) Would you be paid for less?—When we send cloth in we generally get deductions, but they are not often deductions for measure.

6483. Are there any other observations that you wish to offer to the Commissioners upon the system at Weedon?—There is another branch of the subject with respect to the making up of the clothing. I am speaking now of the system which has been in operation during the last two years. The whole arrangement was extremely complicated. We used to receive a warrant to make a certain number of suits; the cloth being sent to us from Weedon to make up. When the clothing was ready we delivered it at Mark Lane, and we had to send a delivery note with the clothing to Mark Lane, and the inspection note, which was an official paper, a counterpart of the other, to Weedon. The inspection at Mark Lane took place on the receipt from Weedon of the inspection note. When the inspection began the rejections were extremely heavy. Large quantities of clothing would be returned, and the same as in the cloth, we think that the causes of rejection were in many cases not good ones.

6484. Can you give any examples?—In every regiment that we supplied a certain amount of rejection took place. We had sometimes as many as 200 or 300 coats rejected out of a regiment's supply for very small causes; marks would be put on the coats, and the entry in the paper would be "badly sewn." When we came to examine them we could not see anything the matter with them.

6485. Can you give any particular instances?—It is impossible for me to give any particular instances. I do not make any charge against anybody. I may state that on an average the clothing which we have delivered has been two months under inspection, and then rejections take place on articles sent to replace rejections, and the result has caused so much confusion in our accounts that they are not able to be passed from the ordinary inspection voucher; they are made

up from the certificate of Messrs. Hayter and Howell of the shipment of the goods; when they find that a regiment's clothing has been shipped they pay our bills.

6486. During the time that you furnished made-up clothing did you ever hear of any regiment being delayed for any single article of made-up clothing?—Yes, I do not think any regiment—certainly no regiment abroad—during that time has had the clothing shipped at the period fixed for the shipment of clothing in order to ensure its arrival on the 1st of April.

6487. Have you ever heard of any case in which a regiment has been inconvenienced by the non-arrival of its made-up clothing?—The other day we had a letter from the 95th regiment, in which they stated that they did not expect to get their clothing due on the 1st of April this year at all.

6488. They had not got it?—They had not got it.

6489. Where is the 95th regiment?—In the East Indies.

6490. Was that clothing furnished by you?—Yes.

6491. When did you deliver it?—I cannot say positively; I fancy in October or November last year. The ordinary time for shipping clothing for the East Indies is the 31st of March preceding the 1st of April in the next year in which it is to be taken into wear. It takes nearly twelve months for the clothing to get to the regiments up the country in the East Indies.

6492. What was the date of that complaint?—I cannot tell you now, I think it was dated in May.

6493. (Colonel French.) Under the former system, when would you have turned out the clothing for the 95th regiment so that it would be received by the 1st of April?—Prior to the 31st of March last year.

6494. (Chairman.) Where is it kept in the interim?—Our experience is that it would hardly reach head-quarters before the 1st of April. It used to be four or five months, and often as long as six months going from the port where it was landed to the station where the regiment happened to be.

6495. Does the same rule apply to the regiments at home?—For regiments at home clothing had to be delivered before the 31st of December, in order to allow three months to fit it.

(Mr. H. Dolan.) The clothing for the 95th regiment was ordered on the 24th of August 1857, and it was to have been delivered by the 15th of October. It was not delivered at that time; I think about the 1st of December.

6496. How was that?—We had during those two months, from August to October, to make 26,000 suits. We did not receive the cloth till late for a great many of them.

6497. (To Mr. L. Dolan.) When did the 95th regiment go out?—They were ordered on from the Cape to the East Indies. It was not one of the regiments ordered from this country on the breaking out of the mutiny.

6498. Take the case of a regiment being at the Cape; how long beforehand would you send the clothing out in the ordinary course of things?—Clothes for regiments in Bengal are to be sent out by the 31st of March; for Madras, Bombay, and Ceylon, by the 31st of July; for Australia, by the 31st of May; for the Cape, Mauritius, Africa, and North America, by the 31st of August; for the West Indies and Bermuda, by the 31st of October; for Gibraltar, by the 31st of November; and for the regiments at home, the 31st of December.

6499. Am I to understand you to say, that clothing that ought to have been ordered before April 1857, and to have been sent out in April 1857, was not ordered till August, and was not delivered till November or December?—Exactly. It reached Bombay, I think, in May.

6500. Did not you state that the complaint was that the regiments thought they should not get the clothing this year?—I think they had heard of the arrival of the clothing. They were a long way up

the country, and it had to go up to them; it is a very long operation to move clothing in India.

6501. What can be the meaning of the statement that they did not expect it to arrive this year, if they knew it was in Bombay early in May?—My own experience is, that clothing has been six months going from Bombay, or wherever it is landed, to Lucknow, or wherever the regiment is stationed; it depends upon the locality.

6502. Will you state any other objections that you entertain to the present system?—Owing to the mode in which the things have been inspected our accounts have got into a very great state of arrear.

6503. What accounts?—Our claims for different orders have not been settled at the periods specified in the contracts.

6504. What unsettled accounts have you now with the Government for goods delivered?—On the 31st of July our claims unsettled were 581 in number. Since that they have paid a good many; 66 were paid in July, 124 in August, and 165 in September. The amount due to us now is about 11,500*l*.

6505. Arising upon how many items?—Three hundred and sixty.

6506. Is that owing to the delay in inspection, or from the mess into which the accounts have got?—It arises from the mess into which the accounts have got, and the accounts have got into a mess, in so far as we are concerned, by the system of inspection, and rejections upon rejections, and having to send in papers with every rejection, the Weedon establishment not being able to keep up the interchange of papers. I do not make any complaint upon this head, for I have drawn the attention of the higher authorities at the War Office to it, and I know they are doing all they can to close our accounts. I have already stated that we shall have to charge 5*l*. per cent. for all the time in excess of the time specified in the contract, and if the War Office accedes to that, of course we shall not be losers.

6507. (*Mr. Turner*.) When you get the certificate on which the payments are made at the War Office, how can it signify that the accounts at Weedon are in a mess? When you obtain the certificate for payment, you present it, do you not, at the War Office?—We do not get the certificates; our orders are not to send the bills to Weedon until the certificates of inspection show that the order has been completed.

6508. Have you to complete the whole contract before you get paid for any part?—For a particular regiment, if it is a case of made-up clothing.

6509. Do you complete the full order before any part is paid for?—Yes.

6510. May there not be a great many claims under one contract? I suppose you had not 360 different contracts?—They are different claims under two or three contracts.

6511. How long are any of them after the time you ought to have been paid?—They vary very much; some are as much as 18 months and two years.

6512. Do you mean to say that you have sent the goods in and have obtained a certificate as to their being inspected, but have not been paid for 18 months or two years past that period?—I mean to say that goods, which were delivered 18 months ago, which were passed at the time, perhaps have been issued to the troops and worn out, have not been paid for, because we have not received the certificate of inspection and passing.

6513. After goods have been sent to the regiments, accepted, and worn out, as you imagine, you have not been paid for them?—There are many instances of it.

6514. How can you account for that?—I think it arises from the confusion of the accounts at Weedon; they do not send up the certificates of passing when the things do pass.

6515. Yet you are willing to go on dealing with parties who so treat you?—We have backed out of it a great deal.

6516. Is it the truth that you will go on contract-

ing with people who treat you in that manner?—We have raised the price.

6517. You have raised your price in consequence of that treatment, and you get no more contracts?—Yes.

6518. It has been stated by some contractors that they are content with small profits under the present system, because of the ready money; how do you account for that?—The terms of the contract are that it is ready money.

6519. But you think the ready money is a myth; there is no such article?—In a great measure.

6520. (*Chairman*.) Do you know anything of the case of the clothing for the 3d West India regiment, the Zouave clothing?—Yes.

6521. When did that clothing go?—It ought to be shipped by the 31st of October every year prior to the 1st of April when it is to be taken into wear.

6522. The Zouave clothing was not determined on till this year, was it?—I think the contracts were put out about the beginning of the year; I am not sure.

6523. Is that the clothing which would have to be delivered on the 1st of April this year or next?—This year.

6524. Did you have that contract?—No; I know that they are very badly off, because we supply the necessaries of the 3d West India regiment, and they have written to us, mentioning incidentally how badly they are off for clothing, having got nothing to wear.

6525. They have not got their clothing which was due on the 1st of April last?—No.

6526. (*Colonel French*.) Can you mention the clothing of any other regiment which was not issued on the 1st of April for which you had the contract?—I can only state that for the two years we supplied the clothing,—I am speaking now particularly with regard to the East Indies,—the clothing has never been shipped until six months after it ought to have left this country under the ordinary arrangement.

6527. Does that arise from not being shipped in time, or does it arise from the disturbances in the country?—It arose from the clothing not having been ordered; it was not ordered until after it ought to have been shipped. I can give an instance now; the contracts were made in July or August last for the supply of clothing for the regiments in India to be taken into wear on the 1st of April next; they are all regiments in Bengal, and their clothing ought to have been shipped on the 31st of March last, if it was to reach them in time; it is now impossible that it can reach them.

6528. Did those delays occur under the old system?—Never, the clothing was invariably shipped by the times I have mentioned.

6529. (*Chairman*.) You are now speaking in the interest of the regiments who, you say, have not had their clothing in time?—Yes; if the clothing has not been shipped—I am speaking generally—till six or eight months after it ought to have been shipped, it must necessarily have reached them late. It will take considerable time before you have returns from the regiments abroad.

6530. Did the same delay take place in the preceding year?—I can state positively that the clothing of the regiments for 1857–8 and 1858–9 has all been very late, and was shipped too late to reach the regiments on the 1st of April, when the clothing is due.

6531. (*Colonel French*.) Have the regiments at home made the same complaint of not getting their clothes in time?—The regiments at home have always had it before the 1st of April; they have not had it by the 31st of December, which was the time fixed; but I am speaking more of the regiments abroad, where the clothing has to be shipped.

6532. In that case, if they only got it on the 1st of April, there must have been great delay in issuing to the troops, because it could not have been ready to be issued?—I believe that to have been the case. I

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cannot speak of particular instances, but I remember hearing of several regiments.

6533. (*Chairman.*) I presume that fact must be perfectly well known to the quartermasters of the regiments at Aldershot?—Yes, as regards their own regiments. I do not think it applies nearly so much to regiments at home as to regiments abroad.

6534. (*Mr. Turner.*) I believe you wish to give some explanation of the reasons why these delays have taken place in obtaining payment at the War Office?—Yes; a delivery note was sent with the supplies to Mark Lane, and an inspection note to Weedon, from whence it was forwarded to Mark Lane; and on the inspection of the supplies, the result was entered thereon, and it was returned to Weedon; after which a notification of this result was furnished us from Weedon, showing the quantities approved and rejected. When the total quantities ordered in any given warrant were covered, as approved by these notifications, a bill or bills, if the articles were under different contracts, was forwarded together with the warrant to Weedon; and these, after having been examined and found correct, were transmitted to the War Office, when, after a second examination, authority was granted us to draw a bill at seven days sight on the paymaster-general. Amongst others, two circumstances particularly operated to retard the payment of the amounts: when the supplies had been inspected at Mark Lane, and any portion of them had been rejected, a memorandum of the quantities rejected was forwarded from the Tower, but without particularizing to what specific order these rejections referred; and as we had frequently several orders for the same regiment in course of delivery, we were of course unable to quote the date and number of the order for the rejected articles. And in the majority of cases, the quantities received back from Mark Lane differed from those stated, both on the memorandum of rejections and in the notification from Weedon; generally, therefore, neither the officials at Weedon nor ourselves could ascertain when the orders to which they belonged were completed. The complexity in the accounts was further augmented from the principal military storekeepers having, in the month of October last, notified to us that inspection notes for rejected articles would not be required for the future, while at a subsequent date we were again instructed to send them. The result has been that a large amount of orders, though completed long since, remain to this day unpaid for want of sufficient notifications. In many cases, although the supplies have passed inspection, and the delivery and inspection notes have been duly forwarded, the corresponding notifications have not been received; while in other cases, although orders have been fully notified, and reference made thereto on our bills, they have for months remained unpaid, and not a few still remain so.

6535. Will not it take a considerable time to arrange with the War Office and with the people at Weedon what your claims really are, although the goods have been delivered?—We have given them a list of all our claims.

6536. Were not they quite aware of what your claims were from their own accounts?—I think not.

6537. Had they to apply to you for a statement of what your claims upon them for money really are?—No; but like any other case, if a person is in debt to you, you have to look him up to get him to pay.

6538. In point of fact, you have had to "dun" them?—That is the truth.

6539. According to your statement, they do not really seem to know what your claims are?—No; but the orders given to us are the test of what we have delivered, and by seeing what they have shipped; if they have ordered a regiment's clothing of us, and it has been shipped; they pass our accounts in that way.

6540. Have they no means of checking your accounts, except by knowing that such articles were

shipped, and you must have been the party who supplied them?—I believe that to be the case.

6541. How much is outstanding?—On the 1st of October it was about 15,000*l.* When money was at 10 per cent., I think they owed us about 40,000*l.*

6542. At what rate do you claim interest for being kept out of your money when it was at the rate of 10 per cent.?—I shall be very glad if we get 5 per cent.

6543. (*Colonel French.*) From whom did you get notice to make the clothing for the 95th regiment?—From the War Office.

6544. From whom at the War Office?—The warrant was signed by Mr. Ramsay, Director of Stores and Clothing.

6545. Was not it from the Director of Contracts?—No, he would make the contract with us to make up the clothing.

6546. When was the contract made for the clothing of the 95th regiment?—The original contract, I think, was made in August 1856, and that is continued for the next year in April 1857.

6547. When were you appointed to furnish the 95th regiment?—The only appointment we had was the warrant ordering the clothing on the 24th of August 1857.

6548. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you had occasionally very great difficulty in getting your articles inspected at Weedon?—Yes.

6549. And you have been kept out of very large sums of money in consequence of that delay?—Yes.

6550. Who could have facilitated the progress of affairs to enable you to get paid?—I do not know.

6551. Where did the delay arise?—The delay arose between Weedon and Mark Lane, if it were a contract for making up.

6552. Did you find it necessary to remonstrate with the inspectors when they were unreasonably long in getting your goods passed?—No; we have had very little communication in any way with the inspectors. We occasionally wrote to Mr. Elliott when he was the principal military storekeeper at Weedon. The common process was to see Mr. Howell or Mr. Garrett in Pall Mall, and ask them verbally if they could do something to put the accounts forward.

6553. I ask you this question pointedly; did you in your intercourse with any of those individuals, either at Weedon, Mark Lane, or elsewhere, take any means to facilitate matters by making things as the expression is "smooth"?—No, we have not.

6554. "Bribery" is a hard word, but have there been any douceurs given, or any modes employed of inducing good temper and readiness in dealing with your goods?—No, not anything of the kind.

6555. In any way, directly or indirectly?—No.

6556. It has been suggested in your case?—I think it right to mention, as you have asked the question of other witnesses with reference to Mr. Hebdon, that we purchased a testing machine of him, and also a measuring machine, but the reason we did so was that we found his test was applied to our cloths by the War Office officially; they measured our cloths by that machine, and of course we had no option for our own protection but to get the same thing.

6557. Is it not stated in the specification that cloth must bear a certain strain in Mr. Hebdon's machine?—They did not at that time have that in the contract; they do now.

6558. You think the use of those machines at Weedon almost involves the necessity of the contractor purchasing them from Mr. Hebdon?—I do not see how we could do otherwise.

6559. As the Government paid Mr. Hebdon for very important duties only 110*l.* a-year, perhaps they thought that might be the means through the contractors of increasing his salary to something like an adequate amount?—I cannot imagine that that was the idea of the War Office.

6560. It had that effect, had it not?—I think so.

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6561. (*Chairman.*) You were examined before the Contracts' Committee?—Yes.

6562. I think you were in some way connected through marriage with Mr. Elliott?—Not with Mr. Elliott himself; my wife was a niece of Mrs. Elliott by her first husband, that is the only connexion that I had with him.

6563. Did you go to Weedon with Mr. Elliott, or shortly after?—About six months afterwards.

6564. (*Mr. Turner.*) Who appointed you?—I was appointed by Lord Panmure.

6565. At whose recommendation?—Mr. Elliott's and Sir Thomas Troubridge's.

6566. (*Chairman.*) What were your duties when you got there?—I went there as a temporary clerk. My first duties were to examine invoices and make myself acquainted with the general duties of the office.

6567. What had been your previous occupation?—For some years past I had had the management of extensive smelting works both at home and abroad.

6568. Where were the smelting works?—Some in Devonshire, and also at Millwall under the British and Colonial Company. I was sent down into Devonshire to wind the affair up. Previously to that I was clerk in some extensive ironworks in the north of England. I had the management of the books and accounts there.

6569. Were the establishments you speak of extensive?—The ironworks in the north of England employed about 500 workmen; the establishment at which I was latterly employed about 100.

6570. Are you familiar with the proper system of book-keeping?—Yes.

6571. And storekeeping?—Yes.

6572. How soon was it that you were appointed to the charge of the contract ledger branch at Weedon?—I think I took the management of the three branches about August 1856.

6573. We will not take you through the evidence you have given before, unless you desire to make any alteration in it; do you adhere to what you said when you were before the Contracts' Committee?—Yes, I have not seen any reason to alter the evidence that I gave at that time.

6574. You are desirous I believe of making some statement with reference to your position at Weedon, and what took place there?—Yes. With reference to the recent investigations at Weedon, and the evidence given by Mr. Assistant Military Storekeeper Munro, as published in the public journals, respecting the manner in which the accounts generally were kept, but more especially those of the contract branch under my charge, I beg to submit the following observations.

When the establishment was definitely formed at Weedon in October 1856, a staff considered adequate to conduct the duties of the station was appointed, and I was placed in charge of the contract, issue, and ledger branches, with the following books for keeping an account of the transactions connected with the branches under my charge:—

Contract Ledgers.—A record of all contracts made and all supplies received from contractors, with the quantities approved and rejected.

Regimental Ledgers.—A record of all requisitions for clothing made by the officers commanding regiments, showing the quantities issued, with the dates of their fulfilment.

Inspection Journal.—A daily entry of all receipts from contractors, showing the result of inspection.

Issue Journal.—A daily entry of all issues made to regiments and contractors for making up clothing.

As the exigencies of the service became more developed, the duties increased so rapidly, that the staff at first deemed sufficient for the performance of the duties of the establishment, soon became inadequate for the purpose, and in answer to an urgent application for further assistance, made in March 1857,

three temporary clerks were appointed, but this accession of strength was perfectly inadequate to relieve the branches under my charge from the rapidly increasing duties devolving upon them. Arrears began consequently to accumulate, and in order to economise our strength, those books considered at the time of lesser importance were given up, it being a physical impossibility to retain all the necessary books in operation, although the attendance of each officer had averaged 12 hours per day for some months past.

On the arrival of Mr. Military Storekeeper Tatum in September 1857 he immediately saw the necessity that existed for further clerical assistance; in consequence of his representations made through Mr. Elliott to the War Office, an addition of 10 clerks was granted, and a further addition of 10 on the recommendation of Major Marvin, making, with those appointed with Mr. Tatum, viz., Mr. Munro and four clerks, a staff of 42, to conduct the duties of the establishment in lieu of 11, who were thought competent to perform the duties allotted to them. Had it not been for the strenuous and unremitting exertions of those originally appointed, the confusion and arrears must have been much greater than it was, and the only surprise is that instead of the accounts being imperfectly kept, any were kept at all.

An idea may be formed of the immense amount of labour and detail devolving upon the staff of the Weedon establishment, that for the year ending the 31st March last 48,500 documents were registered as received, all of which had to be acted upon in one way or another; the greater portion of those documents referred to the branches under my charge.

I made frequent and urgent applications to Mr. Elliott for further assistance, who sometimes assured me that he made application to the War Office; I have now reason to believe that such was not the case, and that his applications were not forwarded so frequently as represented by him.

With respect to a portion of the evidence given before you by Mr. Munro on the 2nd instant reflecting upon the manner in which the Contract Branch had been conducted, I beg to make the following remarks:—

1st. With regard to the irregular transfer of boots supplied by Messrs. Isaac and Co. from one contract to another, this was done at the particular request of that firm and under Mr. Elliott's orders. Messrs. Isaac and Co. in addition to their contracts for boots also had an extensive one for soldiers' kits, of which boots form a portion. According to the terms of their former contract, they would have to supply, say, 4,000 pairs monthly, but would probably deliver 1,000 to 2,000 pairs more; under their contract for kits they were under a heavy penalty to make certain deliveries within specified periods, and being deficient on their supply of boots would request the surplus deliveries made on their boot contract to be transferred to the one for kits. The transfers were always noted in the contract ledger. The claim made by Messrs. Isaac and Co. for the two deliveries of boots, viz., for 1,000 pairs and 500, was under investigation at the time I was transferred from Weedon to Mark Lane; I did not, however, feel justified in granting a certificate for the payment until further inquiry had been made.

2nd. The statement of arrears made out for Major Marvin's information was, I believe, substantially correct at the time it was given to that gentleman, the claims due from contractors not having been received until some time afterwards.

3rd. In Aug. 1856 I commenced, with Mr. Elliott's concurrence, an issue journal (not on the Ordnance system), which gave a detailed account of each day's issuing with the contents of each package; the store ledger might have been posted from this book; it, however, got into arrears, when it ceased to be of service as a daily record of issues.

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4th. I also wished to commence a receipt journal on the same principle. This did not, however, meet with Mr. Elliott's sanction, who considered that the register of deliveries from contractors would answer the same purpose, an opinion in which I did not agree, inasmuch as this register did not show the amount of stores received from regiments.

5th. It is stated in evidence that great laxity existed in the contract account. This assertion I believe to be incorrect, as two different examinations of different books have been made by gentlemen from the War Office, who, as far as I have ascertained have only discovered one discrepancy; this partial examination is therefore, rather in favour of their accuracy than otherwise, and a strict examination would in my opinion tend to strengthen this belief.

It ought to be borne in mind that many of these ledgers were kept by clerks without any previous experience in book-keeping, and that no opportunity was given for checking the entries for want of assistance.

The above is but a very brief outline of the many difficulties with which I had to contend, and drawn up in consequence of the visit of the Royal Commissioners to Mark Lane this morning.

6575. (*Mr. Turner.*) You say that Mr. Elliott made application for and obtained ten additional clerks, and Major Marvin was the means of your having ten more?—Yes.

6576. What were those clerks set to do?—They were absorbed in the general duties of the office in meeting the current work.

6577. Did they make no attempt whatever to fetch up those arrears?—Yes, they did certainly.

6578. Did they make any progress in doing it?—Not until some time afterwards.

6579. After when?—They had been there a few weeks before they began to make any perceptible impression upon the arrears.

6580. Were they of any value when they did come?—Some were very good men, and some were very indifferent.

6581. Where did they come from?—They were sent down by the authorities at the War Office. I really cannot say where they came from at all.

6582. At 100*l.* a year each?—Yes.

6583. How many of them were of very little value?—That I cannot say.

6584. Can you form no idea? were half of them valueless?—I cannot make such a sweeping assertion as that.

6585. Were one-tenth? fix upon any number you like?—There were perhaps three or four that might be very much inferior to the others; certainly there were some very clever men amongst them, and others the contrary.

6586. Until you got this assistance you did keep regularly for some time the contract ledger, the regimental ledger, the inspection journal, and the issue journal, but in consequence of being so very short-handed you had to abandon some of the books which were of less importance; which of those four important books were abandoned?—The issue journal was abandoned first.

6587. The issue journal being abandoned, was the result that you had no record of the articles you were sending out of the place?—We had a record, but unfortunately they were on loose papers; those loose papers ought to have been posted into this issue journal day by day.

6588. What became of the loose papers?—We endeavoured to keep them together as much as we possibly could.

6589. Were they filed or pasted in a guard book, or in what way were they kept together?—They were strapped together between millboards and numbered consecutively.

6590. Why should any derangement of those documents occur, if they were kept strapped together in a book? Were they taken out for any other purpose?—They were occasionally taken out for reference.

6591. Were they sent anywhere?—Not out of the office.

6592. Why should they not all still be in consecutive numbers?—When they were first acted upon they were sent up to the stores. Those documents to which I allude were orders to the issuing clerk, to issue certain stores, and perhaps a portion of those stores might be issued at one time, and another portion some time afterwards; and it might be some weeks before the whole order was completed from the want of having the requisite stores on the premises.

6593. Were those documents afloat from one department to another without being copied or recorded anywhere, until by some chance they got back into your boards to be strapped together again?—We had counterparts in a guard book from which they were cut.

6594. You had two copies, and you never parted with one series of those documents?—No.

6595. What difficulty would there be in writing up a journal from these documents now?—It would require the one that was sent up to the stores to be acted upon to see that the order had been complied with.

6596. When it went up to the issue department to be acted upon, what became of it?—The clerk there would, if he had the goods in store, issue them, and return this document to the office, stating that the order had been completed at such a date, giving the number of bales or packages in which the goods had been sent away.

6597. Did he do that?—Yes.

6598. When he had executed his order, and sent his document back duly noted that it had been acted upon, what became of it?—It was then posted into our issue journal.

6599. I understood you to say, that you had abandoned the keeping of such a journal?—I am speaking of the period when we had no arrears; after having been posted into this issue journal it was sent to the ledger branch to be also posted in the store ledger.

6600. That was when your system was tolerably perfect?—Yes.

6601. When you discontinued making any entry into the issue journal, and therefore had no issue journal to send up to be posted into the ledger, what became of the documents? Did not you still more carefully preserve them, as they were the only documents you had to guide you?—They were always taken care of.

6602. How were they taken care of?—By being put between millboards and tied together. I have no doubt that those documents are in the office at Weedon in some shape or other.

6603. We were given to understand by Commissary-General Adams, that he has to send to regiments in all parts of the world to get those documents before he can tell anything about what has been issued; how do you account for that?—That would be to check the Weedon accounts.

6604. It appears that they have not got the original documents which purport to be records of the issues?—I think, if a proper investigation was made at Weedon, the original documents would be forthcoming upon which the issues were made.

6605. We are led to understand that there is inextricable confusion at present with respect to what has been issued, which would have been obviated, possibly, if you had continued to keep your issue journal. You abandoned your issue journal; what other book was abandoned from the want of the means of keeping it?—The regimental ledger was not actually abandoned, but we could allow that to get into more arrear than any of the remaining books.

6606. In fact it was not kept at all, I suppose?—Not upon the system that it ought to have been, I must confess.

6607. Was it kept upon any system whatever?—Yes.

6608. Were any entries made in it?—Yes, some.

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6609. Why were some entries made and not others ?

—That was owing to the pressure upon the office.

6610. Is it of any value as a book of record now ?

—I am afraid not very much.

6611. What other book, besides the issue journal and the regimental ledger, was abandoned ?—I do not think there was any other abandoned.

6612. Was the inspection journal regularly kept ?

—Yes.

6613. And the contract ledger ?—Yes.

6614. The general store ledger was not professed to be kept ?—The gentleman appointed to keep that ledger was very often called away from that duty to more pressing business.

6615. There was no such book regularly kept, or even any approach to keeping it regularly ?—There was one commenced, but it got into arrear like everything else.

6616. (*Chairman.*) Who was the person whose special duty it was to keep the store ledger ?—Mr. Angell.

6617. (*Mr. Turner.*) At the time Mr. Elliott was examined before the Parliamentary Committee, on the occasion when he had to produce some documents, was not there a considerable discussion at Weedon as to the means of making up some sort of account or return for the Committee ? were not you a good deal engaged with Mr. Elliott at that time in preparing him to give evidence before the Committee ?—There was a general impression upon the Committee that there were no books whatever kept. Although I do not think Mr. Elliott thought much about the system generally, he still wished to show that he had a system upon which he could show a transaction from beginning to end, and I certainly assisted with one or two other gentlemen in taking the issues of cloth from Weedon to the contractors to be made up, the inspection, and immediately after the inspection was completed, the issue to the regiments themselves ? that was all traced from *bonâ fide* documents ; there was no attempt at duplicity at all, in my opinion, in that respect. We offered to take any other item.

6618. Were not you engaged in getting up the case for the Committee ?—Yes.

6619. Was not it rather a difficult business to make out the case ?—No, I did not find it very difficult.

6620. Was not a man of the name of Holland applied to as the person who could give the most reliable information with respect to the cloth ?—I believe Mr. Elliott applied to him ; but as far as the issues were concerned that I wanted to make out, I did not require to go out of the office for the information I wished to show to the committee, because I had it perfectly straightforward.

6621. Had you Holland's book ?—It was brought down into the office, and I think Mr. Elliott looked at it.

6622. Was it found to be not quite regularly kept ?—It did not extend to any period ; I think the time he kept it was very short.

6623. As an experienced person in book-keeping, and as an officer a good deal engaged in the department at that time, are not you of opinion that the book-keeping was highly unsatisfactory ?—I never wished to express any other opinion—the books were very unsatisfactory—at the same time, it has been the general impression that not even any attempt was made to keep the books.

6624. Were many valuable books really kept ?—They would have been valuable if we had had adequate strength to have kept them.

6625. Having had experience in book-keeping, do you think the means exist now of properly balancing the books, so that the public may rely upon the correctness of a statement derived from them ?—I must give a qualified sort of answer to that question ; I should say that the means exist of making a very close approximate balance of the books ; I would not say that it would be a correct one.

6626. Is the balance of the books of any use if it is not correct ?—Certainly not much ; I could only give

a qualified answer ; at the same time, a great deal may be done towards correcting them.

6627. Is it not the case that the persons engaged in making up the books can record such documents as may happen to be found upon the spot or which may be obtained from other places, but that they cannot depend upon ever getting a complete record of all the transactions ?—I must confess that I think there may be some exceptions in which you cannot get a complete record.

6628. May not there have been many transactions of which there never can be any record obtained ?—There may be a few. I do not think there are many. Perhaps you will allow me to state in what cases I think there is no record ; I allude more particularly to the receipts of clothing from the militia when they were disbanded in 1856. The clothing and necessaries were sent in without any letter of advice from the regiments, and it was impossible to say where it came from or to what account to place it. I think that is the only instance in which, so far as my recollection goes, the accounts will be found deficient.

6629. (*Colonel French.*) Would not the buttons have shown you where the clothing came from ?—Yes ; but there was a great quantity of necessaries as well.

6630. Would not the packages have shown where they came from ?—Yes, they did in many instances, and we gave credit, but there were some which we could by no means trace where they had been received from. There were many instances in which we could not trace where the necessaries came from. Of course we could always trace where the clothing came from by the buttons on the tunics.

6631. (*Chairman.*) Was there no entry made in any book of unknown stores ?—I am not aware that there was one.

6632. A book of that description is kept at present, but if no corresponding book was kept formerly, will not the effect of such receipts without acknowledgment be rather to show a surplus than a deficiency ?—It will.

6633. Have you any of the books which were kept at Weedon with you ?—Yes.

6634. What books have you ?—I have the contract ledgers for the line clothing for 1857–8, 1858–9, and 1859–60. (*The witness explained the entries to the Commissioners. A second book was produced.*)

6635. (*Chairman.*) When did you commence keeping this second book ?—About May or June 1857. (*The witness explained the book to the Commissioners.*) (*Witness.*) We experienced great difficulty in getting our reports of inspection from Mark Lane ; that is one of the evils of having a branch inspection depôt separate from the main stores, and that gave rise to all those irregularities in the posting.

6636. Did the inspection notes remain in your charge ?—After Mr. Munro took charge of the ledger branch they were sent to him. They were first sent to my office, and as soon as they were posted in this ledger they were sent to the ledger branch ; previously to that I retained them in my office till the account was paid. I had to check the certificate that we had received the articles for which the certificate was given. (*A third book was produced.*)

6637. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was this book kept at Weedon ?—For a short time it was.

6638. Has this book any relation to the old Weedon régime ?—None whatever ; I had the book in the office before Mr. Elliott left, but no entries were made in it.

6639. Did Captain Gordon desire you to make any entries in it ?—Yes ; but I procured the book expressly for the clothing of 1859–60 which is coming in now.

6640. (*Chairman.*) Did you get this book by Mr. Elliott's directions ?—I drew out the form of it myself, and submitted it to Mr. Elliott, and he sent it off and got the book made.

6641. (*Mr. Turner.*) Does the contractor, until he has completed his order and returned his warrant

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with a memorandum on the back of the way in which the order has been executed, get paid for any part of his supply?—Sometimes.

6642. Must not your certificate tally with the warrant?—Yes.

6643. If it did not I suppose the contractor would not be paid?—No; it would be returned to us for alteration.

6644. (*Chairman.*) Is this merely a regimental ledger?—A regimental contract ledger; there are contract ledgers for boots, cloth, kits, and for almost every store that we receive. I merely brought this book to show that we have made some improvement. We were obliged to keep the contract ledger up under any circumstances, otherwise we should have had no record whatever of any transaction.

6645. You have mentioned in the statement which was read that you had reason to suppose that Mr. Elliott did not ask for such assistance as he told you he would ask for. What is your reason now for supposing that Mr. Elliott did not ask for additional help?—Because I had some conversation with Mr. Moore, a first-class clerk, upon the subject, and he told me in the course of conversation that Mr. Elliott had not forwarded the papers which he said he had done. I have since heard through other sources that Mr. Ramsay did not receive those letters.

6646. We have it in evidence from Mr. Ramsay that all the applications for assistance mentioned in Mr. Elliott's letter appended to Major Marvin's report were really made by him?—Mr. Elliott told me that previously to those applications he had made a great many more; I allude to other letters.

6647. Have you any reason to doubt that he had made the applications that are mentioned in the letter?—I fully believe that he made those applications.

6648. (*Colonel French.*) Do you know whether the clerks who were sent to Weedon, had previously served in any public department?—I believe some were from the War Office, but many were not; I do not know what their previous employment had been.

6649. Can you tell whether those who were official clerks were from the War Office?—The majority were.

6650. (*Chairman.*) Supposing the books which you have now produced had been kept accurately, would there be any difficulty in making a store ledger from them?—None whatever.

6651. Did you keep the books accurately which you have mentioned, in which you brought on charge the amounts contracted for?—Yes.

6652. With the exception of returns from militia, and possibly from regiments, that book does really give a record of the actual amounts furnished under the contracts?—Yes, I believe those books are very correct; certainly the early books are very rough and roughly kept, from the reasons I have stated, but I believe they give a correct record of every transaction.

6653. (*Mr. Turner.*) You enter the warrant or the order that has been given on the debit side of the contract ledger, do you not?—Yes.

6654. And then the contractor has to account for the delivery of the quantity contained in that warrant?—He has.

6655. In a contract for boots, for example, do you derive your credit entirely from the inspection note, or from what document?—From the inspection note.

6656. That would state how many were supplied, how many approved, and how many rejected?—Yes.

6657. Do you place to the credit of the contractor in the ledger the number of articles which have been approved?—Yes.

6658. The contractor is required to supply until he has sent a sufficient number of approved articles to meet the warrant?—Yes.

6659. When you make an entry to the credit of the contractor in the contract ledger, what document

do you post from?—We post from the inspection note, which is signed by a viewer and an inspector.

6660. Then the person who keeps that contract ledger has nothing more to do than to post that note as a clerk?—Nothing more whatever.

6661. Could not any youth of common intellect keep that contract ledger, and post the inspection note? he would have no interest in falsifying the contract?—None.

6662. It would rest with the inspector, I imagine, if there were any falsification of the contract?—Yes.

6663. (*Chairman.*) Is this the paper from which you enter (*handing a paper to the witness*)? Mr. Hebdon and two viewers purport to have received those things?—They do, and we post from those things. We mark upon it the folio of our contractors' ledger.

6664. It would appear from that document, that four persons must have been a party to a fraud, if there was any fraud?—As I have endeavoured to explain, it would require at present four persons to falsify the accounts.

6665. (*Colonel French.*) In a contract for boots do the contractors supply so many boots for a particular regiment, or in the gross?—In the gross.

6666. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were you present when those books were brought up and laid before the Committee?—Yes.

6667. Who were present from Weedon on that occasion besides you?—Mr. Moore, Mr. Angell, Mr. Gibbon, and myself. I think that was all.

6668. Was not it considered among you at the time, that Mr. Elliott had been able to give a satisfactory account to the Committee?—Yes.

6669. Mr. Elliott was rather pleased, was not he, that he had made "things pleasant"?—I think he was gratified that he had been able to show a straightforward transaction from the original books and documents.

6670. (*Chairman.*) All the entries that Mr. Elliott referred to are correct as I understand; only he persuaded the Committee that the effect of those entries was a great deal more than it really was, because he stated certain entries to be checks which in reality were no checks—is that so?—I believe the only thing in which he misled the Committee was with regard to the system of checking to the extent that he stated it.

6671. Can you undertake to say that all the entries to which he referred were *bonâ fide* entries extracted from the books?—Yes; we had the original books up with us.

6672. And I think the Committee traced the transaction for themselves?—Yes.

6673. (*Mr. Turner.*) The Committee thought the books indicated a much better state of things than really existed, did not they?—Yes.

6674. Supposing an inspection note was brought up to you of 500 pairs of approved boots to be posted, do you give a certificate for those 500 pairs?—Yes.

6675. What would prevent you from giving a certificate for 600 pairs?—Simply because the receipt would not appear in the approved portion of the inspection note, and if I were called upon to produce the inspection note to verify the certificate, I should be detected at once.

6676. Were the entries ever checked over?—Yes.

6677. Who checked them over?—Any clerk in the office whom I could find at liberty to check them.

6678. Can you show any contract ledger that is kept at Weedon checked in that way?—I am not aware that there are any marks in the ledger itself to show that it had been checked.

6679. In what way was the check made?—A clerk would take the certificate in one hand and compare it.

6680. Is it not usual, in checking accounts, to put a red ink tick to indicate that there has been a check?—Upon the inspection notes you will find the initials of the gentleman who checked the posting in the contract ledger.

6681. Were not two clerks employed in the checking, one with the document in his hand, calling it

over against the book, and the other looking at the book?—One person was sufficient, not being the person who made the original entry.

6682. Do not you think that it is necessary to employ two persons in checking books?—It may be in many instances.

6683. Is it not in all instances, in checking one document with another document, to have two eyes, two heads, and two minds at work?—Yes. I could only employ one when I was at Weedon; I employ two at present. At that time I only employed one, because I could not spare any more persons to do it. I have two initials upon the inspection note now, one of the person who posts the result of the inspection, and of the other who examines it with him afterwards.

6684. (*Chairman.*) Supposing you tick the entries off in the regular mercantile way, one person reading and another checking, there being certain initials upon the inspection note, are they the initials of the person who has read the document or of the person who has made the entry in the contract ledger?—The initials of both are upon the inspection note.

6685. (*Mr. Turner.*) Supposing the ledger had

been kept regularly, there was no check upon the ledger keeper at Weedon?—No.

6686. Not till the ledger came up to the War Office?—I must speak under correction. When the ledger was sent up to the War Office, it was not under my charge at all. I have not seen it for some months, and I do not know what system of checking it has undergone; I believe it has been properly checked with the documents.

6687. (*Chairman.*) The store ledger, in point of fact, never was sent up in Mr. Elliott's time?—There was one ledger sent up about the time he left; I cannot charge my memory whether it was before or after.

6688. (*Mr. Turner.*) Until the ledger is checked, and the balance compared with the remain that was bodily taken charge of by Captain Gordon, can you tell anything about its accuracy?—No; it comes to that.

6689. (*Chairman.*) I understand you to say so far as the supplies to regiments are concerned, the documents which you have now produced may be compared with the ledger?—Yes, there is in fact a column for reference with the store ledger by which each entry can be traced immediately.

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Adjourned to To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

LONDON.

Thursday, 7th October 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. HENRY GOODENOUGH HAYTER examined.

6690. (*Chairman.*) Are you a partner in the house of Hayter and Howell?—I am.

6691. That house has been engaged as army packers for a considerable time; I believe?—Since 1753.

6692. Had you the exclusive packing for the army under the old system, or nearly so?—If you will allow me, I will state to you what were the duties of our house during different periods. In 1753 we were employed not only for packing clothing for the army, but also hospital stores, bedding, blankets, and all those things which are now packed at the store department at the Tower. In 1809, the storekeeper-general's department was formed; and then the hospital stores, the bedding and so forth, which are now called "stores," as distinguished from regimental clothing, were taken away from us, and we packed regimental clothing only. In 1818 the storekeeper-general endeavoured also to take the clothing from us, so that it should form part of the stores, and be conducted, inspected, and issued under his care; but the Duke of York, the then Commander-in-Chief, strongly expressed his disapproval of that measure, and consequently it was abandoned. In 1826 the storekeeper-general's department was abolished on account of great losses to the public by the sale of surplus stores and other great expenses. It was found to be a great waste of public money, and it was abolished, and the stores were then placed under the care of the Board of Ordnance. We were then employed by the colonels for packing the clothing of the army. We did not pack the whole of that clothing, inasmuch as the regiments which were supplied by Messrs. Hebbert and Co. had their clothing packed by that firm, with the exception of one or two regiments where the colonels preferred the clothing being sent to us as a greater security.

It was our duty at that time to receive the clothing from the clothier under the direction of the agents, who furnished us with accounts of what orders they had received and had issued to the clothiers. It was our business to see that those orders were delivered in time, and to report to the agents when they were so delivered, or to report to the agents if they were not delivered in proper time. The clothing was at that time inspected at the houses of the clothiers, and we after having reported upon the receipt of the clothing, ascertained what were the proper stations for the clothing to be sent to, and under the orders of the agents we packed it for the service for which it was intended, whether for India, the colonies, or home service, and despatched it accordingly. We kept an exact account of the receipts from the clothiers of the army, and the issues which we made under the orders of the agents; in fact we were the store keepers. We sent invoices to the agents, showing them what we had done with the clothing which we had received. We also sent letters of advice to the officers commanding regiments, and invoices of the contents of each package. In fact we conducted the whole business of receiving, packing, and issuing army clothing. In addition to that, we certified the bills of the clothier by comparison with our books. We always kept an exact account of what was delivered to us, and we were responsible that those bills were correct. We still keep the same accounts, although we do not certify the clothiers' bills.

6693. Who paid you?—The accounts were made out in the name of the colonels, and settled by the agents. We were employed in that way up to 1854, when Mr. Sidney Herbert made the change relieving the colonels of the duty of supplying the army clothing, and it then became necessary to provide for the receipt and packing of the clothing under Go-

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vernment orders. We were then appointed, by a letter from the Secretary-of-State for War, packers for the army. We then carried out the same duties, as under the colonels. We received from the clothiers and certified in the same way as under the colonels, with this exception only, that our accounts were paid at the War Office instead of by the agents. That system continued to the end of 1855, when the establishment at Weedon was formed. Under the new system contracts were entered into for cloth, and the cloth was received at Weedon; after which it was sent to London to the contractor to be made up; and in some cases where it was intended for home issue it was returned to Weedon; but where it was for issue to regiments abroad it was sent in to us. We then had to act under the instructions of the Weedon storekeepers. That course of proceeding continued up to the beginning of 1857, when it was proposed to take the whole of the clothing to Weedon, and that it should be taken out of our hands altogether, both for the army abroad and for the army at home. It was stated by the officers at Weedon that the public would save in point of expense by so doing. However, a representation was made to Lord Panmure upon the subject, by which it was proved not only that no saving would be made by the public, but that a very much greater expense would be incurred by the public if the clothing were sent to Weedon. In consequence of that representation we received a letter in April 1857, stating that the whole of the clothing both for issue to home regiments and regiments abroad would be delivered to us until the establishment at Weedon was given up, when other arrangements would be made. But our duties under that letter were different to what they were under the system of supply by the colonels. As those are the duties now performed by us, I will, with your permission, describe them. The clothing is not received by us from the contractors. It is received by Government inspectors, and we give accommodation in our premises for that purpose; they are the holders of it, and keep the store accounts. After inspecting the clothing, they hand it over to us for the purpose of packing. We also keep an account of it, so that our books are duplicates of theirs as regards the quantities. We give them vouchers for everything they hand over to us, and we give them also a daily report showing how we dispose of the clothing; in addition to that we make out invoices, which are sent to the War Office, of each sending of clothing; those invoices are sent from the War Office to the officers commanding regiments, and returned by them to the War Office with their signature of receipt in good condition. We send a letter of advice, and conduct all correspondence with the officers commanding as formerly, but we do not certify the tradesmen's bills; they are certified by the storekeeper, except that lately we have been called upon to certify some accounts of Messrs. Dolan which the storekeepers appear to be unable to certify by their own books; as a rule, we do not certify any tradesmen's bills.

6694. But have you the means of doing so in case the storekeepers' accounts should be defective?—We are quite ready to be responsible as we were under the old system.

6695. What does the Government pay you for the use of your premises?—Nothing; the charge for packing includes all the duties we perform and warehouse rent.

6696. (Mr. Turner.) Whether the accommodation which you afford the Government inspection department on your premises is charged as rent or in some other way, does not signify much to the public; but you take into consideration, do not you, in your contract, the rent you are subjected to on behalf of the Government?—Exactly. I merely wish that in judging of our charges you should understand that among other items of expense the rent is included in our charges of so much per coat.

6697. That may be a good reason that your charge for packing should be high, but still you do charge the rent?—Clearly; we do not profess to give the floors as a favour to the Government; it suits our purpose to do so.

6698. (Chairman.) You formerly packed for all the army clothiers except Messrs. Hebbert, you say?—We packed for the colonels; not under the orders of the clothiers; they had no voice in the matter.

6699. Of course Messrs. Hebbert or any house who did the packing charged for it?—I conclude they charged for it; either in the price of every article, or distinctly.

6700. Are your charges now as high or higher than they used to be?—I should say they were the same; they are reduced to a more regular tariff than they ever were before. At the time we acted under the agents there was no regular understanding as to what prices we should charge. Under the present system we have given in a regular tariff of our prices; so much a garment, according to the station where the regiments are sent; and on that tariff our charges are now based.

6701. Have you any objection to state the aggregate amount which is paid to you by the Government in respect of your packing?—I have a return showing what has been paid by Government during the last two years, both for packing and disbursements. I have given the two items separately.

The following return was handed in:

RETURN of the sums paid to Hayter and Howell, jun., for packing charges, carriage, and other disbursements on clothing, caps, and boots of the regiments of the line during the last two years.

For packing charges, from the 1st April 1856 to 31st March 1857	£	s.	d.
	-	3,755	16 1
For disbursements; i.e., carriage and shipping expenses, &c. during the same period	-	482	16 10
	£4,238	12	11

For packing charges, from the 1st April 1857 to 31st March 1858	-	5,295	18 1
For disbursements, as above, during the same period	-	1,279	0 0
	£6,574	18	1

6702. (Colonel French.) Did the expense represented by that return fall upon the public formerly?—Not directly upon the public. It was paid by the agents for the colonels out of the off reckonings, in the same way as our packing charges.

6703. (Chairman.) In comparing the cost of the present system of clothing the army with the cost of the old system, is it not proper to add your charges to the cost of the present system?—Yes; the public pay them.

6704. Is the estimate of 12,400*l.* in Messrs. Hebbert's paper, Appendix No. 9., to the last report of the Contracts' Committee, correct?—I think it is slightly in excess, but not much; it is about correct, including disbursements; but the disbursements should not be considered as forming part of the charge for packing; because, however the duties are conducted, the shipping and carriage will form a great part of the disbursements; the carriage to Ireland, which is a very heavy item, is included.

6705. Is it not fair in any such estimate as this, that there should be a corresponding entry for the cost of packing under a clothier's estimate?—I cannot say, because Messrs. Hebbert may have included the cost of packing in the price of the articles; the amount of disbursements I should say decidedly ought to be included; because I apprehend that they have not included carriage to Ireland, shipping expenses, and matters of that kind in their price. That is a question which they alone can answer.

6706. Do you insure?—No; the Government does not insure. Under the colonels' system we always insured the clothing; we did it for them.

6707. Both against fire and sea risk?—Under the colonels' system we did both; but neither now.

6708–10. In this estimate of Messrs. Hebbert an item is put down of so much per annum for the cost of insurance?—That would be to protect themselves.

6710. How many regiments do you pack for now?—The whole. You will observe that the estimate of that first year, 3,755*l.*, is under the mark; it is much more for packing. At that time, there being a large stock left over from the Crimea, they sent some of the clothing for the home regiments direct from Weedon.

6711. Is 5,295*l.* a nearer approximation?—I should say it would be the average. In the estimate submitted to the War Office we calculated that our average charge for packing was covered by 5,000*l.* This has been rather a fuller year, on account of the large number of regiments in India, and the necessity, therefore, for packing the majority of the clothing in the most expensive manner.

6712. Would 24*l.* a regiment be sufficient in your judgment?—No, certainly not.

6713. I want to put your cost against Messrs. Hebbert's: Messrs. Hebbert say that they can do it for 24*l.* a regiment?

6714. (*To Mr. Bischoff.*) Do you mean all packing?—The average would be considered. 24*l.* would cover the average for the India regiments. The Government in the Crimean war provided, as they always have done, the tonnage for the long shipping. 24*l.* in our view on the average would cover all the packing, taking the Indian service and the home service together.

Mr. Hayter.—I should say that the average would be about 32*l.* 10*s.* for the Indian, home, and Mediterranean services.

6715. Do you anticipate retaining the packing, whatever alteration may be made in the clothing of the army?—We have had an intimation to the contrary. We had a letter from Lord Panmure stating that on and after the 31st of March next, all the clothing will be packed in the Government storehouses. The letter goes on to say that in making that communication Lord Panmure is perfectly satisfied with the way in which we have conducted our duty under circumstances of great difficulty, as in the case of the Crimean war; and that it is only in consequence of the change in the system. I also think it right to mention that we have made an appeal to the Secretary of State for War to reconsider that decision, and it is now under consideration.

6716. Have you ever had any complaints of bad packing?—Perhaps it would be impossible to say that we have never had any complaints of bad packing. Reports may have come home from regiments in India that in some instances the clothing may have been damaged; a bale may have been torn open, and they may call that bad packing.

6717. We are anxious that there should not be any possible mistake upon a subject that has been deposed to by Whitham. The impression may have gone abroad from his evidence that bales were sent out to China or India without proper wrappers. Has all the foreign packing of made-up clothing been done by you the last two or three years?—It has all passed through our hands, I believe. There may have been instances of clothing sent from Weedon to regiments going on board ship.

6718. Has all the clothing that has gone from your establishment to the army abroad been properly packed in tarpaulin and everything that is necessary?—I consider so. We have not always considered it necessary to repack the clothing sent to us from Weedon, but where we considered it not sufficiently protected we have repacked it, because we consider ourselves responsible.

6719. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were bales for India or

China ever sent off by you in the state in which they left Weedon?—No.

6720. To what part of the world were they forwarded in the state in which they left Weedon?—I do not think any bales were forwarded in the state in which they left Weedon, with the exception of some great coat bales; with respect to which we asked the opinion of the War Department, and they said it never had been the practice to pack great coats in tarpauling, and therefore we were not to pack them in tarpauling. I was referring to casks of boots, which we have sent to the Mediterranean and to some other stations not repacked.

6721. To what part of the world were the bales of great coats sent that were not packed in tarpauling?—I think it was Australia; they were sent in the state in which they left Weedon, packed in single canvass and paper. I believe that has been always the principle at the Tower.

6722. Would you think of sending bales of great coats from your establishment to Australia, except you had orders to that effect, so slightly protected as with single wrappers and paper?—Certainly not.

6723. Then if those bales were complained of when they arrived at their destination as being badly packed, the fault would rest with the Government department and not with you?—Clearly; we had authority for sending them as they were.

6724. (*Chairman.*) Do you conceive that the books which you keep will furnish exact and correct information of everything that has come into and gone out of your warehouse?—Yes.

6725. Can you give a statement of what those books consist?—The first is the receiving book (I am now speaking of our present mode of receiving from the Government inspector), which is a large book, with headings for each regiment, with the articles placed along the top; sergeants' tunics, privates' tunics, and so forth. We receive the clothing from the Government upon issue vouchers.

6726. Are the articles counted by the person who represents you as storekeeper?—Yes. We become responsible from the time that the voucher is found correct by him.

6727. Does he initial that voucher?—Yes; then the voucher so initialed is entered in our receiving book, a corresponding receipt is handed to the Government; and when the shipment is made, the receipts are simply written off from our shipping book, in which shipping book every shipment and every sending out of the house is entered. The entry that is made in the shipping book of the order to go out of the house, is the basis of chronicling our sendings away.

6728. What evidence have you that the goods have been received by the regiments?—None; we never had the practice of having any other evidence; we have never heard to the contrary. The War Office have evidence, inasmuch as the colonels return the invoices to them with their signatures.

6729. (*Mr. Turner.*) In fact you do not consider it part of your duty as packers to do anything more than to have proper vouchers signed by your own men, and entered into your own books, as to what you receive, and to have a similar entry of what you discharge in the shape of bales packed, for which I suppose you hold somebody's receipt?—The carrier's receipt, and the bill of lading in the case of shipment. We have a double check. The foreman who receives the clothing initials the voucher; and again, when the packer has to find that clothing to pack it into bales, he has to verify it with his account, which is put into our packing book.

6730. There is a double check in your own possession?—Yes.

6731. Do you consider it any part of your duty to furnish the Government with accounts as to what has become of the goods after you have discharged yourselves of them?—We state that they were shipped by such a ship for such a destination; we hand in the bill of lading proving the invoice, giving the particulars of it.

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6732. Your responsibility becomes that of receivers?—Yes.

6733. (*Chairman.*) Your only evidence of discharging yourself from the goods, would be the bill of lading signed by the ship's captain?—Yes; the Government have this check, that the ship cannot get her freight until that bill of lading is brought back signed by the consignee, in proof of his having safely received the packages.

6734. (*Mr. Turner.*) Your books may prove extremely useful in checking the Government books if they have not been properly kept, so far as the goods passing through your hands are concerned?—Yes.

6735. That is all you profess to do?—At present that is the whole scope of our duties. Under the old system we were storekeepers entirely; in fact we are equally responsible now for the goods after they are handed to us by the inspector until the time they reach the regiment; that is to say, if anything was found short by the regiment for which we had given a receipt to the Government, we should have to pay the value.

6736. The receipts from the regiments never come to you?—No. If there is any complaint of non-receipt, it is referred to us; and we immediately become responsible for the thing, unless we can prove loss at sea or prove the delivery. If there is anything short in the packing, that is our responsibility; we give an account of the contents of the bales in an invoice, which is forwarded to the officer commanding the regiment, except where goods are consigned to some other person, as in the case of regiments in India, where the goods are consigned to the deputy quartermaster-general; an invoice is sent to him of the contents of the package, so that they have every means of knowing what the contents are. There is one statement I should wish to make to the Commissioners. I believe that some doubts have been expressed as to whether there is sufficient room in our premises for the proper inspection of clothing, now that the inspection takes place in London. I only wish to say with regard to that, we have one floor in the building wholly unemployed in our army business, which can be used for Government purposes. It never has been asked for by them; but we are quite prepared, if we are required, to give them more accommodation than they have. We are quite sure, from the business which we did during the Crimean war, that we are capable in that building of carrying on more than twice the amount of business that we have now. I should wish also to remark that at the time the Commissioners saw our warehouse, it was more full than at any other part of the year; this is the time when all the Indian clothing is delivered, and in consequence of the clothing for India having been ordered late, we are very much pressed. During the Spring of the year that floor which you saw so full is more than half empty.

6737. (*Chairman.*) Has the clothing for the year been ordered too late?—I believe that is the reason of its being so late in delivery.

6738. Mr. Dolan stated yesterday that the summer clothing should be delivered to the regiments on the 1st of April; did you ship or forward the summer clothing for 1858?—Yes.

6739. When was it sent?—For India it was sent in September, October, and November, and some as late as December last year.

6740. Is that, generally speaking, time enough beforehand, or should it be sent earlier?—I think it would be advisable that it should be sent earlier. If it is sent in December it cannot be issued to the regiments in April. The voyage to Calcutta takes from three to four months, and the transmission of the clothing up the country sometimes takes as much as six months.

6741. Of course the clothing always goes the long sea voyage?—Yes; conveyance by overland would be enormously expensive.

6742. (*Colonel French.*) If you send the clothing only in November and December, when will the regiments get it?—They will get it about nine months after the time that it is sent; they will get it about September; that is to say, those regiments that are farthest up the country would not get it very much before September.

6743. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are not your warehouses now crowded in the month of October with goods which are intended for delivery to the troops on the 1st of April next?—Yes.

6744. Have a great many of them been sent?—No.

6745. Then this year you are still worse than you were last year, because you said that some were sent off in September last year?—That is so.

6746. Have all the contracts been delivered yet?—No regiment's clothing has been delivered to us complete for packing.

6747. When do you think it probable that the orders for the 1st of April next will be completed in your establishment?—I cannot say when I think they will be completed. I believe we are to have some of the regiments' clothing delivered to us complete very shortly; portions have been delivered.

6748. When will they be shipped?—Immediately; as soon as ships go.

6749. In the course of this month?—Yes, if we get the clothing in, and we can get ships.

6750. Then the clothing shipped this month for regiments in India will not be received by them till June or July next?—The Bengal regiments that are very far up the country.

6751. (*Chairman.*) Supposing the voyage to Calcutta is four months, the clothing leaving at the end of this month will be in India by the end of February?—At Calcutta.

6752. Would it take four or five months longer to convey the clothing up the country?—I believe sometimes it has taken more than six months; there are no railroads to any extent in India, and generally these goods go by canal boats and other conveyances of that kind.

6753. (*Mr. Turner.*) I suppose the goods would be as long getting up the country as bales of country cotton are coming down?—Yes.

6754. (*Colonel French.*) For what year is the clothing intended that you are now packing for the India regiments?—1859–60.

6755. When ought that clothing to be dispatched to enable the troops in India to get it by the 1st of April?—It ought to be sent off not later than June.

6756. Are you acquainted with the reason why it has been so delayed? is it the fault of the clothier not delivering it in time?—That is a question I can hardly answer; our duty is merely to receive it from the Government officers.

6757. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you had any reason to inquire for your own information as packers, when you probably will receive the final deliveries of clothing for next year's supply?—We have made inquiries as to when it will be probably received; we expected to receive it rather earlier, but I believe there was considerable delay in the completion of the orders.

6758. Have you any idea as to when the final quantity will be received? As contractors are not paid until the orders are completed, you would naturally inquire when they would be completed?—We have nothing to do with when the contractors are paid. I have never made that inquiry. I expect we shall receive the clothing about the end of November, or even before.

6759. Or January?—I hope earlier.

6760. (*Chairman.*) Do you always wait for the whole of the clothing for a particular regiment, stationed at a particular point, before you send any off?—That is not the case with home regiments, but our orders with respect to regiments abroad are to wait till the clothing is completed, and then send it off.

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6761. (*Chairman.*) You are a partner in the house of Hebbert and Company?—I am.

6762. I believe you were examined before the Contracts' Committee?—I was examined at great length before the Committee of the House of Commons; a very large proportion of my evidence referred to a particular subject.

6763. We have read your evidence with a great deal of attention; and, as we have said to other witnesses, we do not desire to take you through what you have already stated: do you adhere to all you have there stated?—I have read over the general statements, and they are substantially correct; and I see no reason whatever to alter or vary them; but there is one point upon which, if you will permit me, I should like to offer a little explanation to you. It has been inferred by the Secretary of State-for-War, and by others, that I made in my evidence, given before the Committee of the House of Commons, a direct charge of bribery against certain individuals at Weedon. It was not my intention at that time to do so; neither do I find any part of my evidence, upon looking it over, by which such an inference can be borne out; but there is one portion of my evidence from which, without explanation, a person who was not present during the proceedings might, perhaps, draw the conclusion that I had specifically charged certain parties with bribery. It arose, I am satisfied, in this way. In a Select Committee of the House of Commons any member, of course, can ask a question at any time, or at any period of an examination. I refer particularly to that part of my evidence which you will find in 5665 and 5666 in the Report of 1857. (Parliamentary Paper, No. 269, sess. 2.) I was then being interrogated upon the subject of whether I had any reason to believe that undue preference had been given to any individual contractor at Weedon? I stated that I had. Then the questions go on upon the general question of bribery; and after that, Mr. Baring puts this question (5673) to me, "Will you point out the name of the inspector at Weedon to whom you allude?" Now that had reference to questions 5565 and 5566, and not to the immediately preceding questions, which relate specifically to bribery. The chairman says, "All the inspectors at Weedon have particular duties appropriated to them. This person is described as third class inspector of cloth. William H—— is described as a seventh class inspector of cloth." Lord Duncan asks, "What information do you state that those inspectors can furnish to the Committee, or the nature of their information?" "That was in answer to Mr. Monsell's question, whether I was at all justified in supposing that Mr. I—— had had a preference shown to him." I was subsequently called upon by Lord Panmure to give an explanation in regard to that evidence, and you will find it in Appendix No. 17. in the Second Report (Parliamentary Paper, No. 328, 1858): "If your Lordship will refer to questions 5663, 5664, and 5665, you will find I did not state more than that my impression, and that the impression of the trade was that Mr. Isaac had had facilities over other houses in the trade. The story current in the trade was, that Mr. Isaac had sent in a supply of cloth which had been rejected by the inspectors as not being equal in quality to the sealed pattern; and that at a subsequent date a new sealed pattern, differing from the original one, had been sent to Weedon. The goods being equal to this second pattern, were passed. If this were true, I conceive I was justified in saying that undue preference was shown. I did not recollect the names of the inspectors at Weedon, but Mr. Baring, a member of the Committee, handed to me a list of the officers; and I then named Messrs. Mallett and Hebdon as the parties who, I believed, could give information upon this point, they being the cloth inspectors." (If there had been a substituted pattern,

the party who was the examiner was the proper party to give information upon the point, whether I was right or wrong.) "I conceive I am confirmed in this opinion by the statements made by Mr. Hebdon himself before the Committee, in answer to questions 1541 and 1555 and 1582 to 1588. I could do no other than suppose that the actual inspectors were the parties best capable of giving information to the Committee." The evidence given during the last session of Parliament upon the subject of that substituted sealed pattern, certainly, according to my humble judgment, warranted what I said. I did not impute that Messrs. Hebdon and Mallett, the inspectors, had from corrupt motives improperly passed goods; but it was a very singular thing that the substituted new pattern should be sent down, when the goods had been rejected on the original sealed pattern.

6764. Have you not read the explanation?—Yes; it was all given during the last session.

6765. Having read that explanation, is your impression still that there was any undue preference shown to Mr. Isaac?—The explanation given in Mr. Ramsay's evidence and Sir Benjamin Hawes' of the reason why that sealed pattern was sent down, completely clears up the point. It was a story very current in London generally that unfair treatment had been exhibited. I should state, subsequently to my correspondence with the Secretary of State-for-War, I was applied to by the two inspectors to give explanations to them how I was justified in making that statement, because the imputation in the War Department upon them still appeared to be that they had improperly conducted themselves. I wrote a letter giving extracts from this evidence, with the explanation that I now give to you, and they stated that they were quite satisfied. If I make a mistake my first duty and pleasure is to remedy it.

6766. (*Chairman.*) You would also feel that it may be due to Messrs. Isaac, to the officers at Weedon, and to the War Office, that the facts should be stated: are they not as follow? There was a tender for the supply of red cloth. Messrs. Pollard tendered and Messrs. Isaac tendered. Messrs. Pollard's was the lowest tender. Messrs. Pollard tendered at 9s. or thereabouts and Messrs. Isaac at 10s. 4d. Messrs. Pollard's tender being the lowest was accepted. Messrs. Pollard's cloth upon inspection was rejected, and justly rejected, as Messrs. Pollard's managing man has stated. The cloth was wanted in a hurry. There was no time to issue a fresh tender for it, and the Government therefore sent an officer to Messrs. Isaac, who were the only persons who appear to have had cloth at all of the kind ready for the purpose for which it was wanted. Messrs. Isaac refused to let the Government have their cloth, except at the price at which they had originally sent in their tender, and the Government after trying to beat them down failed in doing so, and Messrs. Isaac's cloth was supplied. That cloth was sent down to Weedon. It was compared with the original sealed pattern, and in the opinion of the inspectors was not quite up to it. Other persons whose judgment was considered good, Colonel Bonner and Messrs. Henry of Huddersfield, thought it was better than the sealed pattern, but not corresponding with it. The War Office in the emergency sent a second sealed pattern by which it was compared, and by that second sealed pattern it was passed. Is not that statement correct?—Yes; the War Office took upon themselves the responsibility which otherwise would have fallen upon the inspectors.

6767. Do you wish to offer any explanation on any other subject?—There is only one point. It seems to be inferred that I made charges of improper and corrupt motives. If you refer to my evidence generally you will find that all through it I merely expressed an opinion, which opinion I shared in com-

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mon with a great many other people, that improper practices frequently occurred in these different departments. I stated repeatedly in many passages of my evidence that I was not in a position, and of course neither did I consider it my duty, to search up positive evidence to establish the fact; it would be impossible for me as an individual. If you refer particularly to questions 5649 to 5651 you will find I am asked these questions by Lord Duncan, "Do you know of your own knowledge that anything is wrong at Weedon?—I have said before that I am not in a position to give or procure at this moment positive evidence of that fact." "Do you believe that you will be able to procure positive evidence of that fact?—That is more than I can say at this moment." "Within what period could you procure evidence?—I cannot say that; look at the difficulties. You have a great many men at Weedon, and it is a very serious word to say that those men are to be denounced as rogues, or that they themselves can be induced to give any information which would endanger their position." In almost every part of my evidence I guarded myself as to getting evidence, and distinctly said that I did not wish to be looked upon as an informer bringing forward a charge in any shape or way. I merely gave my own opinion, though it might have been an erroneous one.

6768. You have stated your belief; on what was your belief founded at that time?—My opinion was at that time formed from what was the universal conversation with those who had dealings with this department: and I mentioned at that time certain facts in regard to the Admiralty.

6769. You were asked by Viscount Duncan (question 5653), "I wish to arrive at the grounds on which that opinion is founded; do you believe the allegations with regard to Weedon?" Your answer is, "I believe myself, to a certain extent, that bribery exists at Weedon." Do you still entertain that belief?—At the time I gave that evidence I had heard a statement from parties who I believed were speaking the truth to me, and I had seen in the hands of those parties documents which at that time I fully considered justified me in that belief. I subsequently applied to one of those parties to give me up the documents, because I had offered to Lord Panmure to give him the means, if I possibly could, of investigating it, and he refused to do so; and said, that the matter had merely been communicated to me in confidence, and I had no right to deprive him of his future business by making any further communications. Whether the statement that party made to me was true, or whether it was done for the purpose of entrapping me into a scrape, I cannot now decide.

6770. Who was that party?—I cannot give his name.

6771. Why not?—Because he has told me not to do so.

6772. I am not asking you for the particulars he furnished?—He has refused to allow me to use his name in any way.

6773. And on that ground you refuse?—I do; it was communicated to me in confidence.

6774. I am not asking for the information; but merely for the party's name?—He told me not to use his name.

6775. He might tell you not to use his name as an authority for the communication which he made to you; but he could not refuse to allow you to state that he did make that communication?—He does, and for this reason: At the time of my examination before the Committee of the House of Commons, with a view to getting at those facts, I applied to the Chairman for protection for myself and all other parties; and I understood that the Committee of the House of Commons had come to a resolution, that all parties should be protected. It appears, however, in the only instance where there was impropriety, namely, Mr. Isaac lending a sum of money to

Mr. Elliott, he received a letter immediately from the War Department discharging him from any future business.

6776. Mr. Isaac was not discharged from the list of contractors on account of any evidence that he gave. No protection was promised to anybody but the witness giving evidence. Mr. Isaac was discharged from the list of contractors in consequence of facts proved by other parties. The Committee of the House of Commons never pretended to say that they would protect anybody from the consequences of disclosures made by other parties; but that they would protect the witness himself in making the disclosures?—So far as my powers go, I am deprived of any means whatsoever now of getting evidence in support of the opinion that I then formed; because the parties say, if we come and tell the truth we shall not only lose all future business, but we shall probably get ourselves and others into great trouble; and they refuse point blank to allow their names to be used.

6777. (*Mr. Turner.*) The Commissioners feel themselves in a very considerable difficulty. Their object and their earnest desire is to trace out every possible instance of bribery, or any error or fault or neglect, which has been committed in any of the establishments to which their attention is particularly directed at present. There have been rumours of all kinds, and the public have a difficulty in making a distinction between rumours and evidence. I believe I am correct in stating that the public mind has been very much imbued with the idea that most gross corruption has existed at Weedon. How far that idea has been gained from your evidence, I know not; but certainly from reading it, I did gain a considerable impression myself, that we should have revelations made by you with regard to the foundation for those rumours. You naturally, as you say to Lord Panmure, decline to entail upon yourself the character of a common informer. That is very natural; but I think you ought not to withhold information from the Commissioners appointed by the Crown to investigate this matter. If you have not the protection of the House of Commons (one member cannot give you much protection, but he will give it as far as he is able), you ought to have the protection of the Crown itself for giving correct information. I think you ought to tell us all you know about this matter, and you ought also, notwithstanding the injunction that has been placed upon you, to tell us your informant; we ought to have possession of these papers, and the foundation for all those rumours that have been circulated. I again say that I think it is your duty to tell us all you know?—I wish I could; but, as I said before, the channels through which I believe such information could be obtained, if confidentially communicated to the Government, would have enabled the Government themselves to have instituted inquiries to satisfy themselves whether the rumours were true or false. I am now precluded from going into that. I did think at that time that I had opportunities of getting information, but the parties now distinctly tell me that they will not afford the information; and if they are brought here, as there is no oath administered before you, they will very probably deny that they ever said such things, or they may say that it was merely communicated to me with a view of entrapping me into a mess.

6778. (*Chairman.*) In either view of the case they must be great scoundrels. If you think they would come here and tell a lie, I presume you would hardly think that any information received from persons capable of that conduct was reliable?—No.

6779. (*Mr. Turner.*) My inference is, that whatever may have been imputed to Government officials, there is considerable corruption of mind existing on the part of contractors?—Very likely.

6780. I infer it is a contractor, because when called upon to give distinct evidence of the rumours they have put into circulation, they shelter them-

selves under the cowardly plea that they shall be deprived of business if they tell the truth?—Such is the position of things since I was aware that I should be called before this Commission: I have again communicated with the parties, and I am told distinctly, as far as regards the real facts which I believed could have been got, that I am not to use them. Of course mere rumours of things go for nothing.

6781. (*Chairman.*) They may go for nothing, and ought to go for nothing in every well regulated mind, but rumours do not go for nothing with the public. It is you who have given currency to the rumours?—They were current long before I was examined before the Contracts' Committee; and they are current now stronger within the last week, since your evidence has been published, if you go into the city and inquire as to the evidence that has been read, what the opinion of the public is and of those who are large dealers.

6782. (*Chairman.*) Large dealers in scandal?—No; large dealers in materials supplied. You will find that their opinion is confirmed.

(*Chairman.*) That is because a respectable man like yourself is found to repeat the expression of his belief in a rumour without having the courage to state his grounds for that belief. I cannot sufficiently express my indignation as an Englishman and a lover of fair play, that any such impressions should exist, and that the people who entertain them should be cowardly enough not to come forward and state the grounds on which such imputations are made, so that those who are implicated may have an opportunity of vindicating their characters. People do not lose the right to be treated with justice because they happen to be officials. Fair play above everything in every English court of justice.

6783. (*Colonel French.*) Do you think the parties have any ground to fear an action of libel?—It is not so much that, as being precluded from carrying on Government business again.

6784. Do you see any substantial foundation from what they told you to think that there was bribery?—In 1857 I did.

6785. Do you not now?—Very likely the documents I then saw may not now be in existence.

6786. (*Mr. Turner.*) If the parties who withhold this information and forbid you to mention their names would take courage enough to come boldly before us and state these matters, and if the consequence be that the authorities of the War Office or the manager of the contract department punish them in any way by not giving them a fair opportunity of competing for any contract that may be offered, I will undertake to bring their case before the House of Commons; and I am satisfied, though the members of the House of Commons might not be inclined to support them, which I very much doubt, I am sure the people of England will do them justice, and the estimation in which they will be held for divulging the truth and letting everybody know what the transactions have been, will amply compensate them for anything they may suffer in the loss of contracts with the Government?—That statement may probably be the means, if it goes forth to the public, of getting the information, "aye" or "no." I hope the rumours are all without foundation.

6787. What are the Commissioners to do in dealing with rumours which the public seem to believe, if they cannot get at the evidence to substantiate these facts?—I do not know what your powers are in regard to compelling the attendance of parties or administering oaths or otherwise; all you can do is to take such evidence as may be laid before you, and make your report accordingly.

6788. With some witnesses we feel that it is a weakness on our part that we have not the power of administering an oath; but with honourable men we consider that their word is quite as good as their oath, and that they will be as unwilling to

tell an untruth in answer to a question as they would be if the most solemn oath were administered to them?—It ought to be so.

(*Chairman.*) I think it right to say for myself, and I believe my colleagues agree with me, that so far as we have had an opportunity of sifting these vague rumours, they have vanished at the touch of investigation. There is not at present a tittle of legitimate evidence for any charge of bribery against any Government official at Weedon; and the principle which ought to actuate the English people, and which ought to actuate all men, is that till men are proved to be guilty, they are innocent. We have done what we could to arrive at the truth at Weedon; and I am perfectly satisfied that no one who heard the examinations there, can doubt, so far as the rumours and statements of bribery are concerned, that they were utterly false and frivolous.

(*Colonel French.*) I may also add that the War Office, having reformed the system at Weedon to a very great extent, are most anxious that everything should be brought before the public.

6789. (*Chairman to the witness.*) To revert to the more general subject, are there any observations which you desire to address to us in explanation of or in addition to your evidence?—Not upon the general points, that I am aware of. At the last meeting of the Committee of the House of Commons I handed in a short paper containing the views of myself and my partners, and I see no reason whatever to withdraw from the views which are there expressed. Of course the questions which were put to the last witness, Mr. Hayter, as regards cost of packing and so forth, from the figures, as you saw at once in regard to the assumed cost of packing for the Government, those are questions of minute detail which I did not suppose you wished to be troubled with. I have brought with me our clerk Mr. Crocker, who worked out the figures; he was examined frequently before the Committee, and, as far as our house is concerned, is the gentleman to whom we trust in making out estimates of all kinds. In preparing our estimates for tender, the figures are his, but we are responsible for them.

6790. Will you refer to Appendix 9 at page 135 of the last report of the Contracts' Committee (Parliamentary Papers, Nos. 398, 418, 438; 1858): it is the statement of the cost of clothing a battalion of infantry by War Office contract as compared with your estimate?—Yes; assuming that the War Department were going to carry on the business of an army clothier. It was proposed at one time, and to a certain extent the expediency of having a clothing establishment in London was tried, by regularly doing the whole work for two or three of the regiments.

6791. Will you also turn to Appendix No. 15 at page 188 of the same report: did you make a tender on the 8th of May of the present year for providing a regiment with clothing?—At or about that date.

6792. Have you any objection to make to the accuracy of the statement in column 2 in page 188?—Number 2 is our "tender" price.

6793. Parallel with it is what purports to be the price at which the War Office supply clothing under existing contracts?—Yes, Mr. Ramsay makes ours 2,946*l.* and theirs is 2,848*l.* In Mr. Ramsay's memorandum, accompanying that statement, he says, "This statement shows that the total cost, according to Messrs. Hebbert's rejected tender, would be 2,946*l.*, or 67*l.* 10*s.* more than is shown by their statement." Now he adds the amount of great coats to our statement, whereas great coats are only supplied every three years; he puts 287*l.* for his own, and 335*l.* for ours. There is no tender of ours for great coats.

6794. Is not this statement at the bottom of page 174 furnished by you?—Yes.

6795. You yourself put in "Additional required for a triennial supply of great coats, 335*l.*" How can you object to that being an item added to your

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estimate?—It was not included in the articles which we tendered for in May 1858. The estimate at page 174 for great coats, amounting to 335*l.*, was at a different date and for a different quality; and had we been called upon at that time, we might have modified the price for the great coats.

6796. You have put in a paper (page 136 of the last report) in which you profess to show that the annual additional expense of the War Office system as it existed was 50,000*l.* a year more than yours for clothing the infantry?—Yes.

6797. In order to dissect that, and see upon what it is based, we go to the estimate for each particular battalion. You have given in an estimate, at page 174, of the cost at which you would undertake to clothe, cap, and accoutre, and also supply great coats to a regiment of the line, including all incidental expenses, that amounts to 2,878*l.* a year. You have subsequently made a tender, excluding great coats, at a somewhat lower figure. The War Office show the figures at which they would clothe a regiment under existing contracts, and their figures are something lower both than your estimate and your tender. Under those circumstances, how do you prove that by your plan the infantry could be clothed at 50,000*l.* a year less than under the War Office system?—In this paper at page 174, we assume that the great coats would be made of the improved pattern cloth, and not the old great coat cloth. This is an estimate at which we should be very glad to undertake to make a supply for such regiments as might be allotted to us.

6798. Would you be willing to supply the great coats at the price put down by the War Office?—Not if they are to be of the quality we assume them to be in our paper at page 174; and the same thing would apply even now, because since that time wool has gone up, and the price might be perhaps a little higher now. When we tendered in May 1858 for a specified quantity of articles, of course we went then as close as we possibly could do, excluding the great coats altogether; also caps, accoutrements, and boots. We did not know what the quality of those great coats that were put in at 287*l.* were.

6799. If you had put great coats in the tender of May 1858, would you have put them at a lower figure than the 335*l.*?—I could not say without referring to the pattern upon which the tender was made. If my recollection serves me, in May 1858 we could buy wool at 2*d.*, if not 4*d.*, a pound less than we could buy it now.

6800. Is not your estimate at page 135 based upon prices of wool and of leather (for there are boots and shakos besides clothing) very much lower than they were at the time the War Office furnished the cost of the same articles in the parallel columns?—No; the estimate that we made in the spring of this year was based upon the same price of the raw material as the War Office estimate was, because we took the statement that had been presented to the Committee; and of course they would have to go upon the same prices of the raw material that we should have to go upon. Looking at these prices generally, I believe we should be quite ready to take the contract at these prices now; and if we had the contract for a period of years it would answer our purpose to run all risk of rise or fall in the market. We should know (and a great advantage it would be) on the 1st of January what our requirements would be in the course of the year, and we should make all our arrangements in March, April, May, and so forth, for getting all our material ready for shipment in September, November, or December, or whenever it was wanted. We should not be pressed as we are now pressed by orders coming in at the end of August, when the cloth has to be made to deliver goods in October.

6801. You made a tender in May 1858, and you have also put in, as opposed to the Government statement of actual expenditure, a conjectural statement of what the clothing could be done for. Are not the

prices in your rejected tender and also in your conjectural statement higher than the prices paid by Government which you contrast with them?—We tendered in May 1858 to do certain things, and if we tendered at too high a price, we lost our tender; it does not follow that we could not have done it at rather less; but the statement, page 135, Appendix 9, was to show the difference in expense between the cost of the system then pursued, of contracting for materials and garments separately, and the cost at which the whole could be obtained direct from a clothier. The Government subsequently put out tenders for supplying the clothing made up, and Mr. Ramsay, in col. 3, App. 15, page 188, takes the prices of the now existing contracts, and puts them in opposition to our estimate and suggestions in App. No. 9.

6802. You say if your tender had been accepted, it would have been a saving to the country. In answer to that, rightly or wrongly, the other side say, "there is the actual cost; we show that the actual cost is less either than Messrs. Hebbert's tender or the statement they have made." Will you state your objection to any item in page 188 besides the great coats?—The real matter is the privates' tender, 2*l.* 6*s.* 3½*d.* per man. I am reminded that our tender was for a coat at 1*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.*, and a pair of trousers 9*s.* 11*d.* We did not tender for the boots; we did not tender for the shakos; neither were the accoutrements included in our tender. Mr. Ramsay, I presume, has taken these prices for boots, shakos, and accoutrements from some other paper of ours that might have been in the office, in which we had at one time offered to supply boots at 10*s.*; the shako he says the War Office furnish at 2*s.* 5½*d.*, and he has put it down to us at 2*s.* 6½*d.* We could reduce it. 1*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.* we charge for the coat; Mr. Ramsay puts down the War Office price as 1*l.* 0*s.* 3½*d.* Although we say that we ought to have the 1*l.* 1*s.* 10½*d.* we certainly should not object, as we have done in other instances, to making some little approximation between these two prices (there being only 1*s.* 7*d.* difference) to have had a portion of the army to clothe: no one individual can supply the whole.

6803. If you had known that other people were going to tender lower, or that the War Office would not take your tender, you would have reduced your profits?—A guinea for a soldier's coat is not out of the way.

6804. There is still a sufficient margin of profit left to allow of a slice?—It is a very poor one; we never know what we have to do; if we had regular employment we should work at very much lower prices than having uncertain employment.

6805. As a matter of fact, do you dispute the accuracy of this statement that you made a tender of 1*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.* for a coat, and that the War Office proposed to supply each man 1*s.* 7*d.* lower.

(Mr. Arthur Crocker.) The statement that was put in by Messrs. Hebbert and Company, at page 135, was placed in comparison with the War Office clothing which was being made up for 1858. The figures show what we could have done the clothing for, and what the War Office were having it done for. The whole of the clothing now will cost the money we state at page 135; whereas in Mr. Ramsay's statement, with the estimate we put in in May 1858, he contrasts the clothing he is going to have for next year with the estimate for what the clothing could have been done for 1858. No clothing has been delivered at the prices at which Mr. Ramsay states the War Office is now obtaining them, and a great portion of the clothing would be at a higher price.

6806. Do you say that the prices in column 3, at page 188, are estimates only?—They are estimates of clothing which is only now being delivered to Hayter and Howell.

6807. The War Office must know what the existing contracts are?—All the prices are not the same as stated here; the 1*l.* 0*s.* 3½*d.* may be one contract,

but all the contractors are not doing the coats at that price.

(*Mr. Bischoff.*) They are not getting the army supplied at that price, so that it is no contrast at all with the estimate that we put in.

6808. You say that the clothing costs more than your estimate. The War Office put in what they say it actually costs them; and your estimate is higher than their statement of the real cost. Upon what do you ground your statement that a saving will be effected by adopting your estimate?—In our estimate, at folio 135, we referred to the existing contract with the War Department for making up the clothing for 1858; that is, the clothing that is now in wear; and that is the actual cost to them, supposing they have only one coat for one man. There is a reference made to every contract in existence in that statement. Against that we give our own estimate of what we would have done the clothing for, because the War Department were then supplying the cloth themselves, and giving it out to be made by clothiers, having all the different materials from different contractors.

6809. (*To Mr. Crocker.*) Can you dispute the accuracy of column No. 2., in page 188?—In the first instance, there has been no clothing at those prices stated, under existing contracts.

6810. Will you undertake to say that?—Part of it may be delivered; but none of the clothing for 1859.

6811. Do you mean to say that the clothing is not supplied under existing contracts at those prices?—It has not been delivered.

6812. Is it contracted for?—It is contracted for at those prices only so far as the tunics and the trousers; for the accoutrements there is no existing contract. The figures put down for accoutrements, 1s. 11½d., are not Messrs. Hebbert and Company's figures, and the 2s. 6½d. for the shako are not Messrs. Hebbert and Company's figures. In the estimate which we put in (p. 174), we say 2l. 5s. 1d. a man; we do not mean to say that we put 1s. 11½d. for accoutrements. I have no doubt we put down less. The price here taken is from a contract of ours about two years and a half ago. Only the coat and trousers are in the tender that we made in May 1858.

6813. (*Mr. Turner.*) In your calculation of the cost of an article, do you charge anything for the risk of inspection and the more than possibility, probability, of a considerable per-centage of rejections?—We have been obliged to do that of late.

6814. The Government inspecting their own goods, of course would have no such charge to put into their calculation?—It depends upon how they keep their accounts.

6815. There would be no such rejection of their own articles, would there?—They are just as liable to all the difficulties as we are with regard to making up, improper sewing, and all those kind of defects, upon which a very large proportion of our things come back.

6816. I know there may be good cause for rejection, but as they are the judges of their own goods, is it likely that the rejection would be made?—I do not know that.

6817. You are subjected to the charge of insurance, are you not, upon your premises?—We insure all our premises and stock.

6818. The Government do not, I believe, but run the risk, and therefore ought to calculate for the risk, in your opinion?—Yes.

6819. Are not you subjected to considerable charges for the carriage of your goods?—We are subjected to a very large amount for carriage, and in delivering goods at Weedon it is one of those things which adds to the expense, because we cannot have goods going to and from Weedon without adding a little.

6820. Is it a fact that the item of carriage enters into your calculation?—Certainly.

6821. Do not those items which people in business call wear and tear, staff, servants, and expense of the general establishment, affect the price of every article you turn out?—We do not put on anything for those items; we expect them to be covered out of the profit or per-centage that we may put on after we have got the actual cost.

6822. If they do not go down for cost, they go down to diminish profit?—It comes to loss unfortunately. Suppose we take contracts at seven and a half per cent.; having ascertained as near as we can what is the actual cost, putting on seven and a half per cent., whatever may be a fair rate upon it, out of that seven and a half per cent. we have all the expense of our establishment to pay, and all the office and ordinary establishment expenses, rent, and so forth, interest of money, and everything else.

6823. It is an item, under whatever head you reckon it, whether as profit or as an ingredient in the calculation before you lay your profit on, which forms part of the sum that you put down in your tender to the Government?—A very serious part.

6824. (*Chairman.*) Have you not actually put down a good many of the expenses you mention in your statement at page 173?—The average cost of packing we put down, and an assumed cost of carriage and marine insurance, if we had to deliver at Deptford or deliver at Mark Lane, or wherever we may have to do it; all that is a certain expense; but that does not include the expenses which Mr. Turner referred to just now, namely office charges.

6825. It does not include departmental expenses; these come out of your profits?—Yes; of course there is no item for interest of money or anything of that kind.

6826. The War Office show, according to the statement put in (p. 188), that their expenses are larger than yours would be?—I think Mr. Ramsay estimates them at seven per cent.

6827. He allows for each regiment 184l. as against 130l. which you allow for the average cost of packing, carriage, and marine insurance, fitting, clothing, and incidental and all other expenses?—Yes.

6828. Out of that 130l. per regiment do you think 24l. is sufficient for packing?—For all the home regiments it would be. The average number of regiments that used to be in India was about thirty, and thirty out of the hundred were scattered; a large proportion were at home at that time, and we considered that 24l. would be sufficient. Having seventy regiments in India, of course the packing expenses would be heavier, as was explained by Mr. Hayter. If I understood Mr. Hayter's evidence, he does not say precisely what he did reckon for it, and whether he shipped the whole supplies for each of the ninety-nine regiments, and whether he included everything.

6829. (*To Mr. Hayter.*) I understood you to say that the packing would cost about 32l., taking an average of the home and foreign regiments?—Without having gone into any accurate comparison of where the regiments were stationed, I take that to be the average.

6830. (*To Mr. Bischoff.*) Is not your estimate of 24l. for packing founded upon a calculation applied to home regiments?—Assuming that the old proportion would have been something like kept up, if we were to pack solely for India 24l. would not be sufficient or for an extended foreign service.

6831. Supposing you had to clothe so many regiments, taking the chance of their being in India or England, would 32l. be a fair average?—Quite.

6832. Then you would have to add to your estimate for every regiment at least 8l.?—We should do it for less than that. Our house, as Mr. Hayter stated, were for many years in the habit of packing entirely for themselves; and the advantage that we considered we derived from that was, that our goods were taken at once from inspection into the packing room and packed without any knocking about, whereas sending

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them to Mark Lane unpacked and moving them about in that way, we considered rather tended to damage them. As we got enough clothes for a bale ready, we packed them; and in that way kept them out of the dust and dirt.

6833. Was not the estimate in which you gave 24*l.* a regiment for packing furnished only this very year?—At the beginning of this year.

6834. Was not more than half the force in India at that time?—A great many have gone since.

6835. Upon what is your opinion founded, that your plan is cheaper than that of the War Office?—The broad principle that we should go upon is this; any price that anybody can work at, reckoning a fair reasonable trade profit, we can work at. We can work quite as cheap as the Government or anybody else can, and we believe a great deal cheaper than the Government, because we have not the necessity of going through all the forms that the Government go through in their tenders, and in all their papers. If we know in the month of January what we are likely to want, we make all our arrangements in the course of the year; we anticipate all the requirements, and have everything in readiness without having got what we believe to be any surplus stock or stores; the consequence of which is, we have little or no loss. We always in the olden time had an amply sufficient stock of materials for any emergency, if it ever occurred; and we never were behindhand. In regard to that very tender price you are speaking of, we did not get the regiments of the line, but we subsequently had the rifles given to us. A large proportion of the rifles now are in India. In the month of August 1858 we had a requisition made upon us to deliver the rifle clothing within two months from the date of the tender. The consequence of which is, that we are working night and day; making little errors, which we have very great difficulty in remedying, in the shade of colour, and so forth. In fact we are doing almost an impossibility. The clothing was to be delivered on the 15th of October, and it was only yesterday that I had a conference with our manufacturer in Yorkshire about the shade of colour. We cannot bring the shade precisely similar to the sealed pattern; we have tried the last three weeks or a month, and it is a thing that may be objected to.

6836. The result is, that you think that there is not time allowed you for the completion of the contract?—It is utterly impossible, when the clothing, as you heard from Mr. Hayter, ought to be now shipped.

6837. Have you only the rifles?—Only the rifles.

6838. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is it not the usual practice of all well-regulated business establishments, either large or small, to conduct their business with the least possible amount of capital, with the least possible stock, particularly with regard to obsolete things, and with the least possible staff with which it can be worked, taking care that it is efficiently worked, and that the servants are properly paid?—Certainly. In illustration of that, I can only say for more than fifteen months in our house we have had 50,000*l.* of our capital totally unemployed; we are obliged to use it as we best can, with the expectation that we may get some business back again. If we had had the means of buying wool, knowing that we were going to have the rifles, and had bought the wool in May, it would have made a difference of 4*l.* a lb. in the cost.

6839. Do you think it is possible that a governmental department, not economising capital in the same degree, not economising stock, and not economising the staff of servants employed (particularly in the higher departments) in the same degree, can possibly compete successfully with any mercantile establishment in the cost of any article?—As far as my knowledge from experience in the world goes, I never knew the Government successfully compete with a private individual in trade. I believe

it is so universally. I happened to have had a conversation a day or two ago upon the subject of timber supplied to the dockyard at Woolwich; and it does ooze out before it is known in Pall Mall that a certain quantity of timber is wanted and that a Government order is coming out. The result is that a few individuals get possession of the materials, and when the Government broker comes into the market he has to pay an extra per-centage for it. Mr. Churchill told me that he had frequently mentioned it to the War department.

6840. (*Chairman.*) Is Mr. Churchill the Government broker?—I do not know whether I may call him the Government broker; he is employed by the Government. Churchill and Sim is the firm, and there cannot be more respectable men.

6841. Are the three estimates at pages 135, 174, and 188 correct?—Substantially correct, so far as explained in my former answer.

6842. Have you any other observation to offer to the Commissioners?—I do not exactly agree, perhaps, with what all the other contractors have said in regard to the inspection of clothing. The inspection is divided into different articles or materials supplied. I will take clothing first. I do not think there is anything better than the regimental board for the inspection of clothing, provided you hold the contractor responsible. As carried on by officials representing the Government, the inspection is frequently extremely vexatious. In this very case of the rifles which I have been speaking of, where our time is extremely limited, if the inspector, whoever he may be, had been present and seen those shades of colour, and had been bound by his sealed pattern to the shade of colour, his duty would have been to have rejected them; but so imperceptible was it, that even if you had put them in the same regiment I do not believe it would have been discovered; but the result is now, that if we were to send our clothing in, it would all be liable to be rejected. The material I believe is perfect. I am speaking of the duty of the inspectors according to the instructions by which they are tied down as we heard last session. By these instructions if the supply is not precisely similar to the pattern, it must be rejected. Our clothing for the rifles, I think, is a case in which any regimental board in olden times would have said, if they had seen the clothing, "We are perfectly satisfied with this clothing without a minute reference to the sealed pattern, if the quality is sufficient." Take the facings of a regiment; nobody is so good a judge of whether the facings are acceptable as the officer in command, and the officer is summoned to what is called the Board of Officers; therefore, I think, as I suggested in my paper, the proper course and best course of all is to have a regimental inspection by a Board of Officers.

6843. Before it goes to the regiment?—Before it goes to the regiment. Every regiment has a *dépôt* at home, and the Horse Guards or the War Department (whatever may be the department) can always appoint proper parties to inspect the things. As regards clothing, I am ready and willing to have a second inspection when it arrives at its destination, and be held responsible for its wear. If we have an inspection at home, such as is now going on, my partners and myself are most strongly of opinion that we ought by all means to have an appeal. If we are not satisfied let an appeal be given, by the appointment of an arbitrator on either side, in the ordinary way. I will illustrate that by a case which has occurred to us, and I am glad to name it in the presence of Mr. Ramsay. We had a contract to supply a quantity of percussion-cap pockets. The old specification has always run that they are to be got out of English hides. We took this contract at an extremely low price, although others have taken it, I believe, quite as low or rather lower, and our first delivery was of 1,300 at a certain time. Every

one of them was rejected on the ground that they were not equal to pattern; that the leather was horny; that they were rough, and one thing and another. We had them most carefully examined, and found them to be as good pockets as could be used by anybody living; we sent in a second supply of 1,300 cut from the same material precisely, and the whole 1,300 were passed without question. We have now got the first 1,300 back, and have applied to the War Department upon the subject, that they may be looked at by some competent authority.

6844. Were they rejected at the Tower?—Yes. We believe them to be as good articles as it is possible to be furnished for use; the article when it is put into the soldier's hands is pipe-clayed over, and any little apparent roughness upon the leather is not seen. The contract price is only 9½d., and it embraces a great deal of work. The inspector in rigidly doing his duty may have thought a trifling roughness bound him to reject the article; but it is as good as a thing can by possibility be made. Upon this ground we say that we ought at all times to have the power of appeal; let it be at the risk of the party appealing, let him defray every expense if he fails, in the ordinary way of having an appeal to another party.

6845. Would you invest such a party with the mere province of deciding whether the articles were exactly like the pattern, or give him a more equitable power of dealing with the articles?—Whether they were fit, and whether it was a proper supply to be passed in accordance with the contract; he would take the sealed pattern, and see what it is. The fact is, the sealed pattern is made from French leather, and not from English leather; the old specification was that we were always desired to use English leather, but I believe French leather is just as good.

6846. To whom do you suggest that the appeal should be made?—That is a question for the Government; they must have a word upon that. What the trade asks for is, that a competent person perfectly disinterested shall be the referee. I may mention another instance with regard to some ball-tufts. You have heard of the 100th regiment which came home and wanted supplying in no time. We had to supply a large quantity of ball-tufts, which is a mere ornament in the cap, and they were all rejected at the Tower, on the ground that they were not properly made; that the wool was not properly sewn or fastened to the ball. We looked at them very minutely, and of course with this kind of thing force will tear the wool in no time. So pressing was the thing, and knowing that we could not get better made anywhere, I went down to the War Department myself. I saw Mr. Howell, and Mr. Howell

said it was not his department, and he went with me to some of the other officials in the place; they one and all said that they could not understand it, and that it should be looked into. The result of it was that the goods were all taken in the end; but of course force would do it, and there might, perchance, have been a pattern which was rather more gummed on or sewn on than the article supplied. It never could have any wear, and it was not necessary there should be much strength. Whether things are the right pattern or not, of course must be decided by a military person; but if the quality of cloth is in question, let a person who understands cloth be the referee; or if it is leather, let us have a person who understands leather.

6847. (*Colonel French.*) Had you under the old system the whole of the clothing of a regiment returned?—There was, I believe, one instance of it in the records of the house of Hebbert and Co. A regiment was quartered in Dublin, and my impression is—it was before I was a partner in the house—that they did not approve of the colour of the facings; the result of which was that the house re-made the clothing, and supplied it.

6848. Did you ever have the clothing of the 79th Highlanders sent back for being badly sewn?—No; Mr. Crocker has been in the house from a boy, and he might recollect it; it has not occurred within twenty years.

6849. (*Mr. Turner.*) Does your desire to have some court of appeal, or some protection from the too rigid instructions given to inspectors or their capriciousness, as the case may be, amount to a money value? Would you, if you had that protection, take it into calculation in making your tender?—I believe we should. We now put on in our estimate a percentage. We used at one time to reckon five per cent., but five per cent. is nothing like sufficient at the present time for the risk of rejections.

6850. Supposing you had the protection that you have advocated, would you be willing to reduce your tenders to the extent of five per cent.?—We should reduce them, I have very little doubt. We might also put a trifle on because of the expense of delay. I should still in my mind say that I am liable to some expense, but not to the extent of five or seven and a half or ten per cent. which I am liable to now.

6851. What extent of per-centage would enter into your calculation of the cost to protect you from that rigid inspection or capriciousness of the inspectors?—One ought at the very least at the present time to have five per cent.

6852. That is an item of cost?—It is an item of loss or cost.

GEORGE DALHOUSIE RAMSAY, Esq., further examined.

6853. (*Chairman.*) Several points have arisen in the course of examination of other witnesses upon which we should be glad of any explanation that can be furnished before we proceed to the more general question. Will you explain the circumstances connected with the sale of a quantity of Oxford grey cloth?—There were about 20,000 yards of cloth purchased during the war time at the Tower, and when the Weedon establishment was first formed it was sent there to be stored. In the meantime a change had taken place in the pattern of cloth. That cloth had become obsolete, and the trousers cloth for the army had been very much improved. This was trousers cloth for the line; and the inspectors at Weedon reported when they examined this cloth, after it had been in store for some time at Weedon, that it was mildewed and otherwise injured, and recommended that it should be sent up for sale. It was sent up to the Tower for sale, and the inspectors there took a different view to the inspectors at Weedon. They thought the cloth should not be sold unless it was an obsolete pattern, and we could

not use it. Then we tried to get rid of the cloth in every sort of way. We applied to the Directors of Convict Prisons whether they could take it off our hands for convicts. They took a very small portion of it; a few hundred yards was all they could employ. Then it was determined to sell the cloth, and 10,000 yards were offered for sale at one of the Tower sales, but only 2s. 7d. a yard was bid, and the whole quantity was bought in. Subsequently to that Mr. Levy made an offer to purchase the whole for 2s. 8d., which was refused, because it was thought the price was too low. Then we tried by several other means to get rid of the cloth, and at length it was determined to sell it by public advertisement. Advertisements were inserted in several of the newspapers, and the only offer that we had for the cloth was an offer from Mr. Almond of 2s. 7½d., and an offer from Cohen of 1s. 9d. The highest tender was of course accepted. We ought to have accepted Mr. Levy's offer of 2s. 8d., but as the cloth was offered for sale by public advertisement, and Mr. Levy did not choose then to come forward and offer the

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LONDON. 2s. 8d., it was naturally understood that he had changed his mind, and would not buy it.
 G. D. Ramsay, Esq. 6854. The inspectors at Weedon, Messrs. Hebdon and Mallett, have stated that although they reported that the cloth was mildewed and required alteration, they were hostile to its sale, but they were over-ruled by the higher authorities?—The only report I find is a recommendation of sale from Mr. Hoile. Whether Mr. Hoile kept any record of the opinions of his sub-inspectors, I do not know.

6855. The responsibility of selling the cloth, then, seems to rest with Mr. Hoile?—Certainly.

6856. Are you aware that it was resold to Mr. Gilpin?—Mr. Gilpin must have bought it from one of those three parties.

6857. Mr. Gilpin has stated that he bought the cloth from Levy, at an average price of 4s. a yard; resold it to the Government in the shape of trousers, and the trousers were passed at Weedon?—Yes; they were only passed for pensioners' clothing. At that period we had a running contract for made-up pensioners' clothing; we did not issue materials at all, therefore we could not have applied the cloth for pensioners' clothing.

6858. Why not?—Because we had a running contract with a contractor to supply the clothing made up. It is very true that we might have offered Mr. Gilpin this cloth. It was offered to him, as it was offered to the whole of the public, by public advertisement.

6859. Would it not have been wiser, supposing the cloth to have been fit for the purpose for which it was used, to have determined that running contract, and to have used the 20,000 yards of cloth yourselves?—I think it will be found that a very small portion of that actual cloth was sent in to Weedon. The pensioners' clothing is only a small order; there are 18,000, and they are clothed once in seven years; they are never clothed all at the same period, because they do not join the enrolled force at the same period.

6860. Do you think Mr. Gilpin would have bought that cloth unless he had had an opportunity of using it?—He must have had an opportunity of using it; but of the 20,000 yards sold I suspect a very small portion found its way back to Weedon. Not the whole 20,000 yards, nor anything like that quantity.

6861. Mr. Gilpin did not buy the whole quantity himself; he bought 8,000 and 3,000 yards out of the 17,000 that Mr. Almond had purchased; and he states that it was sold at the Tower in consequence of the new regulation quality coming into use?—That was one reason, and therefore the cloth became obsolete.

6862. Was it not actually being used?—Only for pensioners' clothing, and we could not have used it for pensioners' clothing unless we had kept it in store until the then existing contract had terminated, and then we should have had to change our whole system of supplying clothing to pensioners.

6863. When was that contract for supplying pensioners' clothing entered into?—I think it was entered into before we had this cloth.

6864. Was not the cloth procured to be used for pensioners' clothing?—Certainly not; it was procured during the war time as cloth for army and militia services, not for pensioners at all.

6865. You are aware that we have had a very long discussion about the boots: is there anything you desire to add upon that subject?—When those boots that were sent from the Tower to Weedon were inspected in 1856, the recommendation of the Board was, that there should be a re-inspection, and those which upon re-inspection were condemned should be sold. I was always under the impression that a very careful re-inspection of those boots took place at Weedon, and that the 20,000 which were sent up for sale had been condemned in consequence of that re-inspection.

6866. Had you any report from Weedon to that effect?—No. Mr. Elliott was informed that the Secretary of State had approved of the report, and that the boots were to be re-inspected, and those that were condemned were to be sent up and sold.

6867. (Mr. Turner.) In your order for sending those boots up is anything mentioned about their being condemned?—No. Mr. Elliott had been already told that the Secretary of State had approved of the recommendation of the Board.

6868. (Chairman.) Did not you think that the whole lot would be condemned upon re-inspection?—I thought the greater number would be condemned.

6869. Is not that the explanation of the fact that your letter does not specify that condemned boots only were to be sent up?—No; because I understood that we could have supplied them to certain services which did not require such good boots as the army. Take for instance the militia.

6870. The terms of your letter are, "Send up 10,000 Tower boots"; and as Mr. Watson said, "I should have complied with that direction if I had sent up 10,000 of the best of the Tower boots"?—That might have been so.

6871. In the second letter, upon the receipt of which the second 10,000 were sent up, you did say, "Send up 10,000 of the condemned boots"?—Yes; it was understood that the first 10,000 would be condemned boots. Knowing as we did that Mr. Elliott was aware of the recommendation of the Board that those boots should be re-inspected, it was naturally taken for granted that, when he got the order for sale, he would send up 10,000 that after re-inspection were found unfit for any of the services.

6872. We have heard from three witnesses that after the re-inspection they were substantially put together again, and no selection was made; Mr. Watson differed from those men, who all said that they were taken indiscriminately?—I think there is no doubt now that they were taken indiscriminately.

6873. Whose fault was that?—The fault of the storekeeper. The storekeeper was informed that the recommendation of the Board had been adopted, and it was his duty to see that only those boots were sent up to the Tower for sale that had been actually re-inspected, and upon re-inspection condemned.

6874. Is there any report in the office showing the result of that re-inspection?—No; I do not think there is.

6875. (Colonel French.) Is not the loss arising by the sale of these things to be taken into consideration as part of the expense of clothing, when you compare it with the former system?—As part of the loss which the Government always suffer from changes of pattern. In the meantime the standard pattern of the boot had been entirely changed.

6876. With such an immense quantity of cloth proved to be serviceable, is it justifiable, that it should be rendered obsolete? Should it not have been served out to the troops before you changed the pattern?—There is a general rule that we are to use up all old stores before new ones are introduced; but it is with the greatest difficulty that we are enabled to keep to that rule strictly.

6877. Previously to the Weedon establishment being in existence, whenever the pattern was changed the troops always had to wear out the cloths. Why should not the same rule exist now?—This cloth was bought for militia purposes and line purposes during the war time. It was part of a large surplus store which had accumulated during the war time. If the war had continued we should not have had any of these sales at all, but the troops would have used up all the stores which had been purchased for them.

6878. (Chairman.) We desired to be furnished with a list of obsolete stores; have you that list?—Yes.

The same was handed in, and is as follows :

OBSELETE STORES at WEEDON, with their approximate VALUE, and REMARKS as to what Services they might be applied.

ARTICLES.	QUANTITIES	Prices.	Amount.	REMARKS.
		<i>s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	
Knapsacks - -	10,881	7 6	4,080 7 6	Militia regiments.
Forage caps - -	8,116	1 0	405 16 0	Militia and prisons.
Boots (pairs) -	42,783	7 6	16,043 12 6	Militia, prisons, and convicts.
Overalls, Cav. (prs.)	3,600	12 0	2,160 0 0	For cavalry, as part worn clothing.
Jackets, Shell -	28,309	6 0	8,492 14 0	Militia.
Tunics - - -	30,127	14 0	21,088 18 0	Ditto.
Waterdecks - -	10,582	10 6	5,555 11 0	
Buttons, Metal	62,370	1 0	3,118 10 0	} For sale.
Bone - - -	450	0 3	5 12 6	
Washers - - -	3,375	0 3	42 3 9	
Frocks, drab - -	24,930	3 0	3,739 10 0	For sale (or India).
Trousers (pairs) -	2,951	7 6	1,106 12 6	Militia.
Great coats - -	650	12 0	390 0 0	Convicts.
Cloaks, Cavalry -	1,121	13 0	728 13 0	To repair old cloaks.
Overcoats - - -	21,206	14 6	15,374 7 0	To be converted into great coats.
Cloth, Red - - -	7,783	5 0	1,945 15 0	Militia and prisons.
Serge, Blue - -	4,790	4 0	958 0 0	Militia trousers.
Cloth, do. - - -	2,256	5 6	620 8 0	Enrolled pensioners and militia artillery.
Green - - -	1,679	5 5	461 14 6	Militia rifle jackets.
Oxford - - -	1,480	4 6	333 0 0	Militia trousers.
Grey - - -	417	4 0	83 8 0	Military prisons.
Blue - - -	141	5 0	35 5 0	Facings, shell jackets.
Scarlet - - -	157	7 0	54 19 0	Do. Do.
White - - -	91	7 0	31 17 0	Band jackets, militia.
			86,856 14 3	

W. HOILE, Inspector of Stores.

Perhaps you would allow me to make a statement as to what is done with obsolete stores. When the war ended the army was considerably larger than it is now; and reductions took place to the extent of 70,000 or 80,000 men. When the reductions were made there was a large quantity of surplus clothing returned into store; upwards of 80,000 tunics, and no less than 100,000 pairs of trousers. When the new pattern of clothing came into use in the year 1857-8, Lord Panmure decided that the whole of the surplus tunics which had been returned should be made available for the army serving in the colonies, and the consequence was that we made a contract with a person to change the facings and the buttons. And further it was decided that the trousers which we had in store, and which had been returned from the army, should all be used up for that year, and that the new pattern trousers should not be taken into wear till the 1st of April 1858. I think by that means we worked off about 45,000 of the old double-breasted tunics, and I may say almost the whole of the trousers. By the return which I have handed in you will see that there are only 2,951 pairs of obsolete trousers. You may imagine what an immense quantity of surplus clothing was returned both by the army and the militia when you have still 30,127 tunics.

6879. (*To Mr. Bischoff.*) Supposing you had remained clothier for twenty regiments in the Crimea, and you had furnished to the full strength the clothing required for the regiments, and peace came somewhat suddenly, what would become of the extra clothing which was in wear or in store?—What had been worn would, I believe, have belonged to the soldier. New clothing would have been kept in store.

6880. There would have been still that loss to the Government?—Yes, if the clothing could not have been used.

6881. You would have been paid for them, and there would have been a supply larger than the regiments would require for the future; what became of them?—They would be kept, I suppose, for the use of the regiment in the following year, if they did not alter the patterns. If they had been garments that had been worn for any length of time, I believe the ordinary regulation is, that a man who is discharged has a certain portion of his things given to him.

6882. The tunics and that kind of thing that you would have been paid for, would the country have been at the loss of them?—The Government would have had them.

6883. Would they have been returned into store?—The Government might have put them into any

store they thought proper to nominate, either retaining them for the regiments or keeping them as Government stores. That is a question for the Government to answer, not me.

(*Mr. Ramsay.*) Under the old system the Colonel would have been paid. Take the case of a regiment on the 1st of April, 1856, 2,000 strong, which was the case in the Crimea. Peace was declared soon after the 1st of April, and that regiment was reduced to 1,000 strong; the colonel would have been paid by the public for 2,000 garments; and the colonel would have had the benefit of expending any surplus garments for the next year's clothing, and the value of that surplus would have been clear profit; therefore the person who derived the real benefit would have been the colonel.

(*Mr. Bischoff.*) If you refer to the clothing warrant, I believe the regulations are laid down now, if the clothing has been in use for a certain period the man takes it; if not, it is sent back into store, and used for recruits and so forth.

(*Mr. Ramsay.*) As a rule, the clothing only becomes the property of the soldier after it has been in wear twelve months. A concession is made to the soldier in this respect; if the soldier is discharged within six months after he has had his clothing in wear, it is given to him as a present; it is not his prescriptive right.

6884. (*Chairman.*) Supposing 500 new tunics had been landed in the Crimea and not taken into wear at all; peace had been declared, and the regiment was reduced from 2,000 to 1,000 strong; the 500 tunics had therefore become needless for the use of the men: would the colonel have had the benefit of them?—Yes. The colonel would receive the clothing for 2,000 for that year, and only have to provide for 1,000 for the next year. I may add that a new regulation has come out in consequence of the Ten Years Enlistment Bill, by which the commanding officers are directed to take care, if men are to be discharged, say in the month of May or June, that they receive no clothing at all on the 1st of April, but receive two months' compensation in pay.

6885. While we are upon the subject of the obsolete stores, will you be good enough to explain about the knee boots? There were 20,000 knee boots which were at Weedon and were removed to Woolwich to make way for other stores?—Yes.

6886. In September there comes a circular signed by Mr. Howell, inviting people to go and look at the knee boots at Weedon?—Yes; that was by a mistake of the clerk in Mr. Howell's office. The word "Weedon" instead of "Woolwich" was inserted.

6887. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you volunteered to pay the expenses of the persons who went to inspect the knee boots at Weedon?—I think the only persons who went were from Northampton. I should say that the mistake was immediately discovered, and it was rectified by a notice to all the persons to whom circulars had been sent.

6888. It appears from the list of obsolete stores which you have handed in, that they cost the Government 86,856*l.* 14*s.* 3*d.*?—Yes.

6889. Why are those stores obsolete?—Because the patterns are changed. They are only considered obsolete for army services; they are not considered obsolete for militia services.

6890. You hope to work them off for the use of the militia or some other force?—Yes.

6891. We understood at Weedon that even the militia may object next year to receive some of the things that are palmed upon them, and that they are getting almost as particular as the line?—If the Secretary of State decides that the militia are to receive a certain class of clothing, they must take it.

6892. (*Chairman.*) Do you think you will be able to work off the whole quantity in time?—No, not the whole; but we shall be able to work off a considerable quantity.

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6893. (*Mr. Turner.*) When we were at Weedon, we saw a considerable number of linen frocks of some kind; how many were there?—Drab frocks, 24,930; they were made for the anticipated summer campaign in the Crimea.

6894. And have since become obsolete?—Yes.

6895. Might they not have been sent to India for use?—We have sent 12,000 to the army in China.

6896. So that you are working them off?—Yes; we shall work them off.

6897. They are not likely to be sent to the Tower for sale?—I do not think so.

6898. You have not ordered them to be sent to the Tower for sale?—No; certainly not.

6899. They are still existing at Weedon, and you hope to work them off for services in hot countries?—Yes; we have got some in the Mediterranean now.

6900. (*Chairman.*) Do you think any of these articles have become obsolete from a change of pattern, which is not also an improvement?—We are supposed not to offer an opinion upon the patterns; the patterns are fixed by the Commander-in-chief entirely.

6901. Are they not subject to the approbation of the War Office?—Yes; as regards expense.

6902. (*Mr. Turner.*) Besides the large quantity of obsolete stores, amounting in value to 86,000*l.*, which are now lying at Weedon, there were, according to the return, in March and April last great deliveries of stores from Weedon to Woolwich and the Tower, of which there is a list given in Appendix No. 21 to the last Report of the Committee; have you any account of the value of the things in that list?—No; those things principally consist of warm clothing that was purchased for the use of the army in the Crimea, and were returned from the Crimea.

6903. Were not some of the things that were sent to the Tower intended for sale at the time they were sent?—They were intended to be all re-surveyed at the Tower. I think some of them have been sold, such as sheepskin coats, and the knee boots are going to be sold now.

6904. Amongst other things, were there not 312,000 pairs of stocks?—Yes.

6905. Are not they stated to be obsolete stores?—They are obsolete for this reason, that those socks were supplied as warm clothing to the army. In time of peace we only issue warm clothing to the troops in Canada; there are only three or four regiments in Canada altogether, and we cannot work these off for the use of the troops in England; we are using them up for militia, hospital, and various other services.

6906. Was that the intention when they were first returned?—Yes.

6907. I presume there was some order given to the establishment at Weedon for the removal of those 312,000 pairs of socks?—All those articles were ordered to be removed from Weedon at the time the remain was taken, because it was not considered advisable to burden Captain Gordon's charge with all those things which could not be issued as general stores to the army.

6908. Can you put in a copy of that order?—Yes.

6909. At some period after being ordered to the Tower the socks found their way to Woolwich, did not they?—The socks never went to the Tower at all; in fact, they were only sent from Weedon for the purpose of providing store-room, and there happened to be available store accommodation at Woolwich.

6910. (*Colonel French.*) Was it ever intended that the socks should be sold when they went from Weedon?—It was intended to re-survey them. You will see, a vast quantity of things, and all those which could not be made available for one service or another, would have been sold; since then we have found that we can make almost all the things available except the fur caps, and winter clothing, of which there is a large quantity.

6911. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was not there an impression that those socks were not quite of the regulation

pattern, and not fit for issue?—They are woollen socks, and the socks which the soldier receives as necessaries are cotton socks.

6912. (*Colonel French.*) There were worsted socks at Hayter and Howell's?—They are not the same as the 312,000 pairs that we bought for the Crimea; the socks issued as necessaries to the troops are made of a thinner material than the woollen socks which we purchased for the Crimea.

6913. (*Mr. Turner.*) I wish this point of the socks to be clearly elucidated, because a little affair took place at Weedon that was not quite satisfactory to the Commissioners, and I believe not quite satisfactory to the War Office. There was a telegram came down, as you are aware no doubt. As the Secretary of State-for-War and the Under Secretary of State were not at the office at Pall Mall, it must have emanated from some officer?—It was simply desired to correct what was supposed to be a mis-statement, and to state the real fact, which was all which was intended.

6914. An officer was placed in an unpleasant situation at Weedon, in consequence of its being assumed that he had given information that the socks were sent away for sale; you say that they never were intended for sale?—Never.

6915. It was stated in evidence by Mr. Munro that in April 1858 the socks were not considered fit for issue; was that the fact?—They were not considered fit for issue to the troops, because they were not of the army pattern.

6916. You were good enough to say in the telegram, so far from those articles being ordered for sale, 61,000 had been already issued to the militia?—Yes; and for hospital services.

6917. In the second telegram I gathered that not only were 61,000 issued to the militia, but they were likely to be issued to the troops. Is it correct that those socks will be issued to the troops?—I cannot say that they will be issued to the troops immediately.

6918. At any time?—Certainly, if the troops were to demand socks as warm clothing, or socks for extraordinary purposes.

6919. I thought they were not of the proper regulation pattern?—We could only issue them to troops for extraordinary services; we should not issue them to troops for ordinary services. We can issue them to troops in Canada.

6920. (*Colonel French.*) I thought the whole of the army got woollen socks, except those in India?—No, they get their necessaries, which they have to buy themselves. We do not supply the army with woollen socks as articles of clothing. The worsted socks that you saw at Hayter and Howell's are most likely going to the West Indies, because the only troops that we supply with socks as clothing are troops in the West Indies.

6921. (*Chairman.*) What troops did you mean?—I meant that they would be issued to the general service, as we could dispose of them. They will not be sold, and it never was intended to sell them.

6922. (*Colonel French.*) Do not you supply recruits with kits?—Yes.

6923. Do you give them woollen socks?—Yes, but these are too thick.

6924. (*Mr. Turner.*) Independently of issuing these socks to the militia, they would be also issued to the troops either on ordinary or extraordinary occasions?—I should say they would not be issued on ordinary occasions.

6925. At all events they are likely to be used?—Yes, when the militia come out. We have issued 61,000 pairs already; and as the militia comes out every year, they will soon work them off. I think in two years they will be all worked off.

6926. I see in question 8062, Lord Claud Hamilton asked Mr. Munro with regard to the advertised sales soon after this delivery was made, "Will you look at that advertisement, dated the 10th of May (*handing the same to the Witness*), do not you find the same description of articles there?" He

says, "Yes, I see in it gregoes, sheepskins, fur caps, clothing, worsted socks, and condemned saddlery, all of which articles were sent from Weedon on the same order as the 312,000 socks. It is utterly impossible for me to say that those worsted socks are the same socks." Were any part of those worsted socks included in that advertisement?—I have not seen the advertisement. I do not think they can be the same that I am speaking of. I have a return from the storekeeper at Woolwich now of the quantity remaining in store.

6927. Might they not be in the advertisement, and yet not be sold?—You must bear in mind that we supply socks to a variety of other services besides the army.

6928. There must have been some other obsolete socks, as you include them in the advertisement of the sale?—Yes. I can easily clear that up by giving you the return I am now preparing. I am merely waiting till I get a return from the Tower to show what has actually become of the stores sent up from Weedon.

6929. Were those worsted socks withdrawn from that sale?—That I can ascertain. After all, it may only have been a small lot of worsted socks.

6930. (*Chairman.*) Can you give any explanation of a statement which you made in your previous evidence about your reason for believing that there was no deficiency in the boots at Weedon?—When Mr. Garrett, who is in the accountant-general's office, went down to Weedon to investigate some claims of Isaac, he took a correct account of all the boots that had been received in store from the 1st of April 1857. We have already in the possession of the War Office the ledgers up to the 31st of March 1857, which showed the total remaining in store on the 31st of March 1857, and by adding the total which remained in store on the 1st of April 1857 to the quantity which Mr. Garrett reported to have been received to the 1st of April 1858, it made I think about 802,081. I think you will see I go on to say this is merely a calculation. Then with regard to the 554,000 pairs, that ought to have been issued. We know very well at the War Office the number of men who are entitled to boots; we can ascertain that positively, which I did. I took a great deal of trouble about that, and I left a very considerable margin for any mistakes; and after working it out in every way I could, I arrived at the conclusion that we should be able to account for all the boots received.

6931. (*Mr. Turner.*) What margin did you give to cover mistakes in an establishment like Weedon?—I left a margin of somewhere about 20,000 pairs. I find, as I stated to Commissary-General Adams, that there was an omission in Mr. Garrett's statement I think of 12,000 pairs of boots which had been sent to China. What Commissary-General Adams says I have no doubt is perfectly correct; he cannot find issue vouchers for 10,000 pairs of boots, but when the ledgers come to be examined we shall furnish those issue vouchers, or satisfactory evidence to show that the boots have been issued.

6932. (*Chairman.*) You say that you have evidence at the War Office of the actual orders. The issue vouchers not being found, Mr. Elliott may not have credited himself with those issues, that is one theory; the other is, that they may never have been received?—If the boots had never been received, we should have had complaints from the regiments.

6933. I mean never received at Weedon?—I can only take it for granted that the quantity of boots stated in the ledger to have been received have actually been received. I have started upon that assumption, which remains to be proved.

6934. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would it not be very easy for any number of articles to be missing at Weedon, as you have not all the issue vouchers complete?—I cannot understand any difficulty whatever in arriving at a correct statement of the amount of deficiencies at Weedon, for this reason: we shall charge Mr. Elliott for everything that has been paid for, which

we can do from documents existing in the War Office; we shall charge him further with all stores which have been received from regiments; and we shall charge him with all stores which have been issued to him from various storekeepers. That is his charge. Now he must work that charge off. I have no doubt that we shall find that he will not produce issue vouchers; they will be lost or not forthcoming. Then we shall have evidence from the clothing rolls, and from the answers to the returns from the regiments that they have actually received all that clothing.

6935. We were informed by several of the officials at Weedon that stores had been sent in from regiments of which no account was taken; is that the case?—But we shall arrive at that information; we are getting the answers to our circular, and the regiments will be able to tell us what stores were returned; and then we shall charge them to the storekeeper.

6936. Shall you get that information from the militia regiments?—Yes; we have got almost all the answers from militia regiments.

6937. (*Chairman.*) Was not there undue delay in acting upon Commissary-General Adams' suggestion that a circular should be forwarded to the various regiments on the 3d July. The circular purports to bear date the 10th of August?—I believe it does.

6938. The fact is that there was a delay of five weeks just at a time that we were very anxious to proceed?—There were several consultations with Commissary-General Adams about the form of the return; it had to be printed and revised, and great delay took place in that.

6939. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is it necessary to occupy five weeks in consultation between individuals about the form of a circular that ought to be drawn up in a few minutes?—I should prefer that you should examine Mr. Milton on that subject.

6940. Is Mr. Milton responsible for the delay of five weeks in the issuing of that circular?—Whoever was charged by the Secretary of State with preparing that circular is responsible.

6941. You act very immediately under the Under Secretary of State on occasions; could not you tell us that?—If you would allow me I would suggest your examining Mr. Milton. I had nothing whatever to do with it.

6942. (*Chairman.*) We are anxious to have a distinct statement of which of the Ordnance Regulations are, and which are not, applicable to Weedon?—The only Ordnance Regulation which is not applicable to Weedon is that Regulation which requires that every storekeeper shall take the initiative in making requisitions for stores; that is to say, we hold the storekeepers at the Tower and Woolwich responsible for keeping up the store.

6943. Could anything be substituted for that Regulation at Weedon?—No; because there was no store. I might add further, when Captain Gordon was first appointed to Weedon, General Peel desired that the Ordnance Regulations should be adopted in every respect at Weedon even to the storekeeper taking the initiative; it was found impossible to answer, and in consequence it has been abandoned, that is to say, if we wanted ten tunics, according to the Ordnance Regulation we should have to apply to the storekeeper for those ten tunics, knowing that the storekeeper had not them in store, and therefore a departure from the Ordnance Regulations is only to this effect: We desire the contractor to send in ten tunics, and inform the storekeeper at the same time that they are to be sent in, and desire him to issue them.

6944. No substitute for that Ordnance Regulation could be given, because there was nothing to which anything of the kind could be applicable at Weedon?—Because there was no store.

6945. Can you point out the Ordnance Regulations that were applicable to Weedon?—The whole of the Ordnance Regulations were applicable to Weedon,

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with the exception of those portions that applied to provision, to keeping up a store.

6946. Can you distinctly specify those Ordnance Regulations which Mr. Elliott is said to have disregarded?—If you refer to the letter of instructions which Mr. Elliott received upon his appointment, you will find that he was told to keep his cash and store ledger according to the Ordnance Regulations.

6947. In point of fact which of those Regulations were departed from?—He kept his ledger strictly according to the Regulations. I believe it will be found that his cash accounts were extremely well kept.

6948. Will you be good enough to give the numbers of the Ordnance Regulations which did not apply to Weedon?—The Ordnance Regulations which did not apply to Weedon are numbers 301 to 309 inclusive, also a circular dated 26th November 1856, wherein it is stated that “Storekeepers will be held strictly responsible for taking the initiative in the maintenance of a store at their respective stations, sufficient to meet the known and probable wants of the service in their respective districts, by means of the annual or intermediate demands submitted for the consideration of the Director of Stores.”

6949. Does not it strike you that merely giving Mr. Elliott that letter of appointment, with directions saying that he is familiar with the Ordnance Regulations, was hardly sufficiently specific at the commencement of an establishment?—I can hardly admit that, because although it was a new establishment, there was hardly any difference in his duties. He was appointed as storekeeper, and the only difference in his duties was, that he had a different description of stores in charge to what he formerly had. When we appoint a storekeeper to a certain station he never gets instructions. The volume of Ordnance Regulations are his instructions; and if he cannot comply with those instructions, or if he wants further instructions, he applies for them.

6950. Do you think it was sufficient to give Mr. Elliott a book, reminding him that he had experience, and saying, “Now go and inaugurate this new system under those Regulations”?—I think so. The best proof is, that Captain Gordon has received no instructions at all; and he has, as you are aware, entirely changed the system which Mr. Elliott pursued, because he has followed out the instructions contained in the Ordnance Regulations.

6951. You have already been examined as to the establishment that was first formed at Weedon. Did it strike you, considering the amount of duty which the officers had to perform, supposing them competent, that their salaries were sufficient?—I suppose you refer principally to the salaries of the inspectors. When the Weedon establishment was first formed it was decided to adopt three classes of inspectors; the third class was the lowest, to begin at 100*l.* a year, and progress to 190*l.* by 10*l.* a year. The second class to begin at 110*l.* a year, to progress by 10*l.* a year to 290*l.*; and the first class was to commence at 300*l.*, and progress by 10*l.* a year to 350*l.*

6952. Does not it strike you, considering the enormous amount of responsibility and work thrown upon them, that their salaries were too small?—I should be very glad to see those salaries increased. About eighteen months ago it was decided to increase the salaries of the inspectors at Weedon; but I must be excused for saying that the charges which were thrown broadcast upon the establishment at Weedon really were such that Lord Panmure, who was then Secretary of State, would not entertain any question of promoting the inspectors, or increasing their salaries, until we could ascertain positively whether there was any truth in those charges.

6953. When did those charges come to the knowledge of the department?—At the early part of last year they were made before the Committee on Public Contracts. That was one of the reasons why the contemplated change did not take place when the

whole system of inspection at Weedon had been revised; and it was intended to increase the pay of the inspectors, and to give each inspector a salary of 250*l.*, to go on increasing to 350*l.*

6954. (*Colonel French.*) Was it to be made retrospective?—No; when it was decided in July or August 1857 that Mr. Elliott should be removed, it was thought better to delay any change whatever until Captain Gordon had arrived and made his report upon the efficiency and capability of every person there. The result is now that we are going to revise the whole pay of the inspectors.

6955. One or two of the cloth manufacturers complained that their cloth had been rejected for not being up to the specification, whereas it was proved to be equal to the pattern and vice versa; there was a discrepancy between the two?—I do not like answering these practical questions, because the inspectors themselves ought to answer them. The terms of the contract are that the articles shall be equal to the pattern and specification.

6956. If they are at variance with each other, what can the contractor do?—They ought not to be at variance with each other.

6957. It was shown to us that they were completely at variance with each other. Can you state whether the patterns were selected and the specification made by the same individual?—I will tell you the process which takes place. When a pattern has been determined upon and sealed, that pattern is sent to the inspectors either at Weedon or at the Tower, and the inspectors are called upon to prepare a specification in accordance with the pattern, and the responsibility of preparing that specification rests entirely with them. It is for them to prepare the specification in accordance with the pattern.

6958. It appears that in this instance there was some bungling?—Then the inspectors at Weedon ought to have explained why the specification and the pattern did not agree.

6959. (*Chairman.*) Is not the form of specification sanctioned at the War Office?—We sanction it, but the person who is held responsible for that specification is the practical person who prepares it, who at the Tower is the superintendent of inspectors, and at Weedon is Mr. Hoile.

6960. (*Colonel French.*) It would appear that the pattern came from the War Office, and also the specification?—That ought to be explained. The specifications are prepared at Weedon.

6961. Perhaps at a former time they were not?—I think they always have been prepared at Weedon. It is impossible that any person can prepare a specification except a really practical person.

6962. (*Chairman.*) Mr. Hoile says that he prepared the specification, and that he has been consulted about the pattern; if they disagree he is so far responsible for recommending two things which disagree; but we cannot have the responsibility shifted off on him because he is a practical person. The War Office has sanctioned two things which disagree, and the contractor is puzzled to know which he is to go by?—If a contractor came to me and showed that the pattern and specification were at variance, I should call upon the person who prepared the specification to explain why the two were at variance.

6963. Would the authorities at the War Office put themselves so completely in the hands of a subordinate as to commit themselves to an inconsistency?—I am afraid we must trust to a practical person. It is impossible you can suppose that the Secretary of State could prepare a specification or decide whether the specification was right or wrong, although he is technically responsible for it.

6964. (*Colonel French.*) Do not you think as the specification and pattern ought to agree that the same authority who selects the one ought to prepare the other?—The difficulty arises principally from all patterns for clothing and accoutrements being prepared by the adjutant-general at the Horse Guards. It

strikes me now that it would be a very good plan if he were to prepare the specification as well.

6965. Does not the War Office fix the price which the Government will give?—I will tell you the form which is followed. If the commander-in-chief wishes to make any change whatever in a pattern, he writes to the Secretary of State-for-War; and he says, "I propose to make a change," for example "in the soldier's coat; the change I propose will cost a shilling more than the pattern now in wear; will you sanction the extra shilling?"

6966. (*Chairman.*) With that exception, I think you have already stated that the War Office has nothing to do with the pattern?—Nothing; the patterns are deposited there.

6967. (*Colonel French.*) I think you have also stated that sometimes the War Office give the patterns?—Yes, the War Office do give a variety of patterns; take the case of barrack stores and hospital stores; the commander-in-chief does not trouble himself to give patterns of every article in general use.

6968. With regard to the large quantity of tunics sent in by the militia, and which are now at Weedon obsolete, it has been suggested to me by the Governor of the military prison that they might be made available for prisoners by cutting off the sleeves and putting them on the grey jackets, and putting the grey sleeves on the red jackets?—I am happy to say that that suggestion has been attended to some time ago. I wrote myself to Colonel Jebb, the surveyor general of military prisons, and proposed it; but he objected to making any alteration in the sleeve; he said he would be glad to take the things without any alteration.

6969. (*Chairman.*) A good deal of evidence has been given with respect to the expediency of an appeal from the decision of the inspectors, and very strong evidence has been given to show that in the estimation of the contractors they could furnish their goods much more reasonably if they had that protection; have you any observations to make upon that subject?—I think it would be extremely objectionable to allow the contractors to appeal upon every case, considering the quantity of articles we supply; for instance, at the Tower alone the number of articles supplied every year of different descriptions is 17,000; and if you admit the principle of an appeal in one case, you must admit the principle in every case. I think the most complete answer that has been given upon the question of appeal is the answer to a question put to Mr. Dolan upon the subject of the marine contract.

6970. Mr. Dolan was examined yesterday, and he states that he has altered his opinion?—I am very much surprised to hear it. There is another remark to be made upon the question of appeal. The Secretary of State resorts to an appeal, as in the case of Mr. Ellis. That case happened about two years ago. Mr. Ellis complained that his cloth had been rejected unjustly, and I thought myself that it had been rejected unjustly. I recommended that Lord Panmure should consent to an appeal, which he did, immediately we proposed it; and in the result the decision was in favour of Mr. Ellis.

6971. According to the account given by the inspectors, after a very perfunctory and illusory sort of examination?—Still the referees decided in favour of Mr. Ellis.

6972. In that case, which you say was a case of injustice to Mr. Ellis, you recommended an appeal; cannot you easily imagine cases of similar injustice to others? Why should it be left at the option of the Secretary of State to say that justice shall be denied to any man who thinks he has been wronged?—I do not think the Secretary of State could desire to do injustice to any man.

6973. The contractor says, "By your subordinates injustice has been done me. Why should not I have an appeal to a more competent tribunal?"—He can

appeal to the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of State would grant a reference, as in this instance.

6974. Is not that almost a solitary case?—No; the question about Dowie's boots was another case. A great case happened some years ago with respect to candles; a man made a complaint of the inspection, and had an appeal allowed him for a very large contract of barrack candles.

6975. Who was successful?—I rather think the contractor won. The contractor always wins upon a question of appeal. In all the appeals we ever had, the contractor won.

6976. There have been various tribunals suggested, but as far as I gather a great many of the contractors would be perfectly content with a Government appointee, provided he was a man of known respectability and greater experience than the inspectors. Would you object to the appointment of such a person?—As far as my own individual opinion is concerned I have no objection to an appeal upon a great quantity of cases; but what I object to is that the contractor should have the power of appeal upon every trivial article.

6977. (*Mr. Turner.*) Evidence has been given by very highly respectable contractors in different branches, that their tenders would be affected to the extent in some cases of two and a half per cent., and in others of five per cent., if they had the right of appeal. Is not that a strong argument in favour of appeal?—All that evidence has been founded upon the assumption that the inspection is incompetent.

6978. It is founded upon the assumption that the inspection is arbitrary, and that there is no appeal when the decision is unjust?—If you still adhere to the principle of everything being exactly equal to the pattern, and you are satisfied that your inspection is not incompetent or arbitrary, I do not see if you have one person who is competent to give an opinion that a thing is equal to the pattern, that another person could give a different opinion. You might have a person appointed by the Government who should be able to say, "Although this article is not quite equal to the pattern, and there is a little flaw here and there, I think it quite serviceable for the troops?" I think that might be done very easily, and it would be a great advantage.

6979. (*Colonel French.*) If you could always depend upon the integrity of the inspectors, and also upon their skill, would there be any necessity for an appeal?—I can appeal to you as an officer in the army. You must know how difficulties arise in supplying clothing to the troops. You must have everything exactly the same. If there are two soldiers in a regiment and one soldier has got a coat different from the other, he will be discontented.

6980. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are you aware that in many important branches of business, houses of the highest character will not condescend to send in a tender at all because they will not submit to your arbitrary proceedings?—The only answer I can give to that is, that the Government have found very respectable persons perfectly ready to contract upon the present system. The Government find no difficulty in getting all the articles they want. Take the case of cloth manufacturers. I think the cloth contractors we have, as a body, are as respectable a class of men as any that we have.

6981. The first-class houses in this country have not the slightest difficulty in disposing of their manufactures at fair market prices, and they are treated by the private merchants as one man of business treats another, on something like honourable and straightforward principles, with no quibbles; and if there is any real ground of complaint they can immediately settle it by each party calling in an arbitrator. No man of business ever refuses to comply cheerfully with the decision of two independent men; but with you there is no such power, and firms who have no difficulty in dealing with others as honourable and straightforward as themselves in business, will not submit to your machinery and all the vexation of

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your system; therefore they decline altogether to send in tenders. I am sure it is the fact?—Do you think if we adopted the plan which you recommend, of having an arbitrator or referee, that those first-class houses would tender? Do not you think their objection is principally to the cumbrous form of Government tenders, and to the delays which must take place in going through those forms, rather than an objection to arbitrary inspection?

6982. I will ask you a question founded upon an answer of your own. The Chairman of the Contracts' Committee, at Question 110 (Parliamentary Paper, No. 269, 1857), asked you, "You pay for the cloth 'almost on delivery, do you not?'" You say, "Thirty days after delivery." It is an inducement to any man to what is technically called "cut fine" with you, for the sake of having ready money. Mr. Dolan states, that he now has claims upon you for 11,500*l.* on 360 unpaid accounts; and that during the panic, when money was scarce and worth ten per cent., you owed him 40,000*l.*; is that just?—All the answer I can give to that is, having read the evidence cursorily this morning, that until the moment Mr. Elliott left this country the War Office were hardly aware that those outstanding claims of Mr. Dolan existed. If Mr. Dolan, finding he did not get the money after the thirty days, had made a representation to me, or had made a representation to the Director of Contracts, we should have called upon the storekeeper to account why he did not pay Mr. Dolan. Mr. Dolan allows the matter to rest until Mr. Elliott goes away, and then he makes his representation.

6983. I think I understood from Mr. Dolan that he what is technically termed "looked you up," because you did not pay?—I do not think Mr. Dolan applied to me; he applied to the storekeeper. I do not think his representations went further than the storekeeper.

6984. If you are strict in enforcing fines upon contractors for the nonfulfilment of their engagements with you, do not you think that contractors have an equitable claim upon you for fines for failing to fulfil your bargain of punctual payment to them, when money was at 10 per cent.?—I think you will find that those outstanding claims on the part of Mr. Dolan were an exception; the rule is generally payment within thirty days. I have read through all the evidence, and I do not find any complaints, particularly from cloth contractors and boot contractors, of delay in payment.

6985. A clerk of Mr. Dolan's is present, who says that he did apply for payment before Mr. Elliott went; are you aware of that?—I will make inquiry. I was perfectly astonished when I found that these outstanding claims existed.

6986. The whole principles of your contract system were based, as you said in answer to Question 116 before the Committee, "on ready money payment, 'which enables you to get the articles so much 'cheaper'?"—Yes.

6987. Ought not your promise to pay punctually to be fulfilled?—I think every contractor who does not get his money within a certain time has a fair claim to ask for the usual rate of interest; and I have no doubt that Mr. Dolan will make that claim.

6988. If Mr. Dolan charges his interest at the same rate as the Bank of England was charging at the time, and makes your interest account 10 per cent. during the period that you were keeping him out of 40,000*l.*, will not that be rather an awkward item to put into next year's financial statement?—I do not mean to question his assertion with respect to the 40,000*l.*, but it seems to me that it is a very considerable sum; and I should like to inquire before answering any questions upon the subject.

6989. Whether it is 40,000*l.* or 4,000*l.*, if you were unjustly keeping him out of his money at a time when money was worth 10 per cent., ought not you to pay him that rate of interest?—He ought to be paid the fair market rate of interest, if it can be shown that

he has made application for his money and could not get it.

6990. (*Chairman.*) Will you favour us with an outline of the proposed new system?—The alterations that have been made in the system are first to have triennial contracts for made-up clothing; and, secondly, to appoint in addition to the civil inspectors two military inspectors, who are to be colonels in the army. As Mr. Bischoff has stated to-day very properly, in a yearly contract, according to the present system, the contractor hardly knows what he will have to do. The tenders will be out in a very few days for our new contracts to supply clothing to the army for three years.

6991. At a fixed price, or at a fluctuating price?—At a fixed price for three years; and each party will have the option of cancelling the contract upon three months' notice. A contractor may by giving three months' notice give up his contract, and the Secretary of State by giving three months' notice may cancel a contract.

6992. Where is the inspection to be conducted?—The inspection will be conducted in the new storehouses when the army clothing establishment is removed from Weedon.

6993. Is it known where those new storehouses are likely to be?—We are in treaty for some on the banks of the Thames; it is not settled yet.

6994. Will the inspection be conducted by the same subordinates?—Exactly the same subordinates; only there will be civil and military inspectors; and those civil and military inspectors will be jointly responsible for the passing of the clothing.

6995. Will the contracts be exclusively for made-up clothing, or will any raw materials of any sort be furnished?—We shall continue to furnish the cavalry, the artillery, and the engineers with materials to make up their own clothing.

6996. Has that always been the case?—The cavalry have always made up their own clothing; the clothing of the engineers and artillery has been delivered to them in a basted state, and they have fitted it themselves.

6997. Have those contracts been entered into?—They have not been entered into yet.

6998. Will the contractors have longer notice under the new system?—They will; that is all arranged.

6999. Have you heard the observations as to delay in the issue of contracts?—Yes; we have taken particular care in the new contracts that there shall be time given.

7000. How do you account for there not having been ample time given?—The great cause of delay has been from the unsettled state of the army. First of all, great reductions took place upon the peace. Then there was a material augmentation when the mutiny in India broke out. Upwards of 40 regiments were sent out from this country in the autumn of last year to India; and we had to get their clothing made in a hurry; had they remained in this country they would not have got it till the 1st of April. Almost the whole of the regiments left for India in the months of July, August, and September, and if they had remained in this country their clothing would not have been due till the 1st of April, therefore we had not commenced to get it made. When they were ordered to India, orders were given to get the clothing made; it could not be made under two or three months, and then it had to be sent out, and the consequence is that a great many of the regiments would not get their clothing for the 1st of April 1858 till June or July.

7001. Will you explain the case of the 95th regiment?—They went from the Cape to India; their clothing was under contract, and it was not finished. The great delay which takes place in the delivery of clothing in India is the transit up the country; from port to port it is almost four months, and it frequently takes some four or five months to get it up the country.

7002. The regiments have now been in India a considerable time ; how is it that there has not been sufficient notice given this year for the clothing to be delivered on the 1st of April next ?—The whole system of clothing was in a state of transition, and the pattern for the troops in India has been entirely changed; they will get the serge frock which you saw at Mark Lane.

7003. When was that alteration decided on ?—Not till the summer of this year.

7004. Knowing that that change was probable, you did not issue your tenders for contracts till after it was decided upon ?—No.

7005. Was there no “five weeks or so” in that case ?—No ; I do not think unnecessary delay has taken place. The clothing that you saw at Mark Lane is not due to the troops till the 1st of April next year.

7006. We are told that a large quantity of clothing for the Zouaves, the West India regiments, will not arrive there till towards the close of the summer ?—They will arrive in India at the beginning of February if they are shipped, as they ought to be, sometime this week or next week.

7007. Mr. Hayter says that a large quantity of

summer clothing is not delivered to him ?—That is for next year, not for this year.

7008. (*Colonel French.*) Have the regiments in India got their clothing for 1858 ?—All of them for the 1st of April 1858. The clothing that you saw at Mark Lane is the clothing going out to India, due to the soldiers on the 1st of April 1859.

7009. (*Mr. Turner.*) Supposing a regiment is in the higher parts of India, when will clothing reach them that is shipped in October ?—In May.

7010. It has been stated that the inland transit occupies nine months if the regiment is a considerable distance up the country. Do you agree with that statement ?—I do not think it takes so long now. All the clothing for the troops in the Punjaub and the North-west Provinces goes to Kurachee and up the Indus ; formerly the clothing used to go to Calcutta, and straight up the country.

7011. (*Colonel French.*) Is that serge jacket given to the soldier in lieu of a tunic ?—It is given in lieu of a tunic, and the soldier gets money compensation for the difference between the value of the serge frock and the tunic, which he spends in clothing suitable to the climate. He will get about 12s. and the serge frock.

Adjourned till To-morrow at twelve o'clock.

LONDON.

Friday, 8th October 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

GEORGE DALHOUSIE RAMSAY, Esq. further examined.

7012. (*Chairman.*) Have you seen a copy of Mr. Elliott's cash account which we asked for ?—Yes ; I find that the total sum which the public will lose from Mr. Elliott's cash defalcations will be 48*l.* 10s. (*Appendix, No. 9.*)

7013. That is, assuming that the 2,000*l.* is obtained from the Guarantee Society ?—Yes.

7014. Captain Gordon took the remain, we have heard, on the 14th of May, and was responsible for the store from that day. Is not there some Ordnance regulation about the cash being handed over at the same time with the stores ?—Certainly.

7015. Did Captain Gordon require the cash account on the 14th of May, do you know ?—I should not like to answer that question at present. I rather think he did. I think you will find in Captain Gordon's evidence that he did not take over the cash account, because the 14th of May was in the break of a week, and therefore he left Mr. Elliott to pay the wages up to the end of that week, and then intended to take over the cash account from that date.

7016. Will you read the Ordnance regulation which requires the incoming storekeeper to take to the cash as well as to the stores ?—It is article 252. “Every storekeeper or other accountant is immediately on joining his duty to receive from his predecessor the amount of cash remaining in his hand, and debit himself therewith in his account current; and in the event of any difficulty occurring in obtaining payment of it, he will report the same to the board immediately, with all information he can obtain which may be necessary to enable the board to take measures for its recovery. On succeeding to a death vacancy, the storekeeper or accountant will pursue the same course in regard to the cash to

“be received from the acting storekeeper or accountant.”

7017. Did Captain Gordon report to the War Office any difficulty with regard to the cash account ?—No ; Mr. Elliott absconded in the meantime. But I would rather you would examine Mr. Garrett upon those points.

7018. Will Mr. Garrett also be the person who can verify the return signed by Mr. Elliott in App. No. 12, Parl. Paper, No. 328, 1858, showing the amount of certificates granted in respect of stores delivered at Weedon ?—That will be verified by the accountant-general ; it is in the course of verification at this moment, and I think in a few days we shall be prepared to give it in completely. (*See Appendix, No. 16.*)

7019. (*Mr. Turner.*) You consider now that you will suffer a very small amount of loss, on the ground that you will receive the 2,000*l.* from the Guarantee Society ?—Certainly.

7020. I see that Sir Benjamin Hawes, in answer to a question of mine, No. 118, among other things, said :—“A man holding a Government appointment, or about to hold one, goes to the Guarantee Society, and they are very glad to get a policy.” Now I think Sir Benjamin Hawes goes rather beyond what he is justified in stating, when he says they are very glad to get a policy ; of course they are, if their terms are properly complied with. Have you looked at the paper which you signed, or somebody has signed, on behalf of the War Office ? There are a number of articles in it to which answers were given. I call your particular attention to Nos. 5, and 6, in which you pledge yourselves, as the employers of a person, to see very strictly after his accounts, and to balance them frequently, and, as all employers ought, to keep a vigilant check over your servants. Can you justify

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yourselves by showing that you did hold a sufficient check over Mr. Elliott?—I think we can justify ourselves, that we did hold a sufficient check over him in his cash transactions. You must draw a distinction between his cash and store transactions. We shall not go to the Guarantee Association at all for any defalcation in stores; but I think you will find in his cash transactions that there has not been any cause of complaint.

7021. Did you ever ascertain that the cash balance which was exhibited in his returns to you actually existed as cash?—I would rather that those questions were asked of somebody in the accountant-general's department.

7022. I am only following up Sir Benjamin Hawes's statement of the eagerness of the Guarantee Society to get business?—I presume they would be very glad to have business brought to their establishment.

7023. They assume that the person in whose favour the guarantee is granted shall be vigilantly watched, as all cash-keepers ought to be. Although Mr. Elliott's position was that of a storekeeper, he had possession of cash. From his accounts it appears that he had a considerable balance in hand, and that you made him remittances from time to time without ascertaining that the balance was actually in existence. If I were a member of the Guarantee Society I should object to pay you on that policy?—The Guarantee Association have made no objection at present, and have not even stated that they intend to make any.

7024. (*Chairman.*) Is not the Guarantee Association favoured by you to this extent, that you receive their guarantee at three-fourths of the amount which would be required upon private bonds?—Yes. I may state that the whole question of bonds and guarantees is now under consideration, and the War Office is about to make changes, which I think will be satisfactory to the public.

7025. Had you anything to do with advancing money to Mr. Elliott?—No. His cash transactions are entirely distinct from his store transactions; he accounted to the accountant-general for his cash accounts, and to the Director of Stores for his store transactions.

7026. Have you any observations to make upon Appendix No. 9. to the last report of the Contracts' Committee, which was put in by Messrs. Hebbert, purporting to be a comparison of the cost of clothing a battalion of infantry by War Office contract, with their estimate for the same?—Yes. In the first place, Messrs. Hebbert compare their estimate with the cost of clothing under contracts which were entered into in the autumn of 1856 and the autumn of 1857, when the price of wool was considerably higher than it is now, and the price of leather was also considerably higher; the estimate given by Messrs. Hebbert was given about the month of June, I think, of this year; therefore it is hardly fair to make a comparison between the prices of June of this year and the prices of August 1856 and August 1857. Then there is another point to which I would draw attention in this comparison, which is, that Messrs. Hebbert sent in a tender for the purpose of making up clothing on the 8th of May, and that tender is considerably higher than the estimate which they gave in in the month of June.

7027. Mr. Bischoff stated yesterday that that tender did not include all the items which are mentioned in the estimate?—No; but I took all those other items from actual contracts, which I think would probably be lower than Messrs. Hebbert would have tendered; therefore it is an advantage to them rather than otherwise.

7028. How do you explain it, that the actual cost which you put down for the triennial supply of great coats is 287*l.*, and on the other hand you put Messrs. Hebbert at 335*l.* Mr. Bischoff said yesterday that they would have been prepared to have tendered at the price of 287*l.*, although in their previous estimate they had put 335*l.*?—Of course I did not know that

at the time. If you refer to page 174, they state 335*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* to be the price of great coats, which is the sum I put in.

7029. When was that tender made?—I think the two estimates were given in very nearly at the same date; within a few weeks of one another. Those papers which were put in were put in about three weeks after the papers of Messrs. Hebbert.

7030. The statement at page 174 is an estimate by Messrs. Hebbert; made when?—It was made during the time that the Contracts' Committee was sitting in 1858.

7031. Supposing your figures were correct, you make out that the cost to the War Office is something less than the estimate of Messrs. Hebbert, and something less than the tender of Messrs. Hebbert?—Yes; leaving out the cost of great coats altogether, the War Office prices are somewhat less than the prices of Messrs. Hebbert's rejected tender.

7032. About 50*l.* for a regiment?—Yes.

7033. How do you arrive at the figures 184*l.* 2*s.* 6³/₄*d.*, which are given at page 188 for the average cost of packing, carriage, fitting clothing, incidental, and all other expenses?—I have arrived at them in this way: there are what are called the incidental charges of every regiment, that is to say, when the clothing is sent to a regiment, the soldier pays 6*d.* for fitting his clothing, and the public pays 6*d.*; that is all included. Then there are incidental charges, such as compensation to soldiers for clothing, which we calculate in the yearly estimate at 100*l.* per battalion. The packing we put into the other figures, into the 84*l.*

7034. How do you arrive at the departmental expenses?—If you take the clothing estimate for this year, it is 689,000*l.*; added to that must be the cost of the clothing for the troops in India, which is paid by the East India Company. The Queen's troops in India at this moment number 92,000 men; and if you average that, about 2*l.* 6*s.* a man, you must add that sum to the 689,000*l.*; and by putting down the cost of our establishment, the hire of premises, the packing, and the contingent expenses, it amounts to about 65,000*l.*, or 7 per cent. on the whole expenditure.

7035. It would be convenient that we should have in a tabular form a statement of the gross departmental expenses, because I apprehend that the 184*l.* a regiment is only the result of a division of some larger sum?—It is the result of 7 per cent. upon the whole. You must consider also that the clothing department has a variety of other services to provide, out of which the establishment expenses come. Besides the clothing for the army, there is the clothing for the embodied and disembodied militia, also the clothing for the convict services, the inspection of the clothing for the Metropolitan Police, and the inspection of the clothing for all the servants of the Post Office. There is the clothing for the Irish Constabulary, and some portion of the colonial police and colonial militia. Of course you must make an allowance for establishment expenses for these services.

7036. One of the objects of this inquiry is to ascertain whether there has been real economy in having the Government establishment at Weedon. Among all the appendices to the reports of the Contracts' Committee there does not appear to be any statement vouched by any competent authority of the actual expenses which are fairly chargeable to that establishment?—I can produce that; but you must consider that there would be considerable difficulty in arriving at that correctly, because the only change that has been made in the system of clothing the army has been that the public clothe a portion of the army which was formerly clothed by the colonels. The Board of Ordnance clothed a very considerable portion. The Board of Ordnance clothed the whole of the artillery, the whole of the engineers, the whole of the colonial corps; they provided all the great coats for the army, and they clothed all the militia and enrolled pensioners; therefore they clothed a large portion of the force.

7037. When you speak of 7 per cent. being added for incidental and other expenses, does that include the whole cost of the department which performs the services formerly performed by the Board of Ordnance, or do you mean that 7 per cent. additional expenditure is incurred in consequence of the War Office undertaking the clothing of the line?—Certainly not. What I mean is, that the departmental and establishment expenses are at the rate of 7 per cent. upon the whole amount spent in clothing.

7038. Then those establishment expenses are not all additional in consequence of the change?—Certainly not.

7039. In Messrs. Hebbert's calculation, at page 136, there is a sum of no less than 49,381*l.* put down as 7 per cent. upon the expenditure, in consequence of the system of War Office contracts; do you dispute the accuracy of those figures?—Certainly. Under the old system of clothing there was the pay of the board of general officers, and there was the pay of a certain number of clerks in the War Office, to examine the clothing accounts. There were various charges which were always borne under the old system, and which ought to be deducted from this sum.

7040. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would it be much trouble, in making this return, to state how you arrive at that 7 per cent., and how much you deduct for the other services you have been enumerating, so that we may see whether your 7 per cent. is a well-founded calculation?—I will do that. (*Appendix, No. 16.*)

7041. In your calculation, do you consider that you have an advantage over Messrs. Hebbert or any other contractor, inasmuch as you do not reject your own productions on inspection?—This calculation is not made upon the assumption that the Government are to make their own things. This professes to be a comparison between the system which has hitherto been pursued by the colonels, and the system of obtaining articles by general contract. We do, with very few exceptions, obtain all our things by general contract, and the contractors with whom we contract bear the loss of rejections. It is only in a manufacturing department, such as Enfield or Woolwich, that we have that advantage, because the articles which are manufactured by the Government itself are not rejected.

7042. Do you take into consideration the item of insurance in your calculation?—No; the Government never insure property. They could not do it; the expense would be enormous.

7043. Sometimes I do not insure a vessel or a portion of it, but when I become my own underwriter I consider the risk that is run as an item of cost, just the same as if I had insured. Have you not a risk equivalent to the amount that you save, or pretty nearly so?—I think we might arrive at that calculation for the last three years by taking the amount of clothing lost by fire or shipwreck. I do not think you will find it very considerable.

7044. (*Chairman.*) You do not insure, I suppose, because you find it cheaper not to do so?—Yes; it would never do.

7045. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you reckon carriage in your calculation?—Carriage, packing, salaries, and every description of departmental expense.

7046. (*Colonel French.*) Would not you find it difficult to arrive at the losses that used to fall upon the colonels, particularly in desertion, and would not that be a very heavy item?—I think you will find that a soldier rarely deserts with his clothing; it is only with his fatigue jacket and trousers.

7047. (*Chairman.*) If the 7 per cent. that you give for departmental expenses includes the packing, Messrs. Hebbert, in their calculation, have added the packing?—That is wrong again; they ought not to have done that. I cannot understand that charge of 13,897*l.*, which is stated thus: "Deducting 'making,' the cost of the clothing of War Office for the two years was 555,903*l.*; it had to be paid for six months sooner than if it had been supplied by clothiers; therefore add 2½ per cent. for interest." Why they should

make that charge I cannot understand at all; the Government do not derive the benefit of the interest of the money. (*Parl. Paper, No. 438, 1858, page 136.*)

7048. If you kept the money in your hand instead of paying the clothier, would you not get the interest of the money?—It was paid out of the current revenue, therefore I imagine we should get no interest for it.

7049. Does not the Government make the current revenue available in some way or other?—We consider, when once the money is voted by Parliament, that we can spend it all on the 2d of April as well as on the 31st of March following.

7050. Do you get no interest in the meantime?—I should not like to enter into that.

7051. (*Mr. Turner.*) I suppose you do not draw the whole grant from the Treasury at once, but get money when you want it?—Yes.

7052. (*Chairman.*) Somebody gets the benefit of it, I presume?—We consider we are entitled to it the moment it is voted by Parliament.

7053. The public lose the interest of the money by your drawing it six months earlier, surely?—We never put that in our calculation at all.

7054. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you a banker, independent of the Treasury?—The Paymaster-General.

7055. Where does he keep his account?—With the Bank of England.

7056. (*Chairman.*) If that be so, you would object to the second item of 13,897*l.* "to cover interest on six months' stock, which otherwise the clothier would hold"?—Certainly I would; I object to both those items altogether.

7057. The three items of which you dispute the accuracy would make a difference of 40,000*l.* a year, independent of the excess in the amount put down for departmental expenses?—Yes.

7058. If I understand you, to take an extreme case, even if you were to revert to the system which existed five or six years ago, a considerable portion of those departmental expenses would still have to be paid?—Certainly. If you turn to page 133 you will see there a statement of the expenditure in Colonel Hudson's establishment, which puts down everything, the pay of the staff, the rent of premises, the cost of cutting the clothing, the cost of making the clothing, the cost of the embroidery, and the incidental expenses.

7059. Have you any observation to make upon the question of deferred payment mentioned in Mr. Bischoff's memorandum at page 201?—Mr. Bischoff puts in a memorandum signed by Messrs. Hebbert and Company, and he thinks it would be a good plan to defer payment till a report was received of the wear of the clothing. The answer I would give to that is, that the contractors would have to charge interest for being kept so long without their money, which of course would increase the price of the clothing; for instance, in the case of the clothing for the troops in India and the Cape of Good Hope or the Australian colonies, it would be fifteen or eighteen months, and in some cases two years, before we could receive a report of the wear of the clothing. If you calculate interest at 5 per cent., and add that for two years to the cost of the clothing, you will find it will add materially to the cost of the clothing.

7060. How do you secure yourselves in the case of the clothing eventually turning out bad? Under the old system, if the clothing turned out bad the clothier had to make it good?—Conditions will go out shortly for the contracts for the clothing under the new system. Under that amended system it will be in the power of the Secretary of State to cancel any contract, upon giving three months' notice. Of course, that is the only hold we can have over the contractor. If his clothing turns out bad, notwithstanding it may have passed our inspection, we must decline to deal any further with him in future.

7061. It being admitted that the best test is the wear of everything, supposing the clothing, though it has passed inspection here, turns out bad, have you

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no redress whatever as against the contractor?—We have no redress further than the discontinuance of his contract. If you come to the test of wear, you will find that no two regiments wear their clothes alike; some regiments wear out their clothing in a much shorter time than others, from the different service which they may have to perform. If a regiment were to write home, and say that the clothing of such and such a contractor went to pieces after four months' wear, I think the contractor would very fairly demur to paying any compensation or being subjected to any penalty. He might say, "my clothing has passed your inspectors, and I am confident it is equal to pattern. I am certain it has not met with fair wear and tear by the regiment."

7062. Have the regiments any power of not taking things into wear; refusing to receive them?—The system which is adopted is this; a regimental board is held upon all articles of clothing, and they are compared with the pattern sealed by the adjutant-general. If the regimental board make a report that the articles are not equal to pattern, it is then decided by the Commander-in-chief and the Secretary of State whether the regiment shall take the clothing into wear or not.

7063. Supposing they decide that the clothing shall not be taken into wear, upon whom does the loss fall?—The loss would fall upon the public.

7064. Such a case, for instance, as Colonel M'Murdo's overalls that Messrs. Isaac furnished; would that fall upon the public?—Entirely.

7065. Under the old system, such a loss as that fell upon the clothier?—Yes.

7066. What objection would there be, assuming the old system abolished, to give the colonels the price of the clothing, and allow them to name their own clothiers?—I do not think you would get the full benefit of competition by that plan at all; for instance, if you were to pay the colonel the cost price of the clothing, he would not make a contract, and you would not have competition for the supply of clothing. You would not get the best article for the money. I might state that in the years 1854–5 and 1855–6 the War Office paid the clothiers the cost price of the article, and the cost price of the article which the War Office paid to the clothiers was actually more for the inferior articles they delivered than it is now for the superior articles.

7067. Do you attribute that to the principle of competition?—Entirely. I could mention one case, the case of the shako. We actually paid the clothiers appointed by the colonel 7s. 6d. for shakos, which was supposed to be the cost price, and our contracts now for shakos are at 5s. 6d., that is a saving of 2s. upon a shako alone. About 100,000 shakos have been supplied.

7068. The first suggestion of Messrs. Hebbert at page 202 is, that there should be a fixed annual scale?—How are you to determine that fixed annual scale, except by going to competition?

7069. Might it not be left to the War Office?—The War Office could only determine it by asking a certain number of people what price they would furnish at.

7070. I do not quite understand suggestion No. 4, on the same page, in which it is proposed that the clothing, when completed, should be submitted to the officers appointed by the Commander-in-chief?—That was the old system; which was, that the clothing was inspected by the deputy adjutant-general and the deputy quartermaster-general. It was a cursory inspection. They simply had to see that the clothing was equal to pattern as regards shape and make, and that sort of thing. The real inspection took place at the head quarters of the regiment. I may add, that the authorities, both at the War Office and at the Horse Guards, are quite determined upon the principle of clothing being properly inspected before it leaves this country. Take the case of clothing being sent without inspection to India, and then if the regimental board reject it, why the soldier suffers in

the meantime. There is less chance of the soldier suffering if the clothing is subjected to a rigid examination in this country.

7071. Supposing the Government to fix a scale for providing the clothing, what security would there be that the regimental clothier nominated by the colonel would contract at those prices?—No security whatever. The only security we should have would be this, which we had in the years 1854–55 and 1855–56, the clothiers sent in their bills through the agents, and the agents certified that that sum was actually paid, and upon that the bills were passed. But I might state an instance of what you are referring to. We allowed a militia regiment to purchase their boots at 8s. 3d. a pair, and the bills were sent in and certified at 8s. 3d. It has since been discovered that the quartermaster of the regiment only paid the tradesmen 7s. 9d., and charged the public 8s. 3d.

7072. There was a possibility of fraud even under such a system?—There certainly was.

7073. (*Colonel French.*) That would not apply to the army?—No; not in the least. They cannot do that now. The commanding officer had nothing to do with that at all.

7074. I think you mentioned yesterday that the Government had the intention of getting storehouses on the banks of the Thames?—Yes.

7075. Would it not, pending this inquiry, be desirable for them to refrain from doing so?—The thing is only under consideration. I do not think anything will be done for some time yet.

7076. (*Chairman.*) Sir George Wetherall suggests in his evidence before the Contracts' Committee that under the present system the soldier has no security for getting the article which the Commander-in-chief has desired he should have. Do you agree with that opinion?—I do not at all. I cannot understand what object the Secretary of State-for-War can have in preventing the soldier from getting what he is entitled to. The Secretary of State-for-War is just as much the protector of the soldier as the Commander-in-chief. Further than that, the Secretary of State is responsible to Parliament that the soldier is properly clothed and equipped. I cannot see that the soldier had any greater protection under the old system than he has under the present system at all.

7077. Except that he had a somewhat stricter regimental inspection, which now, even if it takes place, is not so immediately efficacious?—Under the old system, if a regiment rejected its clothing, the clothier was not compelled to take it back upon the ipse dixit of the regiment; the clothier appealed, in many instances, to the board of general officers, and the board of general officers decided whether the objections of the regiment were well founded. If you refer to the evidence taken before the Parliamentary Committee in 1850, upon the Army and Ordnance expenditure; and the evidence taken in 1833 before the Committee upon Army and Navy appointments, you will find that in most cases the board of general officers refused to confirm the objections of the regiment, and sustained the appeal of the contractor, because they found that the objections of the regiment were frivolous and without foundation.

7078. In that case the contractor had an appeal from the result of an inspection which was hostile to him?—Yes.

7079. Now he has none?—No.

7080. I understand there is to be a new board?—There are to be additional inspectors.

7081. Are the members determined upon?—They are appointed.

7082. Is the appointment made public?—It is made public. The officers appointed are Colonel Yorke and Colonel Daubeney. It is not to be a board; but simply, instead of having two civil inspectors more than our present staff, we shall have two military inspectors.

7083. Are the officers whom you have named to be associated with the civil inspectors?—Yes; they will be jointly responsible for the clothing.

7084. Are they persons of practical experience?—They are supposed to be so.

7085. (*Colonel French.*) Would it not be a sufficient examination if when the clothier had completed his clothing he sent it to be inspected, first at London, and then by the regiment afterwards?—I do not think it would be a sufficient inspection, because the inspection in London by military officers, unassisted by skilled labour, must be a very cursory inspection.

7086. There is no reason why it should be a military inspection alone; might not the officers call in others?—That is the system going to be adopted now; the military inspectors will have associated with them a complete staff of civil inspectors and viewers.

7087. Will that inspection be sufficient, with the regimental inspection?—Certainly.

7088. Then why have any stores for clothing whatever?—We are not going to have any stores of made-up clothing at all.

7089. Why should there be any stores at all beyond what there were in the olden time?—You must have stores; in the first place, you must have stores of great coats and boots.

7090. I am speaking with reference to the change that has taken place from the old system to the new. With the exception of the colonels, why should it not come back to precisely what it was, that is to say, having no directors and sub-directors, no inspectors and sub-inspectors, and viewers, and all this immense staff?—Who is to inspect the clothing?

7091. There is a general board of officers to inspect the clothing?—We have not appointed officers to inspect the clothing; we have appointed two military officers to assist the civil inspectors in the inspection of clothing. The board of general officers never inspected the clothing; all that the board of general officers did was to see that the sealed patterns accompanied the supplies. The two inspectors who inspected the clothing were the deputy adjutant-general and the deputy quartermaster-general; those two officers who are now appointed to inspect the clothing will simply take their places, only with more extended powers.

7092. Still you admit that it would be a sufficient inspection, accompanied with what took place afterwards by the regiment?—It would not be a sufficient inspection if you had not a staff of civil inspectors and viewers. I do not think the inspection would be worth anything with the two military officers alone.

7093. Hearing that, I cannot see the necessity for having directors, sub-directors, and all this immense staff which has been got up in lieu of the old system?—The Director of Clothing and Stores, and the clerks at Pall Mall, have nothing to do with the inspection of clothing; they perform in addition to general store duties, the duties which were formerly undertaken by the army agents, that is to say, they superintend the supply of clothing, and receive all requisitions for clothing, and see that those requisitions are complied with; they superintend the general arrangements. Who would do that? Somebody must do it.

7094. Is that done as cheaply as by the agents?—Yes, I think it is. You must recollect that the agents received a considerable poundage for that; $1\frac{1}{2}d$.

7095. They received 4,000*l.* a year?—You will find in the army estimates that the total sum now paid for army agency is 60,000*l.*

7096. That was not for clothing?—Part of the agents' duty was with respect to clothing.

7097. (*Chairman.*) Do not the agents get a portion of that money now?—Yes.

7098. Therefore you must not put that down as a saving?—No. I think I can furnish you with a return which will show that the establishment expenses at Pall Mall do not exceed the former expenses by about 2,000*l.* or 1,500*l.* After all, the expenses at Pall Mall are very trifling. I should think the expenses at Pall Mall do not exceed 8,000*l.* or 9,000*l.* a year altogether. You must deduct from that sum the

expenses of the board of general officers, and the pay of the secretary to the board of general officers, and you must deduct also from that the pay of the clerks in the War Office that you had to maintain under the old system, to examine certain accounts, and also of the clerks in the Ordnance Office.

7099. (*Colonel French.*) You have them now?—I exclude them from that 8,000*l.* or 9,000*l.*

7100. Have you not an additional number of clerks in consequence of taking the stores into your hands?—Yes; we can give you a statement of that. That is all added to the cost of clothing; and if it can be shown that the Government do the clothing cheaper than they could under the old system, even with the addition of the departmental expenses, I think that is quite sufficient.

7101. You must take into consideration, must you not, many losses which you had not to pay under the old system? And you must also take into consideration the building of stores, and all those things that are necessary for storehouses?—As regards stores, we had no expenses. The buildings at Weedon were in existence.

7102. (*Mr. Turner.*) I was surprised to hear one observation from you, that the expenses of the War Office were not more than 8,000*l.* or 9,000*l.* a year?—For the clothing part of the War Office, which is a very small part of it.

7103. (*Chairman.*) You would distinguish stores from clothing; for instance, Woolwich and the Tower, where the majority of things are stores?—Yes; they have nothing in the world to do with clothing.

7104. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you take a proportion of the large salaries paid at the War Office (I mean large compared with the pay of the labourers at Weedon) in the cost of the clothing department?—Yes; a proportion.

7105. For example, Sir Benjamin Hawes's salary, 2,000*l.* a year, how much of that do you put down for the clothing department?—He is Under Secretary of State. I simply put down the actual expenses of the clothing establishment in Pall Mall. I can give you a list of all the persons employed in the clothing department at Pall Mall, with their salaries.

7106. (*Chairman.*) Had you anything to do with the appointment of the viewers or labourers at Weedon?—No, nothing whatever. They were appointed by the Secretary of State, upon his approval of their testimonials. I do not think I ever saw one of the people before they were appointed at Weedon at all in my life. In "Fonblanque's Miscellaneous Statistics" (presented to Parliament in 1857), you will find the average rate of wages throughout the manufacturing districts is not much larger than the wages we give. If you take our viewers and labourers, I find that in the clothing districts the highest rate of wages for skilled labour is 6*s.* and 7*s.* a day.

7107. Are you picking out the labourers in your list for comparison, or taking the average?—We always pay our labourers wages founded on the ordinary average pay of labour.

7108. (*Colonel French.*) It has been universally admitted that the pay of inspectors is below what it ought to be, considering the amount of duty and responsibility that they have in their hands. Mr. Godley has put in a paper, in which he has shown the scale of salaries which it is proposed to give them. It might look invidious if I made any comparison between their pay and the mode in which the army is paid. Our object is to ascertain whether they are properly paid. If the public think so we ought to be satisfied. There is a point to which I wish to draw your attention in a document laid before us by Mr. Godley. It appears that it is proposed to give storekeepers and their clerks what is called foreign service allowance. Why should it be necessary, any more than with respect to the army? Why should a large increase of pay be given for service in tropical climates, if their salaries are already considered sufficient?—You must recollect that previous to that warrant to which Mr. Godley refers the officers of

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the store branch of the then Board of Ordnance were stationary; they were not compelled to remove from one station to another; that is to say, if a man were appointed to a station in England the Board of Ordnance could not send him out to Sierra Leone the next day. They could send out a man to Sierra Leone who chose to go, and a man would not go to Sierra Leone without getting great advantages; and in the medical service, which is a very hard service on the coast of Africa, if a medical officer goes to the coast of Africa, he goes there upon the understanding that if he is alive at the end of three years he will get promotion.

7109. It is quite right to keep faith with those who have entered the service upon that stipulation, but I do not see why the public should be burdened with such an expense more than they are with the regiments of the line?—The officers of the army, when they go abroad to certain colonies, get colonial allowances. When they go to the Mauritius I think they get colonial allowances, and in Australia.

7110. Are those allowances paid by the Government?—They are paid out of the public purse.

7111. (*Chairman.*) In addition to the complaints from regiments which appear in the appendix to the Committee's last Report, at page 107, have you had many complaints from regiments lately of the defects in clothing?—No; we have hardly had any complaints from regiments, except the Rifle Brigade and the 60th. I believe those complaints arose from defects in the cloth. The green dye very often deteriorates the cloth and makes it rotten. We have had hardly any complaints from other regiments worth talking about.

7112. Can you form a comparison between the complaints under the present and under the former systems?—I have a return of all the complaints, which is the only way in which I can arrive at it; it is complaints of clothing supplied from the 6th of October 1855 up to the 7th of July 1856; that was the clothing supplied by the clothiers appointed by the colonels. (*Appendix, No. 17.*)

7113. Where did you get that from?—I compiled it from the reports of the regimental boards. I can compare it with the return of the clothing issued April the 1st, 1858. (*Appendix, No. 18.*)

7114. Have you had time to receive all the reports?—From the regimental boards at the depôts.

7115. From India?—Almost all.

7116. So far as they have gone, have there been many complaints?—None at all, with the exception of the Rifle Brigade and the 60th.

7117. Are you able from that comparison, among other things, to say that the clothing has decidedly improved?—Decidedly.

7118. Do you attribute that exclusively to the improvement in the pattern?—To the improvement in the pattern, and to improvement in the inspection; to the greater care that is taken in inspecting the clothing.

7119. Do you think anything is owing to the principle of competition?—I think that our obtaining good clothing at such a cheap price arises from competition.

7120. (*Colonel French.*) After clothing arrives at the regiment, is there any allowance for fitting?—Yes; the soldier pays 6d., and the public pay 6d. The colonel formerly paid 6d.

7121. (*Chairman.*) Is there anything you wish to add?—A statement was made by Mr. Dolan about his outstanding claims. As I mentioned yesterday, I was very much surprised when those outstanding claims first came to my knowledge. I find the first letter, which was addressed to the War Office by Mr. Dolan, enclosing a statement of his outstanding claims, is dated the 5th of June 1858.

7122. Over what period do those claims extend?—I have a list of the outstanding claims; some of them extend to the 13th of October 1856. But if Mr. Dolan chooses to allow a period to elapse between the 13th of October 1856 and the 5th of June 1858 without making any representation to the superior

authorities at the War Office, I think it is very much his own fault if he is kept out of his money.

7123. We understood Mr. Dolan to say, that he had been "looking you up?"—He went to the storekeeper; he ought to have made his representations to the superior authorities at the War Office. When he found that it was useless to go to the storekeeper, he then ought to have come to the War Office.

7124. Can you undertake to say that the first representation he made to the War Office is that letter of the 5th of June?—In writing.

7125. Did he make any verbal representations, to your knowledge?—He made no verbal representations sufficient to lead us to suppose that he had any very serious claims against us. The first representation was on the 5th of June, after Mr. Elliott had absconded.

[Two letters from Messrs. Dolan to the War Office, dated respectively the 5th of June and the 30th of July 1858, and a letter from the War Office to Messrs. Dolan, dated the 16th of August 1858, were read.]

7126. (*Mr. Turner.*) I understand you to say, that Messrs. Dolan had made verbal application prior to the written application?—I believe Mr. Dolan did make verbal representations to Mr. Howell, but they were of such a character that he did not put them in writing.

7127. I suppose in that application he would state something similar to what he has stated in that letter?—He does not refer, in the letter of the 5th of June, to any verbal representations, therefore he could not have attached much weight to them.

7128. If any one had called at my office, and verbally stated that from some irregularities he had accounts for two years and others of one year past due, and I owed him something like 20,000*l.*, without any formal application, I should be so disturbed in my mind as to the long arrears in paying my debts that I should scarcely have waited for that formal letter before I had instituted an inquiry whether those allegations were correct. Do not you think it was the duty of the authorities at the War Office to take that course?—I do not think Mr. Dolan's representations amounted exactly to that. I know that the contractors have in some instances come to me, and said, there has been delay in passing their certificates, and then I have always written to the storekeeper, and hearing nothing further I have understood that the certificates had been given, and the money paid.

7129. How will Captain Gordon be able to certify now that those articles for which payment is claimed by Messrs. Dolan were delivered?—He will be able to certify that the articles have been received and packed by Messrs. Hayter and Howell, because those outstanding claims only relate to made-up clothing, and all made-up clothing was delivered at Mark-lane, to be packed by Hayter and Howell, and sent to the regiments; therefore, if Mr. Dolan sent in a claim for 500 coats for the 45th Regiment, if Hayter and Howell can give a certificate that they have packed 500 coats, that will be quite sufficient evidence for Captain Gordon to pass Mr. Dolan's claim.

7130. Should not the inspection notes have been signed and the certificates given upon them?—The inspection notes have been signed, and should have been sent to Weedon. Mr. Charles Elliott, the superintendent of the inspection branch at Mark-lane, is positive that those inspection notes were all sent to Weedon, but at Weedon they are not forthcoming.

7131. Is there any trace at Weedon of the goods in any way?—There are some of the papers missing.

7132. I understood that the contractor's ledger was checked to March 1857, and as some of those claims are for supplies prior to that date, why should not they have been certified?—Mr. Elliott says, in his note, "I am assured by the inspectors, and I have every reason to believe, that the inspection notes have been forwarded to Weedon for all the clothing

" which has been delivered at Mark-lane by Messrs. Dolan ; many duplicate reports have also been furnished, at the request of the principal military storekeeper at Weedon, for goods in transit to Mark-lane ; some inspection notes are still required to complete the accounts failing the stores in question, and the same will be duly signed and forwarded if found correct." Mr. Elliott says that they are satisfied at Mark-lane that they did send the inspection reports to Weedon, because, you must understand, that the records of Mark-lane were all kept at Weedon.

7133. Or should have been kept at Weedon ?—Or should have been kept at Weedon.

7134. Am I to understand that in the year 1858 you have to pass an order for payment to Messrs. Dolan for goods of which you know nothing as to the receipt at Mark-lane from any document that you have at Weedon, but have to apply to Messrs. Hayter and Howell, and have to satisfy yourselves that they packed such things in 1856 ?—We have some other information. All we have to do is to refer to the copies of the warrants, because all those articles were delivered upon a warrant, and a copy of that warrant is kept at the War Office ; all we have to do is to see that the articles for which Messrs. Dolan claim payment were ordered by that warrant, and we have the clothing rolls of the regiments which show whether those articles have been received or not ; therefore we could even do it without the assistance of Messrs. Hayter and Howell ; only it would be done quicker with it.

7135. Can you give any further explanation with regard to the socks ?—I have a return in my hand of all articles received from Weedon at Woolwich since the 1st of December 1855, and I find stated in this return the articles that have been received, how they have been disposed of, and what still remain in store ; and I find, on turning to the socks, that the whole of the socks that were sent up from Weedon have either been issued to the service, to other stations, or are still in store at Woolwich ; that no socks which were received from Weedon since the 1st of December 1855 have ever been sold at Woolwich : that is an answer to the question which you asked me about the advertisement of sales. (*Appendix No. 23.*)

7136. (*Chairman.*) Or advertised for sale ?—Those must have been socks that came from elsewhere ; they did not come from Weedon.

7137. None of those 312,000 pairs were advertised for sale ?—No.

7138. (*Mr. Turner.*) Can you furnish an account of what articles were sent to the Tower from Weedon ?—I am getting that return, and as soon as it is completed I will hand it in. (*Appendix No. 24.*)

7139. (*Chairman.*) Is not it one of the clauses in all contracts with Messrs. Dolan, as well as others, that they shall be fined for non-delivery within the time specified ?—Yes ; unless the contractor to whom the warrant is addressed makes a representation that he cannot deliver in the time mentioned by the warrant.

7140. Are you in a condition to state whether any such fine has been enforced or hinted at against Messrs. Dolan for non-delivery within the time specified ?—I should think so ; most probably.

7141. If you had issued warrants for the delivery of a number of articles in 1856 and 1857, and they had not been delivered, would you not, for your own sakes, have "looked the contractors up," and fined them for non-delivery ?—I think the better plan which I could adopt would be to give in a return of the amount of fines inflicted upon Messrs. Dolan and upon particular contractors.

7142. Am I right in supposing that in the absence of any infliction of fine you would assume at the War Office that the things had been delivered ?—That we certainly should.

7143. Would it not be the duty of the officials at Weedon to report to you if they had not been delivered in pursuance of the contract ?—The rule is

that the storekeeper reports if the contractor fails in his delivery, and then the Director of Contracts writes to the contractor for an explanation of why he has not delivered, and then he is fined upon that.

7144. If, with respect to contracts involving so large an amount as 15,000*l.*, there has been a delay or a failure to deliver in compliance with the contract, surely you would put in force the power you possess, and fine the contractor ; and in the cases where you have not done so would you not assume that the goods had been delivered ?—Yes ; we can only know that the goods have not been delivered through the storekeeper. If the storekeeper makes no report, of course we take for granted that the goods have been delivered.

7145. You wait for the certificate before you pay ?—Yes.

7146. The certificate in Messrs. Dolan's case had not reached the War Office ?—No ; and the manner in which the fines are inflicted is, that they are deducted from the amount due on the certificate.

7147. Have you never anticipated Messrs. Dolan's request for money in the same way that a private person sometimes says to his tailor, "I will trouble you for your little bill ?"—I do not think so. We are always very anxious to get our bills sent in, for this reason : at the end of the financial year any surplus that we have goes into the Exchequer, and we cannot touch it ; therefore we are naturally anxious to get our payments made as soon as possible before the 31st of March, to prevent the payments running into the next year, for which we have made no provision.

7148. (*Mr. Turner.*) I suppose you have to return your unemployed balances ?—Yes. The Chancellor of the Exchequer takes care of that.

7149. (*Chairman.*) Are you ever allowed to overdraw ?—No ; except with the sanction of the Treasury. If the vote is exceeded, we cannot do it without going to the Treasury.

7150. Do you wish to make any other statement ?—I wish to say a few words upon the whole formation of the clothing department since the abolition of the colonel system, because I think there has been considerable misapprehension in that respect. On the 6th of June 1854 a warrant was signed by Mr. Sidney Herbert abolishing the off-reckonings, but no provision was made to obtain the clothing from other sources after the engagements of the colonels with the clothiers had ceased. The change of Government took place in the early part of 1855, and the duty of establishing a system without delay devolved upon the Secretary of State-for-War at a period when this country was engaged in a war of great magnitude. On the 21st of June 1855 warrants were signed, one instituting the office of Director-General of Army Clothing, and another determined that the clothing was to be provided under such regulations as should hereafter be determined upon. The Order in Council dated the 6th of June 1855 regulated the duties of the Director-General of Army Clothing.* Colonel Sir Thomas Troubridge was appointed Director-General of Army Clothing in June 1855, and on the 7th of July of the same year a memorandum was approved by the Secretary of State, in which the duties of the clothing department are clearly laid down. These duties were :—1. To ascertain the wants of the army. 2. To obtain through the Director of Contracts the supplies, and so order their delivery either at Weedon or in Mark-lane. 3. To inform the storekeeper that the articles had been ordered, and to desire him to issue them when received. This was the system pursued by Sir Thomas Troubridge during the period he was Director-General of Army Clothing, from the 6th of June 1855 till the 1st of February 1857, and this has been the system adopted up to the

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Esq.

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* The Warrant of 6th June 1854, and the Warrants of 21st June 1855, are set forth in Appendix, No. 2, to the Report of the Committee on Contracts, Parl. Paper, No. 269, 1857 ; and a copy of the Order in Council of 6th June 1855, regulating the establishments of the Civil Departments of the Army, after the breaking up of the Board of Ordnance, is set forth in Parl. Paper, No. 307, 1855.

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period when Mr. Elliott left Weedon. A certain number of established clerks were appointed to the clothing branch, but as none could be spared from any other part of the office, those appointed to the clothing branch were necessarily very young men with no experience. On the 1st of December 1855 the Secretary of State appointed Mr. Elliott as storekeeper of the army clothing dépôt. Mr. Elliott was selected, not only on account of his long experience and the high character he bore in the public service, but because the appointment he held in Canada was about to be abolished, and the pension to which he was entitled was saved by his appointment as storekeeper to the clothing department. According to the instructions from Sir Thomas Troubridge Mr. Elliott was desired to keep a cash and store ledger, according to the Ordnance Regulations, and from his long experience as a storekeeper it was unnecessary to give him any further instructions, more especially as he was desired by Sir Thomas Troubridge to refer to him for instructions whenever he was in a difficulty. The only Ordnance Regulation not applicable to Weedon was that which required the storekeeper to take the initiative in keeping up stores; this was not applicable, because it was determined not to keep a store of clothing, and the department in London had to take the initiative in ordering stores, and the storekeeper's duty was to receive, inspect, and issue them; and to show how impracticable it would have been to carry out this regulation it has been considered by General Peel that it is not applicable to the clothing department. When the office of Director-General of Army Clothing was abolished in February 1857, in order to reduce the cost of the establishment, the store and clothing branches were placed under one head, and the persons connected with the Weedon establishment were draughted into the store service. Soon after Sir Thomas Troubridge had been transferred to the Horse Guards the mutiny of the Bengal army broke out, and the clothing department was called upon to provide clothing for 40,000 men six months before it was due, to clothe 62,000 additional men added to the army, together with 30,000 embodied militia; and, whatever may be said by those who are sparing no efforts to run the system down, they cannot point to one single instance where an embarkation has been delayed for want of clothing; and since the mutiny broke out up to the present period 56,000 men have embarked for India from this country. Since June 1857 it has been felt necessary that we should have at Weedon an officer of some military experience, as there was a strong impression that Mr. Elliott, from his want of knowledge of military details, was not quite equal to the position; but there was not the slightest suspicion of anything wrong in his conduct; and so far back as August 1857 the appointment of Captain Gordon and the removal of Mr. Elliott were brought under consideration, but the exchange could not be carried into effect until the beginning of this year. The first store ledger was not due till the 1st of August 1857, and as an abstract of this ledger was sent up about that period, there was every reason to believe that his ledger was in a state of progress, and would be forthcoming when asked for. Captain Caffin paid a visit to Weedon soon after his appointment, and made certain changes. Mr. Tatum and Mr. Munro, two experienced officers, were sent in September last, and finally Major Marvin was sent to inquire into the store transactions of the establishment, and his report entirely exonerated Mr. Elliott from blame, which had been cast upon him by the War Office; yet, with all these precautions, it was not until Mr. Elliott had absconded that his short-comings were discovered. The clothing branch of the War Office was first established when the war with Russia was at its height. The operations of that department have been carried on under every possible disadvantage, and the system has met with the greatest opposition from a class who, owing to the change, were deprived of a monopoly which they had long enjoyed; and when I look

back to these difficulties, together with the short-comings of Mr. Elliott, it is satisfactory to think that we have been enabled to clothe a larger force than has ever been maintained by this country, and at the same time to confer upon the soldier greater advantages than he ever had under the old system of army clothing. Just to give you an idea of how the work of the clothing branch progressed in consequence of the mutiny in India, I find during the month of July 1857 the number of letters received was 2,002, and the number of letters written was 2,051. In July 1858 the number of letters received was 4,125, and the number of letters written was 4,987 in the clothing branch at Pall Mall alone. The number of clerks employed in July 1857 in the clothing branch was 26, and the average extra attendance given by the clerks was 55 minutes a day. In July 1858 the number of clerks employed was 40, and the average extra attendance given was 70 minutes a day.

7151. What are the office hours?—From 10 to 4.

7152. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you give that number of letters as having been written by 26 clerks as an instance of excessive labour? There are a great many commercial houses do more than that with half the number of clerks?—Writing letters is a very small portion of the work.

7153. So it is in commercial houses. More than that number is dispatched by houses not having, I may say, more than a fourth of that staff of clerks. In the next place, I presume you do not claim much merit for the extra attendance given of a number of minutes when the hours of attendance are only from ten to four?—What I wanted to show was that when an application for increase of assistance was made in the clothing branch at Pall Mall the clerks were giving extra attendance.

7154. Are not the hours very short, from 10 to 4?—If you employ clerks in a public office at a salary of 100*l.* a year, I think from 10 to 4 is the outside you can expect them to stay. The superiors of the office stay a great deal longer.

7155. (*Colonel French.*) Were any of the letters of which you speak circular letters?—No; manuscript letters upon different subjects. You may imagine that the correspondence attending the whole supply of clothing, not only to the army in this country, but the militia and the disembodied militia, must be considerable.

7156. Do not you use a copying machine?—We are not allowed to use a machine.

7157. With reference to some evidence given by Mr. Green, were the clerks who were sent to Weedon sent from the War Office?—No; they were not sent from the War Office; they were appointed specially for that purpose. Some were store clerks, but all the temporary clerks who were appointed were taken from anywhere, upon application.

7158. Then you had no opportunity of knowing whether they were efficient men?—Certainly not; they were taken as temporary clerks at 100*l.* a year. They did not pass the civil service examination because they were only to be employed for six months.

7159. (*Chairman.*) Can you say anything to remove what I think I am not wrong in stating to be at present the impression of the Commissioners, that Mr. Elliott had not the staff which he required with sufficient promptitude? You have already stated that there were other departments to be consulted besides the War Office?—Perhaps Mr. Elliott did not get the assistance as soon as he ought to have got it, but that arose very much from the manner in which he made his representations. A delay took place in granting the assistance, but I think you will find that he got all that he asked for.

7160. (*Mr. Turner.*) I can easily imagine that Mr. Elliott was not particularly anxious to be too much checked at Weedon; but I think it was your duty to find out, without his making representations, that he was short handed, and that he could not possibly get through the work with the clerks he had; is not that so?—When I consider the change, and the period

at which it was made, and when I consider also what we have since discovered, namely, Mr. Elliott's shortcomings, it is to me a matter of extreme surprise that the army has been clothed at all.

7161. (*Colonel French.*) It is in evidence that Mr. Elliott did make repeated applications, but that it was not usual in the department to give the assistance immediately upon the application?—Certainly not.

Mr. JOHN MILTON examined.

7163. (*Chairman.*) What position do you hold at the War Office?—I am clerk in the first class, second section, of the War Office.

7164. In what department?—I am senior clerk in the clothing branch.

7165. Commissary-General Adams made a representation on the 3d of July as to the expediency of getting certain returns, which was not acted upon till the 10th of August. We are told that you can explain the delay?—I do not know that I can explain the delay, beyond saying that the proposal of Commissary-General Adams had to be submitted to the authorities to ascertain whether the circular which he proposed was necessary, more especially with regard to the corps abroad, in the case of which it was considered that the records of the shipments might meet all the requirements of that circular.

7166. Who were the authorities to whom the proposal had to be submitted?—Those superior officers in the department to whom I had to report.

7167. (*Mr. Turner.*) Who were they?—I report direct to Sir Benjamin Hawes.

7168. Had you to apply to Sir Benjamin Hawes for authority to issue that circular which Commissary-General Adams said was absolutely necessary?—I should be sorry to say that he said it was absolutely necessary; he merely suggested it when he was compiling the accounts at Weedon.

7169. Commissary-General Adams did make application for information; he was puzzled, as we all are puzzled, and applied to you to send out circulars to obtain this information from regiments abroad; was that the fact?—Yes.

7170. Why did not you do it? We have been labouring as Commissioners for a considerable time, and when we separated in August, we expected that progress would be made. We came together after six weeks, and we found that very little progress had been made, and there appears to have been five weeks of that time occupied in the War Office to ascertain whether a certain circular should be sent abroad to ask for the information which was requisite for making up the accounts. Can you explain that?—I did not know the connexion of that circular with the Commission. I knew that it was connected with the proceedings of the Commission. It was a suggestion of Commissary-General Adams, that it might be a check in examining the abstracts and vouchers rendered by him.

7171. Did not you know that the Commissioners were waiting for that account?—I had not the slightest idea of it. I do not now understand how it is connected with the accounts of the Commission; it was no account called for by the Commission.

Mr. SAMUEL SILVER GARRETT further examined.

7179. (*Chairman.*) Had Mr. Elliott a guarantee from the Guarantee Association?—He had.

7180. (*Mr. Turner.*) Sir Benjamin Hawes thinks that the Guarantee Society were very happy to get the policy, but of course they were only happy to get it on certain conditions, that the person in whose favour they granted the guarantee should be strictly looked after, and that his accounts should be checked and balanced occasionally. Now I am afraid that those conditions have been scarcely fulfilled on the

7162. As Mr. Elliott was considered a first-rate man, who would not be likely to make a frivolous application, we think it is odd that you should not have answered his requisitions immediately?—His requisitions were answered, I think, within a few weeks. He got all the clerks he asked for. I think six weeks was the outside of the delay that took place.

7172. (*Chairman.*) The motion for appointing this Commission was carried in the House of Commons on the 28th of June, to examine not only into the state of the stores but the accounts. Of course, it was most material that we should have those accounts in as forward a state as possible. Commissary-General Adams suggested the issuing of this circular, on the 3d of July, but a delay of five weeks took place before his suggestion was acted upon. We can make allowance for certain delays in consulting authorities at the Treasury upon certain matters, but five weeks, as it seems to us, is a delay which requires some explanation, which at present we have not got. Can you give any further explanation?—No; it had to be printed and corrected.

7173. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did you apply to Sir Benjamin Hawes for authority to send that circular?—Yes.

7174. Did he give you any answer?—That it might be sent.

7175. Why was it not sent?—Steps were taken.

7176. It merely required to be written?—It was a circular with very large enclosures; tables of every detail required, clothing, saddlery, and necessaries.

7177. Are not you aware that much more elaborate circulars are sent from houses of business in the course of an afternoon to all parts of the world?—It was returned for correction of the press to Commissary-General Adams, and was finally printed; but I can only assure the Commission that there was no intentional delay.

(*Mr. Turner.*) I think it is an instance of gross neglect.

(*Witness.*) There was a great deal of other business very urgent at the time.

(*Mr. Turner.*) There was no more urgent business than this Commission of inquiry, and we are delayed for want of those returns.

(*Witness.*) I can only say that 100 returns in answer to that circular have been received, and not used.

7178. Why are not they used?—I am not aware what use they are to be put to. They are not of use in making the account, but may possibly be used in examining the accounts subsequent to their being rendered.

(*Mr. Turner.*) I am still of opinion that there has been great gross neglect and great unnecessary delay.

Witness.—I can only mention, as an instance of our readiness to comply with your wishes, that we had a letter from your Secretary on the 3d, asking for a return from Weedon of all obsolete stores, and the return was placed in your hands on the 7th.

part of the War Office with regard to their servants, as Mr. Elliott has absconded, owing the War Office some 2,300*l.*?—I do not think there was any great delay in the cash matters. I do not think there was any delay.

7181. Was the fact of the existence of a cash balance ever ascertained?—Never.

7182. Did not Mr. Elliott sometimes apply for money, when apparently there was no money due to him, and when he had a balance in hand sufficient to pay

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Mr. J. Milton.

Mr.
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any current expenses?—Yes; he was considered to have a balance sufficient to meet a month's requirements.

7183. Was that money advanced without ascertaining the existence of the cash balance?—There were no steps taken for ascertaining that that balance was actually in his hands.

7184. I do not know what the opinion of a jury may be, in case it should come to any dispute; but I think you would scarcely establish your claim upon the Guarantee Society if you did not look after that?—I think the terms of the policy would be sufficient to enforce payment.

7185. (*Chairman.*) When were the vouchers sent up by Mr. Elliott showing that he had paid Pickford 700*l.* or 800*l.* a quarter?—They came up with his quarterly account.

7186. How could that be? was not there when he went away a sum of 1,633*l.* due to Pickford?—Yes; the vouchers that were sent up with his quarterly account were what he had paid; not unpaid accounts.

7187. Did you accept Mr. Elliott's representation, that that was the whole that was due to Pickford, or did you understand, as he had only sent those vouchers up, that that was all he had paid?—That was what we concluded.

7188. Mr. Ramsay told us, that under the Ordnance Regulations it was Captain Gordon's duty, in taking the remain on the 14th of May, then charging himself with the stores, to have taken also the cash account or balance which should have been in Mr. Elliott's hands. Can you give any sufficient reason why he did not do so?—We wrote to him and Mr. Elliott a letter, that as soon as the remain was closed they were to transfer the balance from the one to the other, and Captain Gordon was to give a receipt for it.

7189. That should have been done on the 14th of May?—Yes, if the "remain" accounts were then completed and signed.

7190. Did Captain Gordon report to you that he had not got the balance?—No; he was expecting to receive it every day from the close of the week.

7191. Did he report to you that he had not got it?—No.

7192. Ought he not to have done so?—He would have reported it when Mr. Elliott's final cash account came up; then there would be the receipt of Captain Gordon to that final cash account, of having received from Mr. Elliott his balance.

7193. Ought it not to be signed, as by the Ordnance Regulations it is provided that it shall be, simultaneously on taking charge of the stores?—It is provided by the Ordnance Regulations that so soon as the store is transferred the accounts shall be closed and signed, and the balance transferred.

7194. If Captain Gordon had said on the 14th of May, "I have not got the cash balance, and I cannot get it," might not you have taken more stringent steps with Mr. Elliott? As it was, his absconding took you all by surprise?—I do not think you could have expected Captain Gordon to report it till the "remain" documents were signed.

7195. (*Mr. Turner.*) Where did Mr. Elliott bank?—With the Northamptonshire Bank; that was his private arrangement. Whether he kept the cash in his own house or at a bank the office would not interfere.

7196. (*Chairman.*) The Ordnance Regulation says, No. 252, "Every storekeeper or other accountant is immediately on joining his duty," which Captain

Gordon did on the 14th of May, "to receive from his predecessor the amount of cash remaining in his hands, and debit himself therewith in his account current." Do you think that duty was performed?—I think you must give him a few days after the completion of the remain to make up the accounts.

7197. (*Mr. Turner.*) About a week intervened?—Yes.

7198. I should have thought that a new storekeeper, on the very first day of his assumption of office, would wish to keep his cash account and his payments correct; you would do so yourself; you would commence with your payments, and you would want something to pay with?—As soon as I was installed, and not till then.

7199. There were daily payments of one kind or another occurring?—Yes.

7200. Then you must commence on that very day a cash book?—The day that I was put in charge.

7201. How could you commence if you had no balance to begin with?—Draw on my own private resources, and that occasionally is done.

7201*a.* Is that expected?—It is not expected, but it is occasionally done.

7202. When a man begins a cash book he should start with something on hand to pay with?—Yes.

7203. (*Chairman.*) Can you verify that return (*Appendix No. 12, Parliamentary Paper, No. 328, 1858*), which is signed by Mr. Elliott, professing to give the amount of certificates for stores delivered at Weedon?—No; I could not verify it. I think Mr. Carpenter can. It would take a considerable time to prove its accuracy. It is being done by Commissary-General Carpenter.

7204. (*Mr. Turner.*) One reason, however, to my mind, why Captain Gordon should have ascertained the balance a little sooner is, that Mr. Isaac, who has been a good deal blamed for various transactions connected with Weedon, has suffered, I think, from that very neglect; had the cash balance been inquired for, and handed over to the new storekeeper, Mr. Elliott would not have been enabled to get that 500*l.* which he obtained to meet payments?—I do not think that that appears so. It was Mr. Elliott borrowed the money; not Captain Gordon.

7205. Is it not rather hard upon Mr. Isaac?—I suppose he lent the money as a private matter between Mr. Elliott and himself.

7206. I think he would hardly have lent Mr. Elliott that 500*l.*, or Mr. Elliott would scarcely have applied for it, because it was appropriated to the payment of wages?—A part of it.

7207. About half?—Yes.

7208. So that by that non-settlement of accounts between the old storekeeper and the new storekeeper the Government have their loss diminished by 245*l.*, or some such sum, which was appropriated to wages, and Mr. Isaac has lost 500*l.*?—I do not see it in that light.

7209. Mr. Elliott borrowed the money to get himself out of the scrape he was in; he could not pay the wages that week. Do not you think that was one reason of his borrowing the money?—Yes.

7210. Had not the Government the benefit of one half of it?—So far.

7211. Has not Mr. Isaac lost both halves?—He has lost 500*l.* Mr. Elliott had not, I think, at that time ceased to be storekeeper; when he borrowed the money he was still storekeeper, and still liable to make the payments.

Adjourned to Thursday the 21st instant, at twelve o'clock.

LONDON.

Thursday, 21st October 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. JOHN CALVERT examined.

LONDON.

Mr. J. Calvert.

21 Oct. 1858.

7212. (*Colonel French.*) You are an employé in the establishment of Messrs. Cox and Company, Army Agents, are you not?—I am.

7213. For what period have you been in their employ?—I have been there upwards of 30 years.

7214. In what capacity are you employed?—Nearly the whole of that time I have been engaged in the management of clothing matters.

7215. Will you state the nature of the connexion between the Colonels of the regiments and the Agents in conducting the clothing of regiments?—Up to the 31st of March 1854, the army was clothed by the colonels of regiments out of a fixed allowance for each man borne upon the establishment, which allowance, in addition to the provision of clothing and caps, was made to defray the charges for maintaining the accoutrements, for packing, freight, insurance, the replacement of clothing and accoutrements lost by desertion, damaged by moths or vermin, and all incidental expenses; so that by reckoning the establishment of a regiment at the fixed allowances per man, the precise sum was ascertained which the public had to pay for clothing and accoutring each regiment. The allowance was not paid directly to the colonels, but assigned by them to other persons who paid the regimental tradesmen appointed by the colonels, and defrayed all charges for which the allowance was granted, not handing the residue to the colonels until the expiration of the military year during which the clothing had been worn. Standard patterns of all articles to be supplied were deposited at the office of the Board of General Officers. The clothiers made patterns which, if found to correspond with the standard patterns, were sealed by the Board. On a supply being ready to be forwarded to head-quarters, it was inspected by officers appointed to perform that duty, and compared with the patterns sealed by the Board. If found to correspond with the sealed patterns, the supply was sent to head-quarters, where it was again inspected by the commanding officer and two officers next in seniority. When the clothing had passed this examination it was delivered to the men, but the liability of the colonels terminated only with the expiration of the period for which the clothing had to be worn. Instances had occurred in which the Commander-in-Chief, in consequence of complaints, had ordered the replacement of annual clothing, after it had been nine months in wear, free, of course, of charge to the public. Prior to the commencement of the present system, the old plan was followed with the exception only of the actual expenditure of the colonels being paid by the public, an addition being made to their pay as compensation in lieu of emolument from the clothing allowance.

7216. A statement made by Mr. Ramsay before this Commission having given rise to much dissension and difference of opinion out of doors, the Commissioners would be glad to have your opinion on the subject, with a view to correct that statement if it is incorrect, and at the same time to set the question once for all at rest. I avail myself of this occasion to state that I am no advocate for a return to the old system of clothing in its integrity, and I feel assured that I shall have the approval of my brother soldiers, and those especially who were

lately emancipated from the invidious position of being clothiers to their regiment, when I say, that not an individual among them would accept the office were it again offered them, whatever may be their opinion of that system. I will now read the question upon which I wish to ask your opinion,—6883. "Would they have been returned into store?"—Mr. Bischoff says, "The Government might have put them into any store they thought proper to nominate, either retaining them for the regiments or keeping them as Government stores. That is a question for the Government to answer, not me." Mr. Ramsay says, "Under the old system the colonel would have been paid. Take the case of a regiment on the 1st April 1856, 2,000 strong, which was the case in the Crimea. Peace was declared soon after the 1st of April, and that regiment was reduced to 1,000 strong; the colonel would have been paid by the public for 2,000 garments, and the colonel would have had the benefit of expending any surplus garments for the next year's clothing, and the value of that surplus would have been clear profit; therefore, the person who derived the real benefit would have been the colonel." Do you coincide in that opinion?—No, certainly not.

7217. Will you state what would have been the case?—The establishment having been reduced on the 1st of May, the colonel would only receive the allowance for the number of men actually effective on the 1st of April, and who must be clothed by him; he would not have received for the 2,000 men, unless the 2,000 men were actually effective on the 1st of April.

7218. If they were effective he would have received the allowance?—If they were effective he would have been bound to supply the men with clothing, and consequently would have received the allowance. If the reduction,—it is a most improbable case,—had taken place on the 1st of May, (practically the reduction took place on the 10th of November,) there would have been the part-worn clothing, which would be nearly useless to the colonel, recruiting being stopped. I have no doubt the practical effect would have been, that the clothes would have been taken away by the men. Part-worn clothing being a perishable article is well nigh useless to the colonel when recruiting is stopped.

7219. Will you be good enough to read the warrant upon that subject?—In clause 3, it says, "Assignments may be passed for every serjeant, corporal, trumpeter, drummer, and private borne upon the establishment of each regiment at the date of the commencement of such assignments. But in case a regiment (or battalion) shall be placed upon a reduced establishment at any time after the commencement, but within the period of such assignment, the colonel thereof shall not have a claim or right to off-reckonings for the numbers borne on the previous establishment, unless the number of non-commissioned officers and men actually effective at the commencement of the clothing period exceeded the numbers borne upon the reduced establishment." That would certainly cut away all right on the part of the colonel to the allowance of 2,000 men.

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Mr. J. Calvert.

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7220. This question was put to Mr. Ramsay: 6884
 "Supposing 500 new tunics had been landed in the
 "Crimea, and not taken into wear at all; peace had
 "been declared, and the regiment was reduced from
 "2,000 to 1,000 strong; the 500 tunics had therefore
 "become needless for the use of the men; would the
 "colonel have had the benefit of them?" Mr. Ramsay's
 answer is: "Yes, the colonel would receive the cloth-
 "ing for 2,000 for that year, and only have to provide
 "for 1,000 for the next year. I may add, that a new
 "regulation has come out in consequence of the Ten
 "Years Enlistment Bill, by which the commanding
 "officers are directed to take care, if men are to be
 "discharged, say in the month of May or June, that
 "they receive no clothing at all on the 1st of April,
 "but receive two months' compensation in pay?"—
 That is no answer to the question put, it is a very
 recent regulation made some years after the termi-
 nation of the colonels' interest in the clothing allow-
 ance of their regiments.

7221. A regiment whose effective strength is
 complete to the establishment of 800 rank and file,
 embarks for the West Indies in May, having received
 its clothing for the current year in April, and is
 reduced 200 rank and file by fever soon after its
 arrival; those men before the expiration of the year
 are replaced by 200 recruits from the dépôt, or by
 volunteers: would the colonel have had to provide
 them with clothing?—Certainly.

7222. Then in that case there would have been the
 clothing for 200 men out of his pocket?—Certainly;
 that was a contingency to which he was liable.

7223. (*Chairman.*) First with respect to your
 interpretation of clause 3, take this case,—establish-
 ment strength on the 1st of April 2,000, real effective
 strength, 1,500; that is not an uncommon thing, I
 believe?—I should say it is a very uncommon thing.

7224. Do you think that in the Crimea it was an
 uncommon thing?—I think so.

7225. We will suppose the effective strength in
 April to be 1,500; peace is declared in May; a re-
 duction takes place in June, we will assume to 1,000,
 and there has been an assignment for the 2,000, (peace
 not having been declared,) it being necessary to
 provide the clothing?—I cannot assume that which is
 contrary to the fact, and reply upon a hypothetical
 state of things which never existed. The practical
 operation of the thing was this,—those assignments
 were passed by the Board of General Officers, and the
 number of men for whom the assignments were to be
 passed was given about the month of July to the Board
 by the War Department.

7226. Assume the reduced strength in July to be
 1,000, and the nominal establishment strength on the
 1st of April, the commencement of the clothing year
 2,000; do you mean to pledge yourself that the
 colonel had not the benefit of whatever quantity less
 than the 2,000 was actually used?—I mean to say
 that, in the case put, a very large reduction, after the
 expiration of only one month of the year, was provided
 for by the Queen's Regulation.

7227. Do you mean to pledge yourself, that if the
 establishment strength on the 1st of April was 2,000,
 and the reduced strength on the 1st of July was 1,000,
 that the colonel had no benefit from that reduction?
 —Practically the establishments of the regiments were
 determined upon, during the interest of the colonels in
 the clothing allowance, from the 1st of April, and
 therefore the question does not bear.

7228. The nominal strength of the establishment
 on the 1st of April, the commencement of the clothing
 year, is 2,000; the effective strength is something less;
 and by a reduction to the peace establishment on the
 1st of July the actual strength becomes 1,000: do you
 mean to represent that under the old system the
 colonel had not the benefit of the allowance for the
 2,000?—During my recollection the alterations have
 been made from the 1st of April. I say that power
 was conferred certainly by the warrant to limit the
 clothing allowance to the men effective on the

1st of April, but as I do not recollect a case in point
 I cannot answer what the practice would have been.
 I do not think there has been a case within my
 experience.

7229. You can easily suppose such a case; take
 the case of a regiment in the Crimea (if it is necessary
 I will refer to a particular regiment), establishment
 strength on the 1st of April 2,000, reduced strength on
 the 1st July 1,000; supposing the old system had
 continued, and there had been no alteration at all,
 would not the colonel have had the benefit of the
 clothes that became unnecessary in consequence of
 that reduction?—I think myself it would have been
 the duty of the Secretary-at-War.

7230. I am asking you as a matter of fact, as an
 experienced man, assuming that the regiment were
 reduced during the clothing year, would not the
 colonel have had the benefit of the larger quantity
 of tunics or other clothes that are allowed for the
 regiments on the 1st of April?—The clothes would
 have been issued to the men effective on the 1st of
 April, and they would be part-worn clothing.

7231. That is assuming the effective strength to
 be equal to the established strength?—Just so.

7232. Supposing the effective strength to be less
 than the established strength, would the colonel not
 have had the benefit of the full allowance for the
 establishment strength over either the effective or the
 reduced strength?—In every instance alterations have
 been made upon the 1st of April; you are putting a
 hypothetical case, which I cannot answer. I am not
 aware of a parallel case.

7233. I require an answer to my question; you
 are here to contradict a statement which has been
 made, and I wish to test the value of that contra-
 diction?—I have read the Queen's Regulation.

7234. "Assignments may be passed for every man
 "borne upon the establishment of each regiment at
 "the date of the commencement of such assignments."
 What is the date of the commencement of the assign-
 ment?—The 1st of April.

7235. Assuming a regiment to be 2,000 strong on
 the 1st of April, is an assignment passed for 2,000?
 —That does not follow, that is modified.

7236. "But in case a regiment (or battalion) shall
 "be placed upon a reduced establishment at any
 "time after the commencement, but within the period
 "of such assignment" (I am supposing it is placed on
 the reduced establishment on the 1st of July) "the
 "colonel thereof shall not have a claim or right to
 "off-reckonings for the numbers borne on the
 "previous establishment, unless the number of non-
 "commissioned officers and men actually effective at
 "the commencement of the clothing period exceeded
 "the numbers borne upon the reduced establish-
 "ment?"—Just so.

7237. Supposing the nominal establishment is 2,000,
 and the effective establishment less, but still not very
 much less, than the nominal establishment, and the
 reduced establishment 1,000—having read that third
 paragraph, will you state whether the colonel would
 not have been entitled to off-reckonings for the whole
 of the 2,000?—I think not.

7238. Why not?—Because in that case it says,
 that "the colonel shall have no claim or right to off-
 "reckonings," "unless the number of non-commis-
 "sioned officers and men actually effective;" that is
 to say, that the men are there in blood and bone.

7239. At the commencement of the clothing period?
 —On the 1st of April the colonel is bound to deliver
 full clothing to those men.

7240. If there are 2,000 men on the establishment,
 and the effective strength is 1,500 or 1,600, and the
 reduced strength is 1,000, does the exception men-
 tioned in the regulation 3 apply?—I think so.

7241. Do you really think so?—I do.

7242. The colonel is not to be entitled to the
 nominal establishment allowance, unless the number
 of men actually effective is more than the reduced
 establishment, but it is more than the reduced esta-

ishment in the case supposed?—I think then the allowance would be limited to the number of men actually effective on the 1st of April, because that is the number of men to whom the colonel would be required to deliver clothing.

7243. Upon what do you ground your opinion? The colonel is entitled to allowance for the whole nominal strength; he does not issue except to the effective strength. A reduction takes place. The regulation says that he shall not be entitled to the allowance for the nominal strength, unless the effective strength at the commencement of the clothing period exceeded the reduced strength. But the effective strength at the commencement of the clothing period, in the case put, in almost every instance *does* exceed the reduced strength; therefore, according to this paragraph, does it not appear that the colonel is entitled to the allowances for the whole nominal strength on the establishment?—Such a thing not having occurred within my experience, if I may use the word, I cannot say what would have been done, but my strong impression is, that the allowance would have been granted for the number of men actually effective only, otherwise I cannot understand the meaning of the proviso.

7244. What would have become of the extra tunics allowed? If you had been clothier for a regiment in the Crimea 2,000 strong, would it have been your duty to send out tunics to be delivered on the 1st of April to the nominal strength?—Certainly, to provide for the men that I expected to be borne upon the establishment of that portion of the regiment.

7245. It just comes to my question to Mr. Ramsay,—when the 2,000 tunics got to the regiment on the 1st of April, there being a less number of men to wear them, what became of those that were not worn?—They would be held over in aid of the supply for the following year, because recruits would be raised to replace the men that had become non-effective after the preparation of the clothing, and those recruits would have to be clothed at home. The colonel would have to pay for the 500 tunics without receiving an allowance from the Government. Therefore they would be his own property in aid of the supply for a future year.

7246. When the next 1st of April came, would not the colonel have had an allowance for the full number borne upon the establishment?—Just so.

7247. Part of the clothing he would have in hand from the surplus of the previous year?—Yes; but I would wish to explain, that the surplus that may exist at the head-quarters of a regiment is compensated by the over-delivery of clothing to the depôt of the regiment; it can only arise from casualties taking place between the preparation of the clothing and its being due to the men. The instant those casualties became known in London every effort would be made to replace the men who were non-effective. The colonel has to clothe the recruits at the depôt in excess of the establishment.

7248. Had not the colonels extra allowances for men killed in action?—Not that I am aware of.

7249. Do you mean to say that if a man's clothing was lost in consequence of his being killed in action, the colonel would not have been allowed to have fresh clothing for the man who supplied his place?—I really cannot answer that question practically, and for this reason, that there has been no war to speak of since I have had anything to do with the matter, excepting in India and China, and that was done in the country by the East India Company. There was an allowance in aid of the cost of fresh accoutrements, which are intended to wear for a very extended period.

7250. You have mentioned the case of desertion; surely you must be acquainted with what took place in the case of capture by the enemy, or a man being killed in action?—There was an allowance, I have no doubt.

7251. (*Colonel French.*) Not for shipwreck?—No.

7252. (*Chairman.*) Do you mean to say that there was no allowance for loss by shipwreck? Will you just look at the Regulations: "Indemnification shall be invariably be confined to losses which have been altogether unavoidable, and may be granted in the following cases, viz.: losses by shipwreck, or by inevitable casualties on board ship, occasioned by storms or stress of weather?"—It is several years since the system terminated, and I have been away from business from ill-health for six months.

7253. You had full notice that you came to dispute a statement which I believe from what I have seen is entirely fortified by authority and by practice; coming here to dispute that statement you ought to be ready to give us information upon it. Do you adhere to the opinion which you have just expressed, that, in case of loss by shipwreck, the colonel would not be indemnified?—Certainly not, unless the clothing was actually on the backs of the men; he would be bound to protect himself by insurance against loss by shipwreck.

7254. What were the off-reckonings for?—To enable the colonels to provide clothing and accoutrements.

7255. What was the 60,000*l.* off-reckonings for, if there were not large profits to the colonel?—Profit to the colonel was contemplated.

7256. Out of what did the colonel get his profit?—Out of the clothing allowance.

7257. Did he have a larger allowance for each man than each man cost, or did he have also a very considerable profit, because allowances were made for a larger number of men than were clothed?—I should say, generally speaking, that the number of men clothed exceeded the establishment. The profits arose from the allowance being intentionally larger than the sum the clothing would cost the colonel, including the maintenance of accoutrements.

7258. (*Colonel French.*) The colonel would have had to supply also accoutrements for an extra number of men, who were disbanded, would not he?—Yes, he would have to do that of course.

7259. And they would be of no use to him afterwards?—No, they are of a perishable nature.

7260. Therefore he might have a thousand sets of accoutrements in his hands?—Yes, the first cost of which was always defrayed by the public. Each colonel, in acquiring his interest in a regiment, was put in possession of accoutrements in a good efficient state, and an allowance was given to maintain them.

7261. Supposing they were condemned from time to time, had not the colonel to replace them without any allowance?—In case of an augmentation, after a reduction for three years, the colonel received an allowance to enable him to provide accoutrements.

7262. A regiment being supposed to be reduced in May, would it not be some months before the men were really discharged?—Certainly. It is a common thing to allow a reduction to be effected by a stoppage of recruiting.

7263. Consequently, the clothing being issued in April, the men would have received it before their discharge?—Clearly. May I be permitted to say, that, practically, the augmentation of the army, or the reduction of the army, is contemplated some time before it takes place. The altered circumstances of the country induce the Government to reduce the army, and they stop the recruiting; and the numbers by the 1st of April are reduced as near as may be to the intended strength from that date. On the contrary, if an augmentation from the 1st of April is intended, recruiting anticipates the raising of the men before the men are actually put upon the establishment. Therefore, I say practically, these hypothetical questions, as far as the colonels were concerned, to a great extent, have not occurred. Augmentation has almost invariably been from the commencement of the military period. Take, for example, the 19th foot; they were reduced on the 1st of April 1850—augmented the 1st of April 1852—augmented again on

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the 1st of April 1854; that is the commencement of the public paying for the clothing, and not giving a fixed allowance. That regiment was augmented on the 10th of May and the 6th of December 1854, reduced on the 10th of November 1856, and so on; because then it was quite immaterial—the public supplying the clothing, the colonel was not to be considered at all. The colonel was only responsible for the delivery of the clothing to the 31st March 1854, and in the years succeeding the 1st of April 1854, it mattered not when the regiment's establishment was augmented or reduced.

7264. (*Chairman.*) If you refer to the evidence which was given on the 3d of July 1856 before the Contracts' Committee you will find a detailed statement (and the military members on that Committee do not appear to have disputed it), that the colonel got the full allowance for the nominal strength of the regiment, and that if there was any surplus of clothing that was not wanted in consequence either of the effectives being less than the establishment, or in consequence of the regiment being reduced after the commencement of the clothing year, the colonel had the benefit of that clothing to go against the next year's supply, for which he nevertheless was paid?—That clearly would have been the case; but, in case of a reduction of establishment after the commencement of the military period, the Queen's Regulation says, that the colonel would receive the allowance only for the effective men on the 1st of April,—at least as I read it; you read it differently, I am aware.

7265. (*Colonel French.*) In ordinary cases, not talking of reductions, taking a regiment whose establishment was 1,000 strong, and which had only 900 men, the colonel then would pocket the cost of the clothing for the 100 men, would he not?—Certainly, there can be no mistake about it, but that was a very unusual case.

7266. And in case of reduction this Regulation would become operative?—Yes.

7267. (*Chairman.*) Can you bring your mind to suppose such a possible case as this:—The establishment of the 47th Regiment on the 1st of April 1856, I am told, was 2,150, including all ranks, non-commissioned officers and others, for whom allowance would be made?—I believe that is right.

7268. I have what purports to be a statement of the articles actually supplied to that regiment,—1,750 tunics, 1,660 pairs of trousers, and 1,644 pairs of boots; that is, some 400 or 500 less than the numerical establishment strength?—Does that include the dépôt?

(*Mr. Ramsay.*) It includes all the service companies and the dépôt companies.

7269. (*Chairman to the Witness.*) I will suppose that there was a surplus at the end of 1855–6 of 723 coats, 675 pairs of trousers, and 219 pairs of boots; during the course of that year, in consequence of the peace, that regiment was reduced to 1,091 in September; on the 1st of April 1857, at the commencement of the next clothing period, supposing the old system had existed, would not the colonel have had, in the first place, all those articles, the 723 coats, 675 pairs of trousers, and 219 pairs of boots, being the surplus supplies of the two previous years, and would he not still have been entitled to allowances

to the amount of 1,091, the reduced strength on the 1st of April?—Just so.

7270. Supposing there had been no change of pattern,—in supplying his regiment of 1,091 men for 1857, would he not have applied the surplus arising from 1855–56?—I believe so.

7271. And still have had the full off-reckonings for the reduced number?—Just so; but you will perceive that Mr. Ramsay's real evidence is very different from what it stood in the newspapers; it was that the colonel would receive the clothing for 2,000 for next year.

7272. You also denied the answer to the previous question; read it again?—I should have inferred from that, that the reduction and the peace came together; that is, peace was declared soon after the 1st April, and that the regiment was reduced to 1,000 strong, I think that would be the natural interpretation.

7273. (*Colonel French.*) As these men could not have been sent about their business soon after the 1st of April, it is to be presumed that their clothing would have been given to them on the 1st of April, consequently a large portion of the clothing must have been worn, and if it had had only one day's wear, could it have been of any use to the colonel afterwards?—To say that it would be useless would be more than I could undertake to do; but it would be what part-worn clothing always is.

7274. There would have been the expense of sending that part worn clothing home?—I do not think it is an expense that ever would be incurred.

7275. When could the colonel have made use of it, the regiment being complete in its establishment?—It would have been sold or destroyed. If it was sold it would be for a mere trifle, for it was always likely to be eaten with vermin; there are white ants, moths, rats, and a variety of such things that eat regimental stores.

7276. You have stated that a portion of this clothing would have been taken into wear, and possibly the whole of it; in the case of a regiment being reduced would that surplus clothing be fit to issue the following year?—Certainly not; it would have been worn for one twelfth of the period, and any old soldier would of course have refused to receive clothing worn by another man for a month or even a day.

7277. A regiment being reduced by sickness or otherwise in a colony, if the clothing has not been issued on the 1st of April, what could the colonel do with that clothing? Would he not have to supply the recruits at the dépôt, besides those at head-quarters?—Yes; he would have to clothe the recruits raised to replace the men who became non-effective at head-quarters.

7278. For which he would get no allowance?—For which he would get no allowance. Perhaps I may be allowed to observe, that the regulations authorized all regiments serving abroad to raise men until they appeared upon paper to a certain extent supernumerary to the establishment—100 men in India, and a less number in the West Indies, and so on, varying according to the distance of the colony, or the station from this country, and the probability of casualties occurring; the object was, as far as possible, to keep the effective strength of every regiment fully up to the establishment.

G. D. Ramsay,
Esq.

GEORGE DALHOUSIE RAMSAY, Esq., further examined.

7279. (*Chairman.*) You were examined at very considerable length before the Contracts' Committee on the 3d of July 1856, with respect to the colonels' off reckonings?—Yes.

7280. You were asked by the Commissioners whether you adhered to all the evidence that you then gave?—I certainly do.

7281. You have heard Mr. Calvert's evidence, first his opinion and then his denial of the hypothesis which was suggested to him; can you state from actual records

the particulars of the 47th Regiment in the Crimea?—Yes. The establishment, on the 1st of April 1855, was 2,150; the number of garments actually supplied for the period commencing with the 1st of April 1855, and ending the 31st March of 1856, was 1,616 coats, 1,474 pairs of trousers, and 1,435 pairs of boots: the number of surplus articles on the 1st of April 1856, was 481 coats, and 383 pairs of trousers.

7282. Does that include the issues to the dépôt as well as all the issues to the regiment in the field?—

It includes all issues; not only to the service companies stationed in the Crimea, but to the reserve companies stationed at Malta, and the depôt companies stationed at home.

7283. How do you account for the number of articles actually issued being less than the nominal strength?—During the whole of the Crimean war the effectives of the British army were between 40,000 and 50,000 below the establishment.

7284. Mr. Calvert, not having been accustomed to a state of war, says that such a thing never happened as the effective strength being below the nominal strength; how does that coincide with the fact of late years?—I know, as a positive fact, that at the conclusion of the war the effectives were upwards of 40,000 below the establishment. I may add, that one of the principal reasons which induced Mr. Sidney Herbert to make the change was that he thought it a great evil that the country should pay for clothing for men who actually were not in existence.

7285. (*Colonel French.*) But this change had taken place at the time you speak of?—The date of the first warrant, if you refer to the book, was June 1854; soon after war was declared with Russia; Mr. Sidney Herbert then abolished the off- reckonings.

7286. And the colonels ceased to have the management of the clothing?—The colonels did not cease to have the management of the clothing because the public took over the engagements of the colonel till the 31st March 1857, therefore, practically, the agents were responsible for the clothing issued to the army up to the 31st of March 1857.

7287. (*Chairman.*) Do you agree with Mr. Calvert's opinion, that the principal profit of the colonel was derived from the extra sum allowed for each man, or do you consider that a portion of the profit of the colonel arose from the fact that there was an allowance for a larger number of men than actually required garments?—The profit of the colonel arose from both those sources. If you refer to Sir Willoughby Gordon's evidence before the Committee on Army and Navy Appointments in 1833, you will find that he computes the profit of the colonel at 15s. a man.

7288. (*Colonel French.*) The Government must have known something of the chance of peace at that time, therefore why did they issue such a quantity of clothing if it was unnecessary?—I do not think the chances of peace were very great at the commencement of 1856, and if the Government had had no clothing ready for the continuation of the campaign in the Crimea they would have been very much to blame. The Commander-in-Chief held the colonel responsible that he had a sufficient number of garments to clothe the men up to the establishment. The public during the Crimean war only took over the engagements of the colonels, they were not clothing the regiments, because the public only began to clothe the army from the 1st of April 1857; up to the 1st of April 1857 the army was virtually clothed by the clothiers appointed by the colonels.

7289. At all events the colonel made no profit?—No; but if the old system had continued the colonel would have made a profit.

7290. (*Chairman.*) Will you state the condition of the 47th Regiment on the 1st of April 1856?—On the 1st of April 1856 the establishment of the 47th Regiment was 2,150. The number of garments actually supplied during the year commencing with the 1st of April 1856, and ending the 31st March 1857, was 1,750 tunics, 1660 pairs of trousers, 1,664 pairs of boots. At the termination of the financial year on the 31st of March 1856 the officer commanding the 47th Regiment found himself with 723 coats, 675 pairs of trousers, and 219 pairs of boots, the surplus of the preceding year's clothing. The establishment of the 47th Regiment on the 1st of April 1857 was 1,091.

7291. When was it reduced?—On the 10th of November, but the colonel would only have been affected by the 1st of April succeeding; when once

the off- reckonings had been voted by Parliament they were the colonels' property.

7292. If the old system had continued on the 1st of April 1857 the colonel would have had in his possession, as available for the following year, the surplus arising from the excess in the supply of the two previous years?—Most undoubtedly.

7293. That excess arising from the effective strength having been less than the establishment?—Certainly.

7294. Then on the 1st of April 1857 he would have had the off- reckonings for the reduced establishment?—For the reduced establishment he would have been allowed to appropriate the surplus of the preceding year; therefore virtually, every surplus garment which he had in store was clear profit.

7295. (*Colonel French.*) Can you mention any other instance of that kind having occurred?—I have traced the 47th regiment; but, having been employed in a confidential situation at the War Office during the whole of the war, and knowing the establishment strength of the whole of the army, I think I can confidently say, that there was not one single regiment in the Crimea up to its establishment.

7296. (*Chairman.*) Is the case of the 47th exceptional?—No.

7297. What made you select the 47th?—It is a regiment that served throughout the whole of the Crimean war. To show you that the army was much below its establishment at the termination of the war, the Government found itself encumbered with no less than 40,000 or 50,000 new suits of clothing, which had been issued to the regiments to supply the recruits who were expected to join if the augmented establishment had continued, and which have been issued by the Government in diminution of demands for clothing, whereas the colonel would have issued this surplus clothing, and the country would have had no credit for the surplus clothing.

7298. (*Colonel French.*) That extra clothing could be disposed of by the Government; but do you think that the colonels of regiments would have the same means of keeping that clothing? Would not they have to find means of conveyance and storage for the clothing, and be responsible for all the loss that might be incurred?—I do not know. Permit me to add, that I have no wish to show that the colonel benefited unduly; he had a clear right to the off- reckonings voted by Parliament.

7299. It is implied that the colonels would have pocketed the amount whatever it was?—Under the old system of army clothing, the House of Commons voted 2l. 6s. for every man, and the colonel was compelled to provide every man with clothing approved by the Commander-in-Chief, and if he did that the country had no right to ask him any questions whatever.

7300. If all that clothing had been sent abroad it appears to me that the probability is, that the colonel could never have made it available?—The colonel would have had it brought home, free of expense, in Government ships.

7301. Would not the colonel have had to supply the men at home with extra clothing?—I am merely stating the actual fact relating to a regiment, and showing the number of garments that were actually issued to that regiment. I think I could quote half a dozen more instances, but, as I have already said, I selected the 47th because it went through the whole of the Crimean war.

7302. You spoke of so many thousands of suits of clothing having been on the hands of the Government at the termination of the war; were not many of those extra suits of clothing given to the soldiers by the country?—The donative suit was separately accounted for in a separate clothing roll; I have not included that at all.

7303. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are you aware whether the "Great Britain" steamer was ever detained for a week, at the expense of a very considerable number of hun-

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dreds of pounds a day, with the 17th Lancers and the 18th Hussars on board, for want of saddlery?—I am aware that the “Great Britain,” owing to some misunderstanding, was engaged to sail from Cork some five or six days before the saddlery could be got ready. At that time we were sending a great many regiments out to India, and as you are aware the principal part of army saddlery is made at Walsall, and, unfortunately, Walsall Fair took place at that period, and it was with great difficulty that the workmen could be prevailed upon to work. The army saddlers, I believe, worked day and night to get this saddlery complete.

7304. Was that exertion made only at Walsall?—As you are aware, the army saddlery is a very limited

trade; there are only three or four houses employed in that trade.

7305. Were a considerable number of Messrs. Gibsons’ men working day and night during that period at Weedon?—I think so. I was away during the time, but I know that every exertion was used to get the saddlery completed.

7306. At all events, it is a fact, that there was a great discrepancy between the time of ordering the “Great Britain” to sail, and getting the goods necessary for the troops on board?—It is some time ago. I think you will find that that question was answered in a Committee of the House of Commons upon the subject of the transport of troops to India.

Mr.
L. J. B. Dolan.

Mr. LAURENCE JOHN BAPTIST DOLAN further examined.

7307. (*Chairman.*) I believe you wish to make some statement to the Commissioners?—I do not desire to say anything in order to controvert the statements that have been made by Mr. Calvert or Mr. Ramsay, but it appears to me, in order to clear the matter up fully, it ought to be borne in mind, that, in point of fact, before May 1854, the establishment of the regiments was kept up as nearly as possible to the effective strength, consequently the colonels did not make a profit in the way Mr. Ramsay alludes to. I know when the Crimean war took place, that an

exceptional state of affairs arose, and the establishment of the regiments became very much in excess of their effective number, but the new system had then been brought into operation. If the old system had gone on, I think it is quite fair to say, if an exceptional state of circumstances arose, such as has been described, it would have been the duty of the Secretary of State to have made a rule to meet that exceptional state of circumstances which had not arisen before, and for which rule there had been no necessity previously.

Lieut.-Col.
A. Horne.

Lieutenant-Colonel ARTHUR HORNE examined.

7308. (*Colonel French.*) What regiment do you command?—The 2d battalion of the 13th Regiment.

7309. When was that battalion raised?—On the 1st of March or the 28th of February this year.

7310. What is the effective strength of your battalion?—About 950.

7311. What portion of those are recruits?—Nearly the whole; they have all been recruited, with the exception of about 130 volunteers from the militia. I had no nucleus to form the regiment on from the old battalion, with the exception of two or three non-commissioned officers.

7312. The recruits are now furnished with free kits by the Government, are they not?—They are.

7313. Do you keep any of those kits in store?—Yes; that is, when I can get them. I have always been deficient of them.

7314. Are those kits given to you beforehand, in anticipation of the recruits coming in?—As I send in requisitions for them.

7315. Are those requisitions speedily answered?—No; very tardily.

7316. What length of time may have elapsed before your requisitions have been attended to?—My quartermaster is present with the books which contain the whole of the correspondence with the War Office. I have a statement which I will read, and I can confirm everything it contains by the letters, both as regards the free kits and the clothing of my regiment. I have had very great difficulty indeed.

7317. Have you received the clothing of your regiment so as to deliver it on the 1st of April?—It ought to come in that way, but this is a new battalion, and therefore it is an exception.

7318. What has been the quality of the necessities which have been issued to the men? Are they of a superior quality to those that are issued from the regimental stores?—The free kits that are issued are the same.

7319. Are they better than the regimental kits?—I have no regimental kits excepting that I am allowed to purchase them when I cannot get them supplied by the Government.

7320. Were the military authorities cognizant of the delays to which you have referred?—Yes; both the War Department and the Commander-in-Chief.

7321. What steps were taken?—I have a summary of the correspondence which has taken place between the authorities and myself, and I find I have written

96 letters since the formation of the battalion, and still I am deficient in my clothing. I will read the statement which I have prepared with respect to free kits:—

“On the formation of the regiment, 200 free kits were received from Weedon. Of this supply, the forage caps were found to be of wrong colour—blue instead of green. Supposing the sending of blue caps to have been an oversight, a letter was written to the military storekeeper, Weedon, stating the fact, who replied, requesting the blue caps to be returned, and stating that others of the proper colour should be immediately forwarded in their place. On the 13th of March the caps alluded to were returned to Weedon, and by a letter dated the 20th of March information was received to the effect, that 200 forage caps in exchange had been forwarded to Winchester on the 18th of that month, but which caps were not received till the 21st of April. On the 26th of March a representation of the non-arrival of the caps was made to Weedon; to that letter no reply was received. On the 3d of April the delay was reported to the adjutant-general. On the 6th of April the attention of the military storekeeper at Weedon was again called to this delay, and to my communication of the 26th of March, and it was not until the 17th of April that my letter of the 26th of March was replied to, and which letter contradicted that written at Weedon on the 20th of March. Of the 200 forage caps received from Weedon in exchange for the blue ones, 180 were condemned by a regimental board on the 4th of May. Copies of the proceedings of the board were forwarded, and, by instructions contained in War Office letter dated 13th May, two of the rejected forage caps were ordered to be forwarded for inspection; from which date no further communication was received until, on the 2d of June, 200 blue instead of green forage caps were received from Messrs. Tait and Co., Limerick. On the 7th of June, having received the bills of the last-mentioned caps (being the first intimation received), the receipt of the caps, and the fact of their being blue instead of green, was reported to the Under Secretary of State, and by War Office letter, dated the 17th of June, directions were received to return the blue caps to the firm of Tait and Co., Limerick, to be exchanged. Upon the receipt on the 27th of June of the 200 forage caps in exchange, a regimental board assembled for their inspection, and reported them of

quite a different shape and colour from those in use of the regiment, and recommended they should be returned. Copies of the proceedings of this board were forwarded in the usual way on the 28th of June, and by instructions contained in the War Office letter dated the 8th of July six of the rejected caps were forwarded for inspection. The caps on being submitted for inspection were considered to be of inferior quality, and by directions conveyed to me in the War Office letter dated the 5th of August I was directed to return the forage caps to Messrs. Tait and Co., which was accordingly done, and it was not until authority was granted to purchase forage caps from Messrs. Dolan and Co. that the forage caps to complete the first 200 kits received from Weedon—namely, on the formation of the battalion—were supplied to the regiment. A requisition, dated 16th of April, was made for 200 free kits. These could only be supplied in part from the Government stores; but on the 4th of May an authority was granted me to purchase the deficiencies, which were immediately ordered and supplied without any delay or inconvenience to the service. On the 10th of June a requisition for a further supply of 200 free kits was made, which could only be supplied in part from the Government stores at Weedon. On the receipt of this part supply of 200, a regimental board assembled for its inspection, and condemned 149 pairs of trousers and 600 shirts. Copies of the proceedings of the Board were forwarded on the 27th of June, and by War Office letter dated the 5th of July instructions were conveyed to me to forward 12 of each of the articles complained of for inspection, which were immediately complied with, and by War Office letter dated the 22d of July instructions were received by me to issue the rejected shirts, and to return the 149 pairs of rejected trousers to Weedon. The trousers were accordingly returned, and 149 others received in exchange, which were subsequently condemned as inferior to the sealed pattern in my possession, and likewise returned to the Government stores at Weedon. With regard to the articles—viz., shell jackets, mitts, bugles, and numerals,—which could not be supplied from Weedon, they were furnished by Messrs. Tait and Co., but although the requisition for the supply of 200 kits was dated the 10th of June the shell jackets were not received until the 3d of August, and the summer trousers were not replaced until the 20th of September. With reference to the War Office letter dated the 22d of July, which directed the issue of the 600 rejected shirts, I addressed a letter to the Adjutant-General, and by Horse Guards' letter dated the 9th of August I was told that the same must be issued to the recruits, in consequence of the contract having been made on the old pattern. On the 26th of July a requisition was made for 200 more, which were supplied from Weedon on the 10th of August complete, except 600 shirts, 200 shell jackets, 200 stocks and chin straps, which were subsequently—viz., on the 10th of September—supplied by Messrs. Tait and Co., Limerick. Of this supply of articles received from Weedon the summer trousers were again found to be of very inferior quality, and differing in weight from the sealed pattern in my possession from two ounces to two and a half ounces each pair. The sponges were also found unfit for the service, and, together with the trousers, were condemned as unfit for issue. Copies of the proceedings of the regimental board rejecting the articles were on the 12th of August forwarded in the usual manner, and by War Office letter dated the 21st of August I was directed to forward six of each of the rejected articles to that office for inspection, and in compliance with War Office letter dated 28th of September I was directed to return the rejected articles into store at Weedon, whence 200 sponges were received in exchange, and the trousers were on the 17th of September replaced by Messrs. Prater and Co., on an authority from the War Office. On the 2d of September another requisition was made for 200, and on the 7th and 8th a letter requesting their speedy transmission was written,

which 200 kits were supplied from Weedon, with the exception of the shirts, shell jackets, stocks, and cloth brushes. On the arrival on the 16th of September of those articles at Winchester the usual regimental board assembled for their inspection, and again reported the summer trousers as unfit for the service. Copies of the proceedings of the board were again forwarded through the usual channel, and by War Office letter dated 24th of September I was directed to return the 200 pairs of rejected trousers to Weedon, and up to this date those trousers have not been replaced. Part of the shell jackets, shirts, and stocks are still required to complete this requisition, notwithstanding the letters I have written urgently requesting that, as I had neither shell jackets nor tunics for the men to wear, the same might be immediately supplied me. Consequently in many cases the men have had to drill in their shirt sleeves. On the 9th instant I made a further requisition for 200 more kits, but these have not yet been supplied. The periods of delay in supplying articles are,—1. Seven weeks, from the 27th of February to the 21st of April, in the supply of forage caps, and then 180 of those received were condemned as unfit for the service, from the fact of blue instead of green caps being received in the first instance. 2. Seven weeks, from the 10th of June to the 3d of August, in complete requisition for 200, dated the 10th of June, leaving the men in the interval without shell jackets. 3. Seven weeks, from the 26th of July to the 17th of September, during which time the men were very much in want of shell jackets, having neither shell jackets nor tunics in store to supply their immediate wants, and on the 28th of September there were 139 recruits of the battalion who had not been supplied with shirts, shell jackets, and stocks; and the articles required for these men were not received until the 7th of October, although two letters were written by me pointing out the urgent wants of the regiment, and requesting, if these articles could not be immediately supplied by Government, authority to purchase them. With regard to inferior articles supplied to the regiment, there have been returned to the Government stores and contractors 1,178 forage caps, 680 pairs of summer trousers, and 200 sponges, the whole of which articles were condemned by regimental boards at the head-quarters of the regiment. With regard to the annual clothing, which consists of tunics, black trousers, chaços, and one pair of boots, on the formation of the battalion, clothing for 36 serjeants and 640 rank and file was received; and for clothing to complete the full establishment of the corps, which consists of 8 staff-sergeants, 48 sergeants, 24 buglers, and 950 rank and file, a requisition was forwarded on the 27th of July. On the 27th of August, 13th, and 23d of September, and 13th of October, letters were addressed to the War Office and Horse Guards, urgently requesting that the clothing might be forwarded, but up to this time, notwithstanding my earnest applications, there are still 228 tunics unsupplied. For the sake of six chevrons, value about 6s., which remain unsupplied, no less than eight letters have been written, the correspondence extending from the 12th of March to the present time, and the last information, which bears date War Office, October 18, 1858, informs me that they have been ordered for the use of the regiment. Ninety-six letters on clothing and free kits alone have been written since the formation of the battalion. With regard to the tunics and shell jackets generally, I find great difficulty in fitting the men, from the fact of the same being too scantily cut in the front, which prevented the men standing in an upright position with their clothing properly buttoned up. As regards the distinction drawn by Mr. Tait, of Limerick (a contractor who was sent to Winchester to look at the clothing of my regiment on my complaint), in the measurement of the men, I am unable to understand it. He produced a tunic for my inspection, which seemed to be very nicely made and well cut, but there are none such as that produced by him in use in the battalion. I called a

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man for him to measure, which he did, as he said, according to regulation. The tunic the man wore being much too small for him, I opened the tunic and ordered the man to stand to 'attention,' and requested Mr. Tait then to measure him for a tunic that would fit him in that position, which he did, finding, of course, a most material difference. The remark he then made was, it was not according to regulation, and seemed quite to ridicule the idea of such a measurement being taken for the army. The total number of men who have enlisted for the regiment is 1,023, being at an average of 30 per week, with the exception of the month of September, in which month about 180 volunteers joined from militia regiments. The total number of men who have been supplied with kits is 984; there are 16 men part supplied with kits, and there are 25 men present for whom there are no kits in store. The chacos supplied for the use of the battalion were so large, that out of 216 for rank and file, and 26 for sergeants, there are 60 rank and file and 7 sergeants who cannot be fitted. The arms, accoutrements, and great coats have been regularly supplied. The 42 tunics received from Mark Lane, made by Tait and Co., Limerick, on the 28th of September, having been submitted to inspection, were found to be of inferior quality to the sealed pattern, and were consequently reported on accordingly."

7322. (*Chairman.*) In the case in which you objected and remonstrated with the Horse Guards, and you had an order from the Horse Guards to issue the shirts, would the Horse Guards, before giving you that order (substantially, I presume, overruling the objection you had made), communicate with the War Office?—I presume they would communicate with the War Office. The only reason why I communicated with the Commander-in-Chief directly was on account of the inefficiency of my regiment from want of clothing; when I found the delays were so great, not being able to get them, I was in duty bound to myself to report to the Commander-in-Chief the state of inefficiency in which the regiment was, therefore making known to him, as it were, that I had applied and could not get certain clothing, so that if he came to inspect my regiment there would be a reason assigned for it.

7323. The absence of clothing is one thing, and an objection to clothing supplied is another. In the cases in which you had things supplied, and thought them objectionable, I understood from your statement that you had made representations to the Horse Guards, and that the Horse Guards had, in one or two cases, ordered an issue contrary to your suggestion?—The Board is sent in duplicate, one to the Adjutant-General and one to the War Office, and the objections are considered; therefore of course they communicate, I presume. This is the answer that I received this morning: "With regard to your letter of the 14th instant and its enclosure, a copy of proceedings of the Board on the clothing supplied to the battalion under your command bearing the date of your communication, I have the honour, by the direction of the General Commanding-in-Chief, to acquaint you, that the tunics forming part of the supply referred to should be taken into wear, notwithstanding the defects reported upon by the Board;" so that it does not ignore the defects. I conceive that that is an order, and immediately I return they will be issued.

7324. There are certain delays in giving you what you want, and there are objections which you entertain to the things supplied. I am not now speaking of the delays that may arise from neglect elsewhere, but as to the objections which you made; when you made those objections, and they were overruled, have they been overruled by the Horse Guards?—I think, with the exception of one case, they have not. I have never made any special report of the kind, excepting it was when I could not get the article or a satisfactory reason, or leave to purchase, then I have made a special report to the Commander-in-Chief. I think the objections have never been overruled, except in one instance.

7325. The shirts?—Yes; it arose from their being the old contract pattern. There are only two instances in which they have been overruled; there has been no Board returned to me, and every objection which has been made by the Board of Regimental Officers has been admitted. In the instance of the shirts, the understanding was, that they were to be issued because they were according to the old contract pattern; the reason was that they were good, although they were of the old contract pattern. The objection of the Board was, that the shirt was cut straight down without a flap, and therefore, when the man buttoned his shirt he split the button off, and it left his whole chest open, which, no doubt was prejudicial to health as well as comfort; that was not in compliance with the sealed pattern.

7326. The new sealed pattern?—There was only one sealed pattern.

7327. What is the other instance in which the objection was overruled?—The plumes.

7328. Can you state shortly the cases in which the objections of the Regimental Board have been allowed?—The objections have never been disallowed, with the exception of the tunics, the plumes, and the shirts. The things received from Messrs. Tait were condemned for bad workmanship, and being contrary to pattern.

7329. In those cases the objection of the Regimental Board has been overruled?—Yes, the letter comes from the Adjutant-General. With respect to the 600 shirts, a letter came from the War Office, signed "J. Milton." We have had no more issued of that pattern; we have come back to the new pattern.

7330. Can you state shortly the cases in which your objection was allowed?—In the whole of the trousers that have been sent back.

7331. Have you anything to do with the 1st battalion?—No.

7332. It is one of the regiments from which no return has been received as to their satisfaction or otherwise with their clothing?—They have been in India; I have only been here since July. I wish to mention, with regard to the making of the clothing, that Mr. Tait was sent down to me at Winchester, by order of the War Office, on account of my reporting the clothing as being so badly made; the armhole was cut half way down the side, and the chest was so thoroughly confined that my men being all growing lads I could not straighten them. Mr. Tait came down, and most unwillingly admitted my objection; he wanted me to write a different kind of letter to the War Office, making a report of our conversation. I have his letter, which confirms my own; he acknowledges the difficulty that I allude to, and you will find an allusion made to the fact of his measuring the men. I wrote to him with regard to the jackets which they sent to me, and requested that he would make an allowance of at least an inch and a half to two inches and a half more round the chest of the men, stating that if he would not attend to that suggestion of mine I should be obliged to make a special report to the Commander-in-Chief. He gave that allowance, and it has made a very great deal of difference, because I am enabled to fit the men with the 200 jackets that came; that had no reference whatever to tunics. He wanted to ignore the fact of the tunics not fitting, and wanted to make me believe that I had spoiled them, and that he, as a practical tailor, knew better than I did.

7333. Did they come direct to you from Mr. Tait?—Yes, the free kits, though usually supplied from Weedon, came direct from him; the clothing comes through Weedon.

7334. All the clothing you have had has been the made-up clothing this year?—I am alluding to the shell jackets, which come as part of the free kits; the clothing is all passed into Weedon, and is supposed to be examined there, and sent off to Mark Lane.

7335. (*Colonel French.*) You have stated that the objections of your Board were overruled under the authority of the Horse Guards?—The last letter that

I have read to you is from the Adjutant General, saying, "I have the honour, by the sanction of the General Commanding-in-Chief, to acquaint you, that the tunics forming part of the supply referred to should be taken into wear, notwithstanding the defects reported upon by the Board."

7336. You have stated that the order was given by the Commander-in-Chief; are you sure that the authority did not come through the Adjutant General or the Commander-in-Chief from the War Office?—This is the only reply I have received, which is from the Adjutant General. If I receive communications from the War Office they do not come through the Adjutant General's office.

7337. Do you suppose it was the Commander-in-Chief who took that authority upon himself?—I cannot presume to offer an opinion.

7338. Were you not desired to take the condemned clothing into wear because there was an impossibility of supplying your regiment with other clothing?—No; this letter is all I have got upon the subject.

7339. At no other period?—Not to my knowledge.

7340. (*Mr. Turner.*) As there was so much delay in furnishing the articles that you wanted, was not it rather imprudent to send back any of the shirts?—I thought it was my duty not to receive them. So great was my difficulty that the doctor reported that it was impossible to keep the men clean; they got covered with vermin, and I could not give them clothing to put on; I was obliged to send them into the hospital, and have their clothing fumigated, and the old clothing destroyed.

7341. (*Chairman.*) Assuming, under the old system, that you had made an objection to a clothier's supply, if the clothier disputed the decision of the Regimental Board the matter was submitted, was it not, to the authorities at the Horse Guards?—Yes.

7342. And in such a case as that the decision of the Horse Guards authorities might be in your favour, or it might be in the clothier's favour; was not that so?—Of course the Commander-in-Chief issued what orders he thought proper.

7343. Have you had any experience of such appeals?—No, I have not; the only three instances in which objections have been overruled were the shirts, which were acknowledged not to be according to the sealed pattern. Another was with regard to the plumes which were sent down to me, which were acknowledged not to be according to the sealed pattern. I have now a bright green pattern as a sealed pattern in my orderly room, and those I have last received are sent to me as being what are to be the sealed pattern. I have written to the War Office for a sealed pattern to replace the one I hold; therefore, you can hardly say, that the objection has been overruled.

7344. (*Colonel French.*) Did you reject the clothing which the Horse Guards had directed you to take because it was not equal to the sealed pattern?—Because it was inferior altogether.

7345. (*Chairman.*) From whom did the sealed pattern come?—It was supplied by the War Office, made, I believe, by Prater and Company, by whom the sealed pattern in my possession was made.

7346. (*Colonel French.*) Had you similar difficulties to contend with under the old system?—I cannot judge.

7347. Have not you been a long time in the service?—I have, but I have been an unfortunate one. The making of our clothing is extremely bad, nothing can be worse.

7348. Do you find any fault with the boots?—No, the boots are good.

7349. (*Chairman.*) You have objected to the clothing on the ground of its being badly made?—Yes, and I have sent it back.

7350. When?—At the last Board.

7351. Do you refer to the 42 tunics?—Yes.

7352. Did you have any answer to that?—Yes, this morning.

7353. And you have been ordered to take them

into wear?—Yes, they have not said that the tunics are in accordance with the sealed pattern.

7354. (*Mr. Turner.*) I see you received a letter from the Horse Guards dated the 9th of August, in which they say, although the shirts are not in shape quite like the present pattern, they must be received together with the other shirts, forming the supply reported upon by the Board before referred to?—That was why I made the remark with respect to the three different articles I have been ordered to take into wear; still they do not overrule the objections of the Board, they admit them, although they tell me to take the articles.

7355. (*Chairman.*) What is the result to be? Articles have been passed by a former sealed pattern, and therefore I assume that they were equal to the former sealed pattern. A new pattern comes out which is furnished to the army. What do you suggest should become of the old stock, if newly formed regiments will not take them?—I do not know. I have a sealed pattern sent by the Government.

7356. One of the great complaints which has been made is that obsolete stores are being sold. "No," the answer is, "we are issuing them to the troops." The regimental Boards reject them, and the Horse Guards say, "although they are not in accordance with the present pattern, you must wear them out." Do not you think that is a proper course to take?—I perfectly agree with regard to a linen shirt that that is not a matter of much importance, but with regard to the cutting of clothing it is of very serious importance. If the men have no freedom for the chest and cannot use their arms they are utterly helpless.

7357. (*Mr. Turner.*) As a military man you followed orders. You rejected the shirts because they were not according to the pattern that had been given to you?—I am responsible for every shirt to the general officer. He might say, "How is it that your men have shirts not according to the sealed pattern, what is your authority?"

7358. (*Chairman.*) Is the new shirt improved?—Yes; because the new shirt will button up and cover the chest.

7359. Did you see the pattern by which those 42 tunics, which were furnished by Messrs. Tait, had been inspected at Mark Lane?—Yes, presuming that the sealed pattern in my possession is exactly in accordance with the Government sealed pattern at Mark Lane.

7360. Was the pattern defective?—No; we had the sealed pattern.

7361. I am speaking of the make?—I have not tried them on. In examining clothing, I can only see that the shoulder straps, the collar, &c. are made according to pattern.

7362. There is a sealed pattern of the quality of cloth for made-up garments, and for made-up garments there is a sealed pattern; had you a sealed pattern?—Yes.

7363. Did you compare those tunics which were furnished by Messrs. Tait with the sealed pattern as to quality?—Yes.

7364. Were they inferior to the sealed pattern?—No; apparently as good.

7365. Then is the defect in the sealed pattern?—No; the things that come to me are not at all like the sealed pattern, the collars are a great deal higher, and the stitching is bad. They were inferior to the pattern, not in the material made up, but in the make, especially in the sewing of the whole garment.

7366. For the inferiority of the sewing the inspectors would be responsible, but for the defect in the pattern, if any, the Horse Guards would be responsible?—I cannot say whether it is an inferior pattern; it is different altogether, and the difference was pointed out in the Board; it is nearly an inch higher in the collar and the shoulder straps are half-an-inch broader than the other, that is the Board that was sent up (*handing in a paper*).

7367. You appear to have passed at the same time a large number of other articles; 262 trousers, were

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they good?—They were issued to the regiment; everything is separately examined with the sealed pattern which we hold in the store.

7368. The 42 tunics for privates is a small item out of the large number of articles that you inspected?—There were nearly 200 odd trousers, and those 42 tunics. There was some cloth sent at the same time with the tunics.

7369. (*Mr. Turner.*) Who are the authorities at the Horse Guards who decide these points?—I do not know; the clothing is particularly under Sir Thomas Troubridge.

7370. (*Colonel French.*) Under the old system had there been any accumulation of clothing, and a new pattern had been issued, would not the Colonel have lost the whole of that accumulation?—I believe so; I cannot answer that question.

The following document relating to the evidence of Lieut.-Colonel Horne was delivered in:—

Winchester Barracks,
March 12, 1858.

Proceedings of a board held in the quartermaster's stores, by order of Brevet Lieut.-Colonel T. Faunce,

Brevet
Lieut.-Col.
W. R. Haliday.

7371. (*Colonel French.*) What regiment are you serving in?—The 36th.

7372. Have you ever been in the command of a regiment or the dépôt of a regiment?—I commanded my present regiment nearly two years in the West Indies, from May 1852 to the end of 1853, and I subsequently commanded the dépôt of the regiment, a dépôt of six companies, from August 1854 until the 10th of May 1857.

7373. During the period of your being in command have you given much attention to the clothing of the soldiers, in respect to the quality of the cloth and its wear, and also to the regularity of its supplies and likewise to the quality of the supplies of necessaries?—Yes; my attention has necessarily been drawn very much while in command, and during many years as one of the senior officers of a regiment, and therefore constantly a member of the board of examiners.

7374. Will you state to the Commissioners of what that board consists, and how the examination is conducted?—The board of examination of the clothing of a regiment is constituted of the commanding officer for the time being, and the two senior officers next to him. The three senior officers of each regiment examine the clothing of a regiment upon its receipt, and compare that clothing with a sealed pattern which is furnished to them by the War Department now, in former days by the Board of General Officers.

7375. Do you call in the assistance of the tradesmen in your regiment on such occasions?—I have occasionally seen the master tailor of a regiment, and asked his opinion when the officers have had any doubt. That is the only tradesman, except in the case of boots, when the shoemaker would be called in.

7376. Of course you consider yourself on all occasions bound to abide by whatever the pattern may be, good or bad?—Certainly we are bound by the sealed pattern, because that sealed pattern is required to be produced at all inspections of regiments by the general officer. The commanding officer is responsible that every article in wear which his men possess is conformable to that sealed pattern.

7377. Have you formed any opinion with regard to the clothing which is now furnished to the army by the War Department in comparison with that which was formerly issued?—I like the shape of the present clothing very much. I think the present pattern is a very great improvement upon the old coatee which the men wore in former days.

7378. Is the clothing well made?—I think, generally speaking, the clothing has been well made. I have some doubts, from the experience of this year, of the cloth standing as well. I think it loses its colour more than the old cloth did. Although looking

STAFF-SERGEANTS.

- 4 Chacos and plumes.
- 4 Materials for tunics.
- 4 Ditto trousers.
- Gold lace, &c.

SERGEANTS.

- 30 Tunics.
- 6 Ditto in material.
- 36 Pairs Oxford trousers.
- 36 Chacos.

BUGLERS.

- 12 Tunics.
- 4 Ditto in material.

BAND.

- 20 Tunics in material.
- 20 Pairs trousers, do.
- 20 Chacos.

RANK AND FILE.

- 600 Tunics.
- 40 Ditto in material.
- 600 Pairs trousers.
- 56 Ditto in material.
- 656 Chacos.
- 756 Pairs boots, all ranks.

(Signed)

commanding 2nd battalion 13th Light Infantry, for the purpose of inspecting and reporting upon a supply of clothing received from the War Department, as per margin.

Bt. Lt.-Col. T. FAUNCE, } Presi-
13th Light Infantry, } dent.

Bt. Lt.-Col. Hon. A. } Mem-
M. CATHCART, } bers.
Capt. WARDER, }

The board, having assembled pursuant to order, proceeded to examine the articles named in the margin hereof, which they find are of good quality, and equal to the sealed pattern.

THOS. FAUNCE, Brevet
Lt.-Col. Commanding,
A. M. CATHCART,
Lieut.-Colonel,
N. WARDER, Capt.,
W. H. GRIMSTON, }
Capt., } Members.

Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel WILLIAM ROBERT HALIDAY examined.

better when first issued, it seems to me not to be so well dyed.

7379. Has the clothing been supplied in due time for your regiments; that is to say, in time to have it fitted to the soldiers and issued on the 1st of April?—No; since 1856 there has been always very great delay in the receipt of clothing in the portion of the regiment which I have commanded, the dépôt. Up to the spring of 1856 the supply was tolerably regular. In 1855 it was tolerably regular, and in the spring of 1856 commenced what has continued since—a very great delay in the receipt of the clothing.

7380. What do you suppose was the period of that delay?—The clothing has been since that period sent in batches—not the whole at once; and in each of the years 1856, 1857, and the present year 1858, the clothing has been received in many instances too late to issue it to the soldiers on the regular day.

7381. Will you specify the time at which the clothing arrived at the regiment?—I speak now of the dépôt that I commanded as an independent corps in 1855, 1856, and 1857. In the spring of 1856 a great portion of the clothing was not received till the 14th and 17th of March; that was clothing which had to be altered, and which ought to have been received in the previous December. In 1857 a great part of the clothing was actually not received until the month of May; that is to say, clothing which ought to have been in wear on the 1st of April was not actually received at the dépôt.

7382. Consequently it took a month or two to get ready?—Consequently it was not in wear until, I presume, July. I gave up the command of the dépôt on the 10th of May 1857, when it was united with a dépôt-battalion, and at that time they had not the clothing in wear, and from what I have since understood they were not able to take it into wear till July; we had not actually received the sealed pattern of some parts.

7383. When did the last issue arrive at the regiment?—I cannot say; I did not allude to the regiment; the regiment was abroad in Jamaica, and the clothing was received there, with the exception of a portion of it. I have asked the quartermaster recently, and he gave me to understand that it was received in Jamaica in good time, with the exception of the trousers and a portion of the tunics, which we could not recover till a great deal of correspondence had taken place. The tunics were received somewhere about the middle of February, but the trousers not until the end of July 1857, when the regiment was in England, and several suits had been sent to a wrong station by mistake.

7384. Have you had any rejections of clothing?—Yes; this year, on examining the clothing of the regiment, we had to condemn the whole of the trousers, as being inferior to the sealed pattern.

7385. On what account did you reject these trousers?—Being of an inferior quality of cloth, and in some degree defective in make; principally on account of the inferiority of the material.

7386. Were they inferior to the pattern?—Yes, to the sealed pattern; they were not so well woven, of a more flimsy texture, and all of them were much too light.

7387. What steps did you take upon that occasion?—The report of the board condemning them was forwarded to the War Department, and a duplicate of course to the Horse Guards. A letter was received from the War Department in reply, stating that in spite of the objection they must be issued to the troops; but that if in process of wear they proved to be inferior, compensation would subsequently be allowed, and the clothing has been issued.

7388. Has compensation been allowed?—No; the question of compensation will have to be decided when the report is made after the clothing has been in wear a sufficient length of time. Those being cloth trousers, which are very little worn during the summer, there has not been time to test the actual inferiority. No doubt the regimental board will make a report upon them before the end of the year.

7389. When you commanded the depôt were free kits issued to the recruits?—Yes; the issue of free kits commenced from the beginning of 1856.

7390. When did you leave the depôt?—I gave up the command of the depôt on the 10th of May 1857. I had the command of that depôt during a great part of 1854, all through 1855 and 1856, and until May 1857.

7391. Then you have had some experience in the supply of kits?—Very great experience in the supply of kits under the two different systems, because in 1854 and 1855 the depôt was recruiting very largely in order to fill up the regiment for the then recent augmentation, and also to provide for the very large casualties which had occurred in the West Indies. We enlisted 600 men in twelve months in 1854 and 1855.

7392. Have you had an opportunity of judging between the two systems so as to enable you to say whether the regimental supply or the War Office supply is the most ready and best?—I have had very ample means of forming a judgment upon that subject.

7393. Will you state to the Commissioners what your conclusions are?—I should state that in 1854 and 1855, when the demand for kits to supply recruits was far greater than anything that there has been since, we never had any difficulty in obtaining the supplies. We sent requisitions to the tradesmen who supplied them from time to time as recruits were pouring in; we had kits in abundance to supply them when they arrived, and we never had any difficulty. Since 1856 there has been very great difficulty in getting free kits.

7394. With regard to the quality of the kits, were those supplied under the old system equal to the new ones?—I think under the old system you had this security, that the tradesman who was employed never made any difficulty about taking back articles that were objected to. If the regimental board, on examining the goods with the sealed pattern, reported them as inferior, the tradesman, in every instance I have known, took them back at once and replaced them. Since the War Department has issued the kits, there has been much greater difficulty in obtaining the supplies and also in replacing the articles that have had to be condemned. I have memoranda which will enable me to quote a few instances where condemnation took place by the regimental board.

7395. Were the necessities that were issued under

the old system as good as those that are issued now?—They were just as good as those that are issued now.

7396. Who has the selection of the tradesmen to supply the necessities?—The necessities obtained by the regiment, as distinguished from free kits, are furnished by tradesmen selected by the captains of companies, with the sanction of the commanding officer. The captains of companies form a committee when they require necessities for their men, and if any particular tradesman has been supplying the regiment for a length of time with satisfactory goods, that tradesman is employed.

7397. Do you think it is possible that any collusion between the commanding officer or any other officer in a corps with a tradesman could take place which would be injurious to the interest of the soldier?—No; I do not think it is possible.

7398. Could the quartermaster enter into such collusion with a tradesman?—No; the quartermaster has no influence over the price or the selection of the articles. The examination of the articles is carried on entirely by the regimental board, consisting of the captains of companies, and a field officer as their president.

7399. Has the quartermaster anything to do with the board in giving his opinion in any way whatever?—No; the quartermaster is simply the storekeeper.

7400. You have very few recruits, I suppose, supplied at head-quarters with kits?—We have had occasion to supply a good many, because, in consequence of the change in the orders with regard to the recruits in 1857, we enlisted a considerable number at the head-quarters of the regiment, and they never were sent to the depôt at all; therefore we had to supply them with free kits at the regiment.

7401. Have those supplies been regular?—Very far from regular; even up to a recent period the supply has been extremely irregular. I can quote an instance, although the amount is but trifling; it shows that up to the present time, there has been a difficulty in obtaining free kits. When I was at Aldershot recently, Colonel Hort, who commands the regiment, applied on the 18th of September for 43 free kits, to be supplied with the least possible delay, for men who were expected to volunteer from the militia. On the 1st of October a supply of free kits was sent from Weedon, with the exception of shirts, shell jackets, &c.; shirts and shell jackets were two of the most essential articles of all for recruits joining. On the 16th of October some more of the articles were received, but even then the whole of the shirts were not forwarded; and on the 20th of October, that is, yesterday, the shell jackets had not been received, nor the whole of the shirts,—that is, for 43 kits applied for on the 18th of September.

7402. Did you allow the men to remain in rags all that time?—No. It so happened that these free kits were applied for, for men who were expected to volunteer from the militia, but as we did not obtain the number of volunteers we expected, it has not been the cause of any serious inconvenience to the regiment. I mention it merely as an illustration of the difficulty of obtaining from the War Department things applied for. No doubt had the men come, the commanding officer would, on his own responsibility, have furnished them with articles from his own regimental store, and reported that he had done so. Had he done so, of course he must have incurred the responsibility of paying for those articles, if the transaction was not sanctioned afterwards.

7403. You mentioned something about compensation to be given for the trousers, in case of their proving bad in wear; such would not have been allowed under the old system to the clothier, would it?—No articles objected to would have been received. Clothing found to be inferior to the sealed pattern would have been positively rejected.

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Brevet
Lieut.-Col.
W. R. Haliday.

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7404. Consequently is there not an additional expense to the public?—The public would have to pay the compensation.

7405. (*Chairman.*) Permit me to ask who has suggested your attendance here?—Colonel French, I suppose. I was desired to attend by a letter from the adjutant-general.

7406. The reason that I ventured to put that question was not at all in disparagement to you, but I have before me what purports to be a report from all the regiments now in England of the clothing issued this year, and they, almost without exception, report their satisfaction; but when we come to the thirty-sixth regiment there is a report, "trousers inferior in material and quality." That is the report to which you allude?—Yes.

7407. When was the date of that condemnation of the trousers?—I do not happen to have the date.

7408. Were you in Jamaica with the regiment?—No.

7409. Upon what do you ground your observation that the clothing which ought to have been delivered quite early in the year was not delivered in May?—I said that the clothing for the dépôt was not delivered in 1857. I commanded the dépôt for three years, during which the clothing was issued to us. I made my observations with regard to the supply of clothing solely with regard to the dépôt for three years.

7410. Do you know when the clothing was received in 1857 by the regiment?—I understand it was received in time, with the exception of the trousers not received until the end of July.

7411. There would be none received in Jamaica in 1858 for the regiment?—No; the clothing for 1858 was received at Manchester.

7412. Was it received in time?—Yes, the greater part; not the trousers, which were not received until the 22d of March. But there was no sealed pattern to examine the trousers by until several days after they ought to have been in wear, and there was not time to make any alterations that might be necessary. The sealed pattern had to be written for, and that for the privates' trousers was not received until the 6th of April, that for the sergeants' not until the 26th of April.

7413. Where did you get the kits from formerly?—From the tradesmen who had been supplying the dépôt for several years.

7414. The new system of giving kits commenced in 1856, did it not?—Yes; that order came out in January 1856 or December 1855; speaking from memory, I know the practice commenced in 1856.

7415. Were the kits free before?—No; the difference was this, the man received formerly a larger bounty in cash, but had to supply himself; it came to the same thing. The public subsequently diminished the amount of bounty in money, and gave a free kit.

7416. Was not the bounty 3*l.* and a free kit?—2*l.* and a free kit.

7417. How much was it formerly?—The bounty varied; in 1854 it was several times increased. I think at one time it was brought up to 6*l.*, or 6*l.* 10*s.*

7418. You do not think that the soldier benefits by the alteration in the amount?—Not the least. It is exactly the same thing. It is merely a mode of designating the thing, to avoid the apparent absurdity of calling it all bounty. I do not think the soldier receives any benefit in amount.

7419. I understand that the difficulty to which you have referred with respect to the free kits was not as to their badness, but the delay in supplying them?—Yes, which did not exist formerly.

7420. Can you give any other instance of delay except the 43 kits for possible recruits?—If I were to go out of my own regiment I could mention other instances which came under my notice; part of another corps was stationed with us at Manchester, and their men were almost in rags. Three hundred men of the 2d battalion of the 6th regiment, which was raised in the winter of last year, were sent into the barracks at Manchester in consequence of their not having room

for them at Preston, and those men were for weeks in their fustians and corduroys, and some of them without any clothing whatever.

7421. Were they recruits?—Yes, all newly raised men. The captains, who commanded the three companies in Manchester, told me that they were for a long time unable to obtain shell jackets or shirts for them. In some instances, after the men had been a month with them, they were obliged to buy shirts for them, one shirt for each man, out of his own pay, and charge it to the man, at the time when his free kit was actually due from the Government.

7422. When was this?—In the winter of 1857–58.

7423. Am I right in supposing that recruiting has gone on of late with even greater vigour than during the Crimean war?—I should doubt that very much. I should be guarded in giving an opinion, because my information would not be derived from official sources.

7424. Can you give any other instances in which there has been delay in the issue of kits to your regiment?—I can mention one or two more instances. On the 2d of August 1857, the commanding officer applied for 70 free kits.

7425. Are you now speaking of kits as distinguished from necessaries?—Yes. On the 12th of August, the commanding officer received a mere circular from the War Department, directing that those kits should be supplied from the regimental store. On the same day he received another circular, dated the 10th of August, cautioning commanding officers against accumulating necessaries, as arrangements would be immediately made for supplying them from the War Department, of which due notice would be given.

7426. Are you speaking now of necessaries?—Of free kits, the word "necessaries" is used with reference to the articles obtained from regimental tradesmen. The reason was, that they were then authorized by the previous circular to supply those necessaries which, in point of fact, constitute free kits, except that they were furnished by the regimental tradesmen in place of being furnished by the War Department. After the soldier has been once supplied with a free kit, he keeps up the necessaries, which are the same articles, at his own expense. They are supplied by the regimental tradesmen, and he is charged for them.

7427. Are there any necessaries apart from free kits?—The term "necessaries" is applied to all the articles a soldier is required to keep himself complete in, in addition to his "clothing;" they are precisely the same articles. The term "free kits" was introduced in the commencement of 1856, to signify that they would be supplied to the soldier free of expense; and the term "necessaries" is now used to signify those articles that the soldier supplies himself with for the purpose of keeping up his kit.

7428. For the purpose of keeping up the kit when once supplied, had not the commanding officer authority up to this year to purchase them?—Yes, and has still; that is the universal system laid down by the Royal Warrant, that the soldier has to keep himself supplied with those articles.

7429. Does not that apply to free kits also as a matter of practice? Have not commanding officers been authorized to supply kits to their men?—Occasionally, up to the autumn of 1857. In the autumn of 1857 a circular, dated the 31st of August, was issued stating that after the 1st of October free kits would be issued from the Government stores, and cautioning the commanding officers not to accumulate a large store of necessaries, as after that date they could not be disposed of as free kits.

7430. I understood you to state that there was a difficulty in 1856 and 1857, in supplying recruits with free kits; were not commanding officers at that time, when you say there was a difficulty in getting kits, at liberty to supply them from their own stores by purchase from regimental tradesmen?—I apprehend many commanding officers obtained permission from the War Department, having applied for free kits which

the War Department could not supply, to furnish them from their own tradesmen ; I know I have done so, but I am not aware of any general authority to that effect.

7431. Do you know whether the practice was general ?—I apprehend it was.

7432. Why should there be any difficulty if the practice was general and liberty was accorded for the purchase of necessaries in 1856, in furnishing the recruits you have mentioned with free kits ?—There was no difficulty as long as you applied to the regimental tradesmen, having obtained the authority of the War Department to do so.

7433. Had you any difficulty in obtaining that leave ?—No ; but when you applied for the free kits you had to wait some time for liberty to purchase them yourself.

7434. As a matter of fact, did you ever know any great inconvenience occasioned which might not have been removed by the exercise of that authority ?—Not up to August 1857.

7435. Are not you aware that the period was subsequently extended to the spring of this year ?—I am not aware of any general order to that effect. I apprehend it was not the case, because I know, with respect to my regiment, the War Department did profess to furnish free kits in the autumn of 1857.

7436. Were not there ready means of supplying any deficiency in that respect, if permission were accorded to the commanding officer to purchase the kits elsewhere ?—I can only speak of what occurred in my individual regiment. There was a good deal of correspondence requisite before that permission was given. On the 11th of August a letter was written from the War Department, stating that the 70 free kits applied for had been ordered to be supplied from Weedon. Then there was a letter, dated the 6th of October, from the officer commanding to the Under Secretary-for-War, representing that the 70 free kits applied for on the 2d of August had not been furnished, except 52 knapsacks. In reply to that, on the 14th of October, came a letter from the War Department, authorizing the commanding officer to purchase the 70 free kits for the regiment. Thus a considerable period had elapsed from the 2d of August, when the kits were applied for, to the final permission to purchase them, dated the 14th of October ; and during that time the recruits remained without the kits that were stated in the letter of the 11th of August to have been "ordered to be sent from Weedon," which is the essential point.

7437. Were you the commanding officer then ?—No.

7438. Supposing those kits had been furnished without an application to the War Office, would there have been the least difficulty in obtaining the sanction of the War Office to the purchase ?—I understand now that there would not ; but it must have been done in the face of two letters of the War Department—one cautioning the commanding officers against accumulating necessaries, and stating that after the 1st of October they would not be allowed to be disposed of for free kits ; and on the 14th of October the authority to purchase the free kits came. I mention this circumstance to show the difficulty which the commanding officer was under. If he chose to cut the knot by purchasing the articles without permission, it is probable that he would have been borne out.

7439. Did I understand you to say that the kits now supplied are as good as those that were supplied formerly ?—We have had occasionally to reject some articles ; but, generally speaking, I must guard myself against being supposed to say that we have no objection to make to them. We received a supply of 20 free kits, and we had to reject all the shirts except four, and more than one-third of the trousers.

7440. What was the result ?—The objections were admitted ; the articles were sent back to Weedon, and fresh ones were substituted. On the 4th of March 1858 there is the case of a small requisition. Colonel

Hort applied to the Secretary-for-War for 10 free kits. On the 11th of March a letter was received from the War Department stating that the kits had been ordered ; on the 13th of March Colonel Hort wrote that, in consequence of their not arriving, he had been obliged to supply a portion of the necessaries from the regimental stores to clothe the recruits, adopting the plan which you suggest ; on the 23d of April the trousers and shell jackets of these 10 free kits which had been applied for on the 4th of March were despatched from Weedon. On the 25th of March the regimental board was obliged to report that of the 30 shirts of a partial supply of these kits sent in, 26 were of inferior quality, and unfit for issue. On the 8th of April a letter came from the War Department, directing the commanding officer to return the 26 shirts to Weedon, and stating that the principal military storekeeper there had been desired to exchange them, and to issue the shell jackets and summer trousers required to complete the ten kits. On the 27th of April the board reported upon the trousers ; four were absolutely inferior, and the six remaining were defective in workmanship. On the 13th of May a letter was sent from the War Department, authorizing four pairs of summer trousers rejected as inferior as part of the ten free kits to be replaced by purchase, and the rejected ones to be returned to Weedon, and the remaining six pairs were to be altered by the regiment, and a charge made for the alteration. On the 8th of May 26 shirts were sent to replace the rejected ones, and on the 25th of May 26 more ; they sent a double number. Colonel Hort reported the excess of these 26 shirts, and inquired what was to be done with them. On the 5th of June a letter came from the War Department, inquiring whether he could sell the surplus 26 shirts in the regiment for the contract price, which was done.

7441. (*Colonel French.*) With regard to the statement you made about the 6th regiment, would it not imply very great neglect on the part of the commanding officer, if he had known that the authority existed at the time from the War Office, of allowing him to purchase necessaries, and he had permitted his men to remain in the shameful state you have mentioned ?—It certainly would have appeared to me so ; I cannot conceive it.

7442. You think it is impossible that he could have known that such an order existed ?—I think it is quite impossible. I know we were not aware at the regiment that there was any such general order. The permission to replace a very small portion of articles was obtained in each individual case in reply to representations.

7443. Do you know by whom the articles of clothing are now inspected before they are sent to the regiment ?—I do not know of what the board of examination at present consists, or whether it is in London or at Weedon.

7444. (*Chairman.*) As regards the actual wear of the clothing after it has passed, have you been satisfied with it generally ?—I have some doubts whether the dye of the cloth at present used is as good as the old. I have observed this year at Aldershot, that the tunics are very much worn, and very white. The wear and tear of the clothing is so great there, that it is not easy to form an opinion. The troops are knocked about a great deal more, and the clothing gets more wear than under ordinary circumstances at home ; but certainly the dye appears to me to be inferior, because the cloth turns so white.

7445. Do you find the boots good ?—I think the boots are good. I see no difference in the boots since I have entered the service. They appear to me to be about the same.

7446. Do you think that the boots are no better now than they were five years ago ?—I do not think they are. They appear to me to be the same. They were always substantial boots.

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Brevet
Lieut.-Col.
W. R. Haliday.

21 Oct. 1858.

LONDON.

Colonel CHARLES ELMHIRST examined.

Col.
C. Elmhirst.

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7447. (*Colonel French.*) What regiment do you command?—The 2d battalion of the 9th Foot.

7448. When was that battalion raised?—Nominally from the 24th of July 1857. Why that date should have been named I am at a loss to conceive, inasmuch as the officers were not nominated to the battalion till October, but the orders from the War Office directed the battalion to be supposed to be raised from the 24th of July 1857.

7449. What is your effective strength?—900, rank and file.

7450. What proportion of those are recruits?—About 250 come under the head of recruits, the others having been dismissed drill.

7451. What number were recruited under that establishment?—I got about 110 men from the first battalion.

7452. Then the rest all come under the head of recruits and volunteers?—Quite so.

7453. The recruits are now furnished with kits by the government, do you keep any of those kits in store in order that recruits may be immediately provided on their joining the regiment?—I have a great difficulty in that respect, inasmuch as the requisitions are not met as rapidly as I should wish from the War Department. I always, when I can, keep a certain number of kits for recruits or volunteers from the militia who may join my regiment.

7454. Can you show whether there has been any delay in furnishing those kits, to what extent, and at what periods?—On the 1st of September last, I forwarded a requisition for 300 kits, and on the 9th of that month I received 100 in part without shirts, shell jackets, stocks, and chin-straps. I may add that I have received nothing more up to the present day. On forwarding that requisition I stated that my battalion had received orders for immediate embarkation for Corfu or the Mediterranean, I forget which; therefore I trusted the supply would be made as rapidly as possible, more especially as I had received on the 25th of August 170 volunteers from the militia who, as you are aware from the last warrant (of August), are entitled to free kits. I stated in forwarding this requisition, that it was very desirable that those kits should be furnished as rapidly as possible, inasmuch as I had but few necessaries in store, but that I would supply the volunteers as far as I possibly could with a shirt apiece, that they might not remain in a state of filth. You are aware that the men are allowed under the warrant of August last to dispose of their old militia kits as they think proper. I did supply them as far as I could from my own private store, but the principal medical officer at Aldershot, on visiting the regimental hospital of the 9th the other day, found some of the men complaining that they had only one shirt. I was called upon for an explanation by General Knollys as to why those men were half clothed, and my statement was that I had forwarded requisitions for free kits; that those men were volunteers from the militia for the most part; the others recruits; that they would be entitled to the total number of three shirts on receiving free kits, and if I supplied them with two more shirts, they would ultimately possess five, which could not possibly be carried on a march; and therefore I did not think I should be acting justly towards these men to compel them to purchase extra linen; many consequently remained for a time with merely one shirt. Sooner than let them remain in a state of filth, I allowed them to borrow from their comrades, and many are now wearing the shirts of their comrades, and others I have supplied from non-effective kits. As I stated to you, I forwarded that requisition on the 1st of September. On the 12th of September I wrote again to the War Office, which letter was to the effect that there were 170 men at present entitled to free kits in the battalion who had only one shirt each in their possession, which the volunteers for the most part had brought with them, and there being no shirts

in my regimental store, I requested, in consequence of the regiment being under immediate orders for embarkation, that the supply might be met. On the 17th of September I received a reply to my letter from the War Office:—"Sir, with reference to your requisition dated the 1st instant, I am directed by Secretary Major-general Peel to acquaint you that the articles therein demanded will be shortly completed; and with reference to your letter of the 12th instant, I am to inform you that 100 additional kits have been ordered for the service of the battalion under your command."—That is, another 100 of the 300 of the said requisition. On the 20th of September (two days previous to my arrival at Aldershot camp) I wrote from Sheffield barracks, and stated,—“With reference to my requisition dated the 1st instant, I have the honour to request that the articles of free kits mentioned therein may be forwarded to Aldershot, in consequence of the battalion under my command receiving the route to proceed to that station on the 22d instant.” As I have stated to you, I have not received any further portion of those free kits that I applied for on the 1st of September.

7455. (*Chairman.*) Are there 200 still undelivered?—Two hundred kits are still undelivered, and a portion of the other 100. Again, on the 27th of September, 1858, I wrote from the camp at Aldershot, “With reference to my requisition, dated 1st, and my letter dated 12th instant, and your reply thereto, dated 17th, and numbered as per margin 52/9th Foot, 2d Bn, wherein it stated that 100 free kits were ordered to the battalion under my command, I have the honour to inform you that the said free kits have not yet arrived, and as the battalion is under immediate orders for embarking, I request they may be furnished with the least possible delay, as there are a number of men who have not received kits, and it is absolutely necessary they should be supplied previous to leaving England.” On the 30th of September I received the following letter from the War Office:—"Sir, I am directed by the Secretary of State-for-War to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated 27th instant, and to acquaint you that steps have been taken to secure the immediate transmission to the battalion under your command, of the necessaries therein referred to." On the 12th of October I again wrote to this effect, "Sir, With reference to my requisition dated 1st September 1858, and my letters dated 12th and 27th September 1858, and your replies thereto, dated 17th, and numbered 52/70, 2 Batta, 9th Foot, and 30th numbered 52/74, 2/9 Foot, relative to free kits, I have the honour to state that they have not yet arrived; and as the battalion is under orders for immediate embarkation, I request that steps may be at once taken to furnish me with the same, or that I may be authorized to purchase them from Mr. Homan, contractor, Chatham, whose necessaries have ever given me the greatest satisfaction, and who is prepared to supply them at a moment's notice." This is the 21st of October, and I was fully under the impression that I should have been now on my way to Corfu, and the necessaries have not yet been received.

7456. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are you delayed entirely in consequence of that?—That I cannot say.

7457. There is no vessel waiting for you that you are aware of?—I am not aware of there being any.

7458. Have you had any reply to your letter of the 12th of October?—No; I have received no reply to that; Lord William Paulett inspected the battalion early in this month, and called upon me to state why so many men in my battalion appeared incomplete with free kits; I was commanding the brigade temporarily at Aldershot, and I forwarded this letter with a private one from myself, from the brigade office, to Lord William in London, requesting that he would have the kindness to wait upon General Peel, as I felt quite sure that neither General Peel, nor Mr. Ramsay, nor others high in office could be aware of

this delay; the letter is in these terms, "To the major of brigade, 1st Brigade, North Camp, Aldershot."

"North Camp, Aldershot, 10th October 1858.
"Sir,—Having been called upon at the last half-yearly inspection by the major-general commanding to state why so many men of the battalion under my command are incomplete with free kits, I have the honour to acquaint you for his information that those men are for the most part volunteers from the militia; the others, recruits. I beg to observe that a requisition for 300 free kits was sent by me to the War Department so far back as the 1st of September, out of which number I have received but 100, and those only in part (viz., without shell jackets, shirts, chin straps, and stocks); as my battalion is under orders for immediate embarkation for Corfu, I should esteem it a great favour if the major-general would represent the case to higher authority, feeling assured that Secretary Major-General Peel cannot be aware of the delay in furnishing the said kits which are now so urgently required.

"I have, &c.

"C. ELMHIRST,

"Col. commanding 2d Battalion,
"9th Foot."

That was forwarded by me to Lord William Paulet, on the 18th of October, to the Albany, Piccadilly, London. I may here observe in consequence of my not having been able to supply these volunteers and recruits with free kits, I had been compelled to clothe them with the regular clothing, such as the tunic, the shako, and cloth trousers, and, as you are aware, at Aldershot the fatigues are very arduous, it is a daily occurrence that men are absolutely working on fatigue duty in their tunics, and by the 31st of March next year I suppose they will be absolutely useless. Unless I can obtain those kits the Government clothing will be thrown away in performing the ordinary fatigue duties of a camp.

7459. Would some of those linen jackets which are now lying obsolete at Weedon have been useful to you?—They would indeed.

7460. It has been erroneously said that the Commissioners were going to send them to the Tower for sale; supposing you had had a thousand sent down to Aldershot, would you have found them a great convenience?—I am sure I should.

7461. (*Chairman.*) Is there any particular uniform about the necessaries, as they are called? Would the necessaries be the same for all the line?—All necessaries are nearly alike. It is a common article that a contractor would furnish at once. A free kit consists of a shell jacket, a cap, summer trousers, and a knapsack complete. The other comes under the head of clothing which is now in wear on fatigue duty.

7462. (*Colonel French.*) Has the supply of clothing been generally sufficient?—Yes; I have been very regularly supplied with clothing, but two boards rejected a certain number of pairs of trousers.

7463. What number?—On one occasion, on the 14th of July, a board of officers, consisting of the three seniors (myself, Major Taylor, the next in command, and the third Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Sankey), met by my order for the purpose of inspecting 13 pairs of sergeants' trousers, and 294 pairs of rank and file trousers. We condemned those trousers, considering the cloth to be of an inferior description, the sewing very bad, and not according to the regulation as regarded the red stripe, which you are aware is much broader than it was last year or the year before. The former portion of our proceedings the War Office appears to have ignored, inasmuch as their reply to my letter forwarding the proceedings on the 14th runs thus:—"War Office, Pall Mall, S.W., 29th July 1858, 9th Foot, 2d Battalion. Sir, I am directed by the Secretary of State-for-War to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated the 14th instant, transmitting the proceedings of a board of officers held on trousers and boots received for the use of the battalion under your command, and to

acquaint you that the expense of altering the trousers therein mentioned to the new pattern will be admitted as a charge against the public, and the amount not exceeding 1s. 3½d. per pair will be allowed in the contingent account." That was in reality stating that the trousers were to be considered fit for issue, but that that alteration might be made. The trousers were excessively bad and not fit for issue. Of course I acted upon this letter, and the trousers were issued.

7464. (*Chairman.*) What was your complaint about the trousers?—We considered the cloth thin and light, not of that texture that we considered at all fit for issue to soldiers; the sewing being bad, and the stripe too narrow for the present regulation. They sanctioned the alteration of the trousers with respect to the stripe, which alteration is not to exceed 1s. 3½d. As regards the tunics, I think no fault could be found with them.

7465. Had you a sealed pattern of the trousers?—Yes.

7466. Was the inferiority of which you speak an inferiority compared with the sealed pattern?—Decidedly.

7467. Did you call in the assistance of any other persons besides the two officers you have mentioned?—I always had the master tailor, considering him the best judge in a matter of that kind. We should be able to form a certain judgment ourselves, and we should not be biassed by him except it being something very glaring that he might see and point out to us. With the exception of those 294 and 298 pairs, afterwards rejected, no fault could be found, I think.

7468. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were all those trousers passed at Weedon?—I suppose so.

7469. Would not they be examined at Weedon by a sealed pattern?—I presume they would.

7470. Wherever they were passed they would be compared with the sealed pattern?—Yes; I feel sure, however, that no board of officers could ever have passed those trousers, they were so very inferior.

7471. (*Chairman.*) In such a case as that, supposing a clothier had sent in the trousers, and he had said that they were as good as he was bound to furnish, what would have happened?—I should have said, they are not in conformity with the sealed pattern, and you must take them back and make them good, or I must take the contract out of your hands.

7472. Supposing that he had said, "I will have my appeal,—I will stand upon my rights and character as a tradesman, and I say they are good"?—Then he must have gone to the wall.

7473. To whom would the appeal have been, as between the clothier and the regimental board?—I suppose it would have gone to arbitration. He would have said, "I will agree to abide by the decision of such a person." That, however, has never been mooted for a moment. I never recollect a case. A man is too anxious to keep the contract—too delighted.

7474. (*Mr. Turner.*) You think the clothier was always anxious to make good any deficiency?—Invariably.

7475. (*Chairman.*) I am told that there was such a case in which the Messrs. Hebbert upon one occasion appealed.

(*Mr. Bischoff.*) There is an appeal to a board of general officers.

(*Colonel Elmhirst.*) I have been in the service 23 years, and I never knew it exercised. I have been in command of depôt battalions for a year and a half at Chichester and Chatham.

7476. (*Chairman.*) You never knew an objection taken by a regimental Board that was not well founded?—Never.

7477. Or that was not sustained?—Never. I have been very particular myself before confirming those proceedings, to ascertain whether the board had good grounds for condemning the articles.

7478. (*Mr. Turner.*) It would appear that the Horse Guards, or the War Office, are rather more lenient now in allowing those things to pass, than

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they used to be; perhaps they are not quite so rigid and have caused you to issue these things?—I suppose that is owing to the difficulty in getting supplies.

7479. May not another thing be, that public attention has been a good deal directed to the existence of a mass of obsolete stores?—Possibly.

7480. (*Colonel French.*) Are you satisfied with the quality of the cloth issued for the soldiers' tunics?—Decidedly, it is superior to what it used to be, as I stated in my report to the adjutant-general on (I think) the 10th of May last.

7481. How do you find the clothes with regard to make?—The sewing is not as it should be; it is all made by machine, and therefore it cannot possibly last as long as it would if it were worked by a needle. I only give that opinion from what I have understood to be the case.

7482. (*Chairman to Mr. H. Dolan.*) Is clothing for the army made by machine?—Most of our work is made by hand; the clothing for the 9th regiment is made by Messrs. Tait, and I believe it is made by machinery.

7483. (*To Mr. Bischoff.*) Is your clothing made by machinery?—The coats are made entirely by hand; we tried the experiment of making trousers by the machine, but it did not answer.

7484. (*To Colonel Elmhirst.*) Do you know whose clothing it is that you think is made by machine?—Messrs. Tait's; the cloth is of very good texture, very good colour, and wears very well; but the thread is very apt to cut from the holes being so much larger than the thread, and being worked by machine.

7485. Do you approve of the cut?—I approve of the cut.

7486. Did you hear Colonel Horne's evidence?—I did, and I cannot agree with him at all upon that point. I conceive that the cut is very good. I have no fault to find with the coats; they are very much better than those that were issued in previous years.

7487. Could the men stand at ease in them?—Yes, certainly.

7488. (*Mr. Turner.*) And "to attention" also?—Yes, without difficulty.

7489. Then you think that the tunics were unexceptionable?—No fault whatever was to be found with them, only the trousers; the shakos were very good, and the accoutrements very good.

7490. Were such of the kits as you received good?—A great number of the knapsacks had to be rejected, from not being in conformity with the sealed pattern, as regards the patent leather corners.

7491. Was that rejection acquiesced in?—The first sealed pattern that was sent to me was received about the 20th of November 1857; it was supplied from Weedon, and the corners were made of patent leather. There is a slight difference in the corners. On the 1st of April 1858, 150 knapsacks arrived from Weedon, made by Messrs. Isaac, Campbell, and Co., I presume, as their names were upon them, very inferior to the sealed pattern; they were all condemned, the canvas being rough, and the corner leather of painted buff, and not considered waterproof. They were returned to Weedon. On the 14th of May a box, purporting to contain a sealed pattern kit, arrived at Bradford; it was sent through Weedon, with Messrs. Isaac and Campbell's name thereon, and arrived unsealed. The knapsack in this box was exactly similar to the 150 knapsacks that had been condemned; and, had not the box containing this supposed-sealed pattern kit been sent in the first instance by mistake to Yarmouth, it would have arrived in time to pass the condemned knapsacks, because it would have been the sealed pattern to have placed before the board, and to which sealed pattern the board must have adhered. Of course from this kit not being sealed it was taken no notice of by subsequent boards. On the 29th July a sealed knapsack made by Messrs. Tait and Co., arrived through the pattern room of the War Office inferior to that sent by Messrs. Isaac. Since that time the boards have been obliged to pass knapsacks of a very inferior

description, the sealed pattern knapsack being so very inferior to the former one; the last one is considered as our guide. Very likely some of the knapsacks previously rejected and returned to Weedon were afterwards sent to us and passed by our board from our having the last sealed pattern for our guidance; it may have appeared strange at Weedon that these things should have been sent to us and rejected, and then on being sent back passed by the board.

7492. (*Colonel French.*) Am I to understand you to say that you previously had a pattern of superior quality, and a second pattern was subsequently sent to you of inferior quality, by which you were made to pass the articles?—Yes. Before this last warrant of the 25th of February was issued from the War Office, I never experienced, nor did the commanding officers of the dépôts in my battalions at Chichester or Chatham ever experience, the slightest difficulty in obtaining free kits for their men. Recruits would join to the extent of 70 a day at Chatham, and those officers never experienced the slightest difficulty in procuring the kits for them.

7493. (*Chairman.*) Then you think the system of the government furnishing free kits is a mistake?—Decidedly.

7494. If I understand you rightly the objection was to giving a man what was called a bounty, and then saying to him, out of this bounty you shall be bound to furnish yourself with certain things?—That was the case.

7495. What is the cost of a proper kit?—Three guineas is the sum allowed now by an order which has been issued only ten days or a fortnight ago.

7496. What is the bounty now?—The bounty is three guineas.

7497. Then a man has three guineas bounty and a free kit, which is supposed to cost three guineas?—Yes.

7498. Do you think the soldier could get as good or a better free kit for the same money if he were allowed to have the six guineas?—I think the present system is very good as regards that provision; the man is ensured the 3*l.*, and the moment he joins he can have his 3*l.* handed over to him. This latter, however, I never allow in my battalion, but direct officers commanding companies to pay the bounty to recruits by instalments of 5*s.* at a time; this I find checks desertion, but I never raise any objection to a man having a post-office order for the purpose of remitting the money to his friends. I think the present system with respect to the kit and the bounty could not be improved.

7499. Do you prefer the man having his free kit from the Government?—No; let him be supplied through the commanding officer of the regiment, and let the commanding officer employ a contractor, as was the case up to the 25th of February. Nothing could have been better than that, inasmuch as a board assembled composed of a field officer and the captains of companies to inspect the articles, and if articles of an inferior description were supplied, they were rejected and returned to the clothier, who replaced them by superior articles. I do not think the old system in that respect could be improved. I have experienced great difficulty in having things replaced on their being rejected under the present system. For instance, when knapsacks have been sent down for approval by the War Department and have been rejected, I have experienced great difficulty in getting those things replaced by others, especially on the march, where great inconvenience arose, inasmuch as I had to carry the kits loose. A man may have been provided with a portion of a kit from my own regimental store, and the articles that he has been supplied with have had to be carried in squad bags, very frequently in arm chests, or in bundles, in consequence of my not having knapsacks supplied to replace others that had been rejected and had been returned to Weedon.

7500. (*Colonel French.*) Is not the carriage of the articles backwards and forwards an expense to the

country?—It is a great expense to Government having those articles that have been sent to the regiments returned to Weedon; there is continual expense backwards and forwards. The forage caps that were sent to the 2d battalion of the 13th were sent back twice, and there was an additional expense, of course, in sending the things to and fro.

7501. (*Chairman.*) Was not the system formerly that the man had his bounty, and had out of that bounty to provide a kit?—Yes.

7502. Did he get that kit from the regimental store?—Yes.

7503. Who fixed the price to be paid for the kit?—There was a regular price on every article fixed by the commanding officer and the officers generally; there was only a certain price allowed to be charged for shirts, varying from 2s. to 2s. 2d.

7504. Was there any possible profit to the clothing colonel or anybody else at such a price?—No.

7505. Did the men have the articles at the price the clothier charged?—Invariably.

7506. (*Colonel French.*) When the captain of a company requires a certain portion of necessaries for his company, how does he proceed?—He makes out a requisition to the quartermaster of what articles should be drawn from the contractor, which contractor has been appointed to supply necessaries for the regiment by him and the other captains of companies.

7507. Are the tradesmen paid direct for those articles?—Certainly.

7508. Through what channel are they paid?—Through the paymaster.

7509. Consequently, the quartermaster who has charge of the stores has no influence whatever with regard to payment?—None whatever; he is merely the storekeeper.

7510. Supposing the quartermaster were to receive a present, either in money or in clothes, could that in any way be injurious to the soldier?—Not in any way, inasmuch as whenever the supply of necessaries was received, a board of officers would assemble for the purpose of examining them with the sealed pattern; and, if they were in any way inferior to the sealed pattern, they were rejected; and whatever the contractor may have given in the shape of *douceur* would be thrown away completely.

7511. (*Chairman.*) I am told that the colonel had nothing to do with the payment—that the soldier paid for the kit approved by the board of officers, and that the money was paid on his account by the paymaster to the contractors. Is that the case?—Yes.

7512. So that there could be no profit to anybody but the contractor's profit upon the articles that he furnished?—Not the slightest to any one else.

7513. (*Mr. Turner.*) Colonel French has stated that he is no advocate for a return to the old system of paying the colonel some of the profits of tailoring. We have not heard that opinion expressed by any other officer of high rank, have you any wish to see the former system revived?—No, certainly not. I may add, that although Mr. Calvert has given a strong opinion upon the subject of surplus clothing, I differ from him *in toto*: there is not the slightest doubt that all those surplus suits would go to the colonel.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

LONDON.

Friday, 22d October 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

(*Chairman.*) We had proposed to examine Sir Alexander Tulloch. Sir Alexander is not able to attend to-day; but he has been good enough to send a statement.

The same was read, as follows :

"As you have, with reference to the probability of my being examined before the Commission, asked me to commit to paper my views respecting the best mode of obtaining supplies of clothing for the army, and as to the necessity for having considerable quantities in store, it is necessary that I should state that, as they are founded chiefly on inquiries made in the year 1854, they may not altogether accord with the experience of later years, during which, as the direction rested in other hands, I have taken little interest in the subject.

"My original consideration of this question commenced at a time when, by the change in the arrangements under which clothing had previously been provided by the colonels, it became necessary to determine what amount should be allowed to them as compensation, and what improvement in the quality of the cloth that change would admit of without any increase of expense to the public, so that the whole amount voted by Parliament might be devoted to the two objects for which it was intended.

"Mr. Sidney Herbert, then Secretary of State for War, having requested me to assist him with my views on the matter, I pointed out to him that as I had officers of pensioners stationed in different towns

where the cloth and other materials were manufactured, and as the pensioners under their superintendence were largely employed in that way, as well as in making up the clothing, I had considerable facilities for ascertaining what the prime cost of the clothing was likely to be, from which might be inferred how much should be offered to the clothier for the improved uniform which it was considered desirable the army should have in future. Having put myself in communication with Colonel Bonner, who had charge of the East India Company's stores and clothing, I learned the price paid by him for the different descriptions of cloth used in that army, and I also ascertained, though with great reluctance on the part of the manufacturers, the prices at which they had for several years past been in the habit of selling army cloth for the regiments in our service.

"I next ascertained the wholesale cost of all the other materials required, also the rate per suit allowed to those who made it up, many of whom were pensioners. Aided by this information, I next made up a few suits of the quality usually issued to the army, which I submitted to Mr. Sidney Herbert, and though they were of superior workmanship the cost was about 30 per cent. under the contract price, principally arising from the double profit on the cloth to the clothier and the manufacturer having been avoided by this arrangement.

"To this, of course, had to be added the expenses of the establishment for packing and sending out the

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clothing, the loss of interest, occasional freight, incidental risks, and a fair mercantile profit, all of which I estimated might average about 15 per cent.; but this still left a very wide margin in favour of the clothier, which, I conceived, would be much more legitimately applied in the required improvement of the cloth.

"Though I found that the East India Company had always been in the habit of purchasing their cloth and other materials, and then having the clothing made up by contract, I had no intention of recommending any such extensive undertaking as making up the whole clothing of our army in that way. It appeared to me that the object in view could be attained by a small establishment, sufficient to make up the clothing of a few regiments annually, the cost of which would have from time to time shown the Secretary for War what was a fair price to pay the army clothiers, and to which I had no doubt, as events have proved, that they must ultimately submit.

"I looked forward also, in an establishment of this kind, to the introduction of machinery in making up the clothing, which would not only secure its being always of uniform quality in respect of workmanship, but, in the event of war, requiring any sudden increase in the army, would have admitted of the men being rapidly clothed without the delays consequent on the limited establishment of the army clothiers.

"At this stage of the arrangement I was sent to the Crimea, early in 1855, and on my return found a portion of those views in course of being carried through, and a great outcry, in consequence, on the part of the army clothiers, who could no longer obtain the same amount of profit as formerly—a circumstance to which may, I think, fairly be attributed their anxiety to make the most of the difficulties in which the War Department was placed when undertaking a duty to which it had previously been unaccustomed.

"One of these difficulties had arisen from the immense stores of different materials which had to be kept on hand in order to provide for making up the clothing, but of these the greater number, under a different arrangement, need never have gone into the store at all, for, provided that the cloth was secured of good quality by careful inspection there, the smaller items, such as buttons, cotton, cord, tape, buckram, and a dozen others, might have been received direct from the contractors by those who made up the clothing, and who would have been held responsible that they were of the quality contracted for, as is done, I believe, in the cavalry, who make up their own clothing.

"These items are only about an eighth part of the value of the suit, and are not of a description to induce any collusion between the parties to accept or to offer an inferior article to the prejudice of the soldier.

"It is very different, however, with the cloth, on which any slight deviation from the pattern might materially affect the wear; even with regard to this, however, the inspection appears to have been made a much more weighty affair than seemed necessary. If respectable manufacturers were dealt with, instead of the lowest tender being accepted, it does not appear why there should be any greater apprehension of fraud in the cloth supplied to the army than in the millions of bales which in the ordinary course of mercantile transactions are purchased and exported from this country. In the passage of these from one merchant to another it can scarcely be supposed that each bale undergoes minute inspection; the purchaser is, I believe, usually satisfied with ascertaining the average quality, size, and texture by examining a certain proportion of his purchase determined by chance; and it would argue something extremely defective in the system of Government contracts, or in the character of the parties with whom they were made, if a different course has to be adopted for them. The examination by competent and trustworthy persons of even a tenth part of such supplies taken indiscriminately might suffice for the payment of the

larger proportion of the price to the manufacturer, leaving the quantity and quality of the remainder to be examined into at leisure by the subordinates before the remainder of the price was paid, by which means the dissatisfaction arising from long-standing and unsettled claims might probably be avoided.

"Judging from the slight insight I had an opportunity of obtaining into these matters, it appears to me that much complication and trouble might also have been avoided, so far as regards the stores, had the clothing, after its improvement, been made all of one quality (except cavalry trousers). Having so many different qualities for household troops, horse and foot artillery, engineers, light cavalry, heavy cavalry, and infantry of the line, as also for privates, sergeants, band, drummers, and staff respectively of each of these arms, created endless varieties in cloth, and as a few ounces of short or over weight in a piece might cause its rejection, a fertile source of discord has thus, no doubt, been opened up with contractors, besides the difficulty of finding each peculiar description of cloth in the market when it happened to be wanted.

"This was perhaps of less moment while each colonel had his own clothier, and some laxity could be allowed for peculiar tastes in these matters, but in a general store for the whole army such distinctions, no doubt, added greatly to the expense of management and difficulty of taking stock.

"For these reasons I pointed out, in the suggestions I originally made to Mr. Sidney Herbert on the subject of clothing, that one of the advantages from the proposed improvement in the cloth which I was anxious to effect, would be its admitting of the removal of all such distinctions, provided the quality could be brought up nearly to the standard of cavalry or of non-commissioned officers' cloth, as has now been the case. It appeared to me that if a tunic was sufficiently fine in texture for soldiers of one branch of the service there was no good reason for increased expense to provide a still finer quality for those of another. No more distinction seemed necessary between the cloth worn by a corporal and a sergeant than between that of a subaltern and a field officer. The chevrons should mark the grades of non-commissioned rank, and not the quality of the cloth.

"As an illustration how little such a distinction appears to be required under the new system, I may mention that the cost of the cloth of a sergeant's tunic is stated in recent returns at 13s. 3d., while that of the privates is 12s. 6d. What possible object, then, can be gained by keeping up a distinction which scarcely amounts to sixpence in each yard of cloth, though it might perhaps have been formerly necessary, when the privates' cloth was only half as valuable as the sergeants', and so coarse that one of the latter rank might well have been ashamed to wear it?

"Of course, the different colours for different arms of the service would still have to be kept up, but as a small proportion only of the cloth has to be dyed in the wool, most of it might have been purchased undyed, in which case it would have kept better, and might, in case of any emergency, have been purchased in the market in that state, very nearly of the required pattern, without the delay of a previous contract, thus obviating the necessity for keeping large supplies constantly on hand.

"Much misapprehension, however, appears to prevail in regard to the quantities of cloth in store being excessive. The vast number to be clothed does not appear to have entered into computation, otherwise the 450,000 yards stated to be at Weedon would not have appeared too much. It should be kept in view that upwards of 200,000 men have to be clothed annually, besides about 100,000 militia and pensioners occasionally as required, and that each suit contains about three yards. Great-coats and cloaks have also to be provided for about one-fourth of the whole force annually, so that it appears very doubtful whether the whole quantity in store was sufficient even for six months' consumption.

"But why, it may be asked, should any stores be kept, when, under the old system, the army clothiers were willing to undertake all that risk, and would do so yet if employed as formerly? No doubt, they would; but of course that risk must form an element in their price. Some one must keep the working stock required, and the only question is, whether that could be done cheapest with the Government money obtained at 3 per cent. interest, or with the clothier's money which costs him 5 per cent.

"Surely the parties investigating this matter cannot imagine that the latter would keep a stock for the public benefit at his own expense.

"It may be necessary here to point out that, however well adapted the old system might in this respect have been for a long continued peace (provided only that the clothiers would be reasonable in their prices), any sudden emergency, calling for a rapid increase to the army, or for a large force being sent into the field, shows at once its defects.

"Supplies for the equipment of soldiers being of so different a character to those required by the mass of the population, no private person who studies his own interest will keep any quantity of them for which he sees no likelihood of an immediate demand. To say nothing of the loss of interest and probable depreciation of the stores by age, there is always the risk of many becoming useless and unsaleable by change of pattern.

"In consequence, neither the general officers nor their clothiers were ever in the habit of keeping much army cloth, or boots, or accoutrements on hand, beyond what was required for the immediate wants of their regiments, so that on any considerable addition being suddenly made to the forces there was no possibility of clothing the new levies for several months. Indeed, so rapidly are wars conducted in the present day, that the emergency might very probably be over before the men raised to take a part in it could be equipped for the field.

"These facts were first brought painfully to my notice when, about 14 years ago, Ireland being threatened with insurrection, I was employed to organize and equip about 15,000 pensioners in aid of the usual military force. Most people would have supposed that in a nation with such resources as Great Britain this would be no difficult task, but I found that in all the kingdom there were not 5,000 sets of accoutrements that could be used for this purpose, and not as much ready-made cloth of an army pattern as would provide uniforms for that number. When tenders were called for it was found that everything that was wanted had to be made, and it took from three to four months before the men could be properly equipped; indeed, as regards ammunition pouches, it was longer; for during the many years of peace and quietness which had preceded that period so few of these had been required that no one thought of learning the trade. The only demand was when a colonel once in ten years had to renew his accoutrements, and then the old ones, which might on an emergency have been useful in a general store, were sold and cut up for old leather, to cover part of the cost of buying new ones.

"Need I refer, as another instance, to the miserable state of destitution in which our stores were found with respect to clothing and equipments of every kind when the requirements of the army during the siege of

Sebastopol called for a double or even a treble supply, or to the shifts and expedients that had to be resorted to, by taking the clothing of one regiment and giving it to another, in order to meet such an unexpected demand; or to the impositions to which we were forced to submit, by taking hundreds of thousands of boots and stockings which, though paid for at a high price, were of a size and quality which prevented their being of the slightest use to the troops for whom they were intended?

"There is no greater mistake than to suppose that, because the trade and commercial capabilities of our nation are almost unlimited, no stores of any magnitude are necessary for our army; that, in fact, our requirements have only to be made known to be supplied. The instances I have quoted, besides others I could refer to, clearly establish the reverse; persons indulging in such a supposition apparently forget that red or scarlet cloth is not a very ordinary article of wear among our population; nor is leather, fit for the purpose of making accoutrements, likely to be kept on hand in large quantities merely in the expectation of a war. If the army clothiers have not such articles, they are never likely to be procured elsewhere when suddenly wanted, and of course when that class are the only holders they must be expected to charge their own prices.

"If to meet all these contingencies a store must be kept, how are the supplies of cloth, of boots, of accoutrements, to be got rid of under a system by which every item of regimental equipment is to be supplied by army agents? If there be no outlet, the stores must in the course of time become rotten and useless, and hence the necessity for a part of them being made up annually in some establishment of our own, or by contract, so as to consume them gradually, and admit of new stock being taken on hand.

"The information which the experience of such a Government establishment on a small scale affords, is also extremely useful, not only as a protection against paying too high a price, but to guard against any contract being made on such low terms as to render it almost a matter of necessity on the part of the contractor to palm off on the soldier inferior materials or workmanship in order to protect himself from loss. The army, too, has by this arrangement an opportunity of seeing the difference between the clothing supplied from the Government store and that obtained from other sources, and will no doubt in future take care to keep the contractors up to the mark.

"Persons who are not aware of the manner in which army clothiers regulate their prices according to what is charged by others in the same line, may suppose that an open competition is all that is required to keep down the cost of clothing for the soldier to a fair amount. It is sufficient to mention, however, to show the reverse, that four years ago none could be found to provide a tunic even of the common army cloth of that day for less than 1*l*.; whereas now several respectable houses have agreed to provide the same of a quality 50 per cent. better for a few pence less. The measures taken since 1854 have, in fact, ended in the private getting clothing of nearly the same quality as serjeants without any increase of price—a result confidently predicted by me in my earliest communications on this subject, and which I am happy to find has at length been realized."

Mr. WILLIAM WATSON examined.

Mr. W. Watson.

7514. (*Colonel French*.) To what regiment or corps do you belong?—I belong to the rifle depôt battalion stationed at Winchester.

7515. What is your rank?—Quartermaster.

7516. How long have you been quartermaster?—I have been quartermaster upwards of 10 years.

7517. Have you served in any other corps as quartermaster?—Yes, in the 89th regiment.

7518. Has the greater part of the period of your service been in the 89th regiment?—I was 30 years

in the 89th regiment, seven of which as quartermaster.

7519. When was your battalion formed first?—The depôt battalion at Winchester was formed in 1854, but I did not join it until 1855.

7520. Of what does it consist?—At present it consists of seven rifle depôts.

7521. Can you give an idea of the number that it consists of? How many effectives are there?—About 1,000, on paper; we have not that number at

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Winchester; there are a number recruiting in other places.

7522. Has your experience as quartermaster in two regiments enabled you to form a comparison between the old system of clothing and the present one?—Yes.

7523. State what are the duties of a quartermaster in relation to the clothing and necessities which are supplied to a regiment?—Simply to receive all that is sent and take charge of it, and keep an account of the receipts and issues.

7524. Are not the clothing and necessities of a regiment examined by the board of officers previously to being issued to the soldier?—Yes.

7525. Have those boards, in your opinion, been so conducted as to protect the interest of the soldier?—Always.

7526. By whom is the purveyor of necessities selected?—For regimental necessities, that is—to keep up the soldier's kit, by the officer commanding.

7527. Have you any voice in the matter or in the acceptance or rejection of necessities?—I have no voice in any way, either for or against the person employed.

7528. Have the supplies of necessities always been regular and of a quality equal to the sealed pattern?—We have no complaint with regard to the regularity of the supplies at Winchester.

7529. Or of the quality?—The quality is good.

7530. Under the old system, with regard to clothing when you were in the 89th regiment, did you ever know the clothier to be behind-hand in furnishing the clothing?—Never.

7531. In cases of rejection of clothing or necessities, did you ever, under the old system, find any difficulty or delay in getting the rejected articles exchanged?—None whatever.

7532. They were immediately supplied?—Immediately, without any trouble.

7533. With reference to the new system, first, as regards the clothing, please to state to the Commissioners whether the supply has been regular and of a proper quality and make, and colour; and if any portion of it has been wanting, so as to prevent its being issued to the troops in due time?—The supply was not received in due time for this present year.

7534. When did it come?—It commenced to be received in February, and was received in quantities until June. Some of the sealed patterns did not arrive, so that the board might sit to compare it, till May; some came in June, and some in August.

7535. You have patterns of course for each regiment, that is to say, for the dépôt of each regiment?—Yes.

7536. When did the soldiers get their clothing for this year?—They did not get it until very late.

7537. Can you state when?—They did not take it into wear some of them till about September,—very late indeed.

7538. Ought it not to have been issued in April?—Yes.

7539. Were there any rejections in the clothing?—The clothing was returned as equal to the sealed pattern; that was the decision of the board.

7540. Was there none rejected?—No, there was none rejected.

7541. With regard to free kits supplied by the Government to recruits, do you keep a supply of them in store, so as to be enabled to furnish a recruit with necessities immediately on his joining?—Yes, I have a supply.

7542. Sufficient to do that?—Yes.

7543. How are they obtained?—The last 600 were furnished by Mr. Homan.

7544. What is your mode of applying for them?—The commanding officer applies to the War Department, and they give their orders to whom they please.

7545. There has been no delay in attending to your requisitions?—We have no cause of complaint with regard to the receipt of free kits.

7546. Have there been any rejections in the articles furnished?—In one case, a few days ago 100 knapsacks were rejected.

7547. On what account?—Not being equal to the sealed pattern.

7548. What was done?—We sent a report of the proceedings of the board to the adjutant-general, and authority was sent back to communicate with Messrs. Hebbert and Company, which was done, and they sent for the knapsacks to be returned to London, and they are there now.

7549. Have you got knapsacks in their places?—There may be others in their place at Winchester now.

7550. There has been no time to replace them?—No.

7551. As the position which you hold in the regiment places you more in contact with the soldiers than probably any other officer, and as you have thereby an opportunity of knowing his habits and fancies, can you tell us what is the opinion of soldiers in regard to the system of providing free kits to the recruits, whether they would not prefer having the money in bounty, their kits being furnished from the regimental stores?—I think that recruits can hardly form an opinion with regard to that.

7552. Have none of the men been sufficiently long in the battalion to give an opinion upon the subject? Can any of the sergeants form an opinion now upon it?—If they re-enlisted, perhaps they might.

7553. (*Chairman.*) What is your opinion?—My opinion is, that it matters little to the soldier how he gets the kit, so that he does get it. If he got 6*l.* bounty and had to pay 3*l.* for the kit, it would be the same thing as it is now.

7554. (*Colonel French.*) What is the precise charge for a kit from the stores?—The prices vary according to the tradesman, and are from 3*l.* 5*s.* 3½*d.* to 3*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.* a kit.

7555. What was it recently in the 89th regiment? Was it not 3*l.* 2*s.*, or something of that kind?—It was rather more; I think it varied from 3*l.* 5*s.* to 3*l.* 7*s.*

7556. The precise charge of the kit has been stated to be 3*l.* 3*s.*; that found by the Government is rated, I think, at 3*l.* Is it not given to the recruit as 3*l.*?—I believe it is.

7557. Consequently, were the system to be changed, and the kit to be sent by the store, he would lose 3*s.* in the exchange; but looking at the expense the public suffers for storage and in various other modes, articles becoming obsolete, carriage of articles, to say nothing of the extreme inconvenience which a regiment is put to by delays (not in your case), would it not be better for the soldiers, in case the purveyors of necessities would not reduce their price, that the Government should allow them an additional sum of 3*s.*, so that the recruit would receive his necessities from the regimental stores?—It would be better; it would enable the tradesman to give it without any loss, I should think, by adding a little.

7558. Supposing that the regiments furnished the necessities instead of the Government, in order to obviate the recruits losing 3*s.*, considering all the present disadvantages of furnishing these kits by the Government, and the loss to the public which it must be, would it not be better that the price of the kit should be made up to the recruit by allowing him 3*s.* more bounty?—Decidedly much better.

7559. (*Chairman.*) Why?—Because the man who would have the order to serve your regiment, supposing you commanded one, would keep a supply of kits on hand always; you could never be short of kits. You would know where to go for them; it would be his interest to keep a supply on hand, and a good supply.

7560. I thought you said you had no complaint to make of kits, with respect to their quality or regularity of supply?—I am not complaining, but we are

an exception, because, being a rifle depôt, they had not them at Weedon to give us, and we were ordered to get them from tradesmen; that is not the case with the red depôts.

7561. (*Colonel French.*) You have not received any kits from the Government stores?—We have not received any, with the exception of once, during the last three years.

7562. (*Chairman.*) I do not understand why you say that it would be better that any alteration should take place in the present system; how would the soldier be advantaged?—The officers commanding would be, I should think, because there would be no trouble in getting the kits at once; he has now to apply to the War Department, and the War Department sends an order to the contractor for that depôt; the commanding officer does not know who the party may be, and he does not know the house which is to supply his kits.

7563. From your experience in these battalions of rifles, or elsewhere, have you any ground for supposing that the soldier would be advantaged by any alteration in the system of supplying kits?—The kit now is as good as it can be.

7564. Has there been any delay in the supply?—Not with us; but we are an exception.

7565. Has there been any undue price charged for them?—I am not aware of the price of kits from Weedon.

7566. What is the fault that you find with the present system, so far as your experience goes?—I am not finding fault with the goods, that I am aware of.

7567. I thought you came here in the interest of the soldier, to state in what way he may be best served; he is served at present, according to a certain system. What, in your judgment, would be a better way of serving him?—To establish a house to supply a certain regiment or depôt would be better, I think.

7568. Is that a mere speculative opinion, or have you any ground from experience for preferring that course to the present system?—I have had experience for some years, and I know that a commanding officer who gets his kits from a certain house can always reckon on them to any amount.

7569. Has the soldier, in your judgment, ever been the worse for the present system?—No; the soldier has not suffered by it at all.

7570. Then is it the peace of mind of the commanding officer that you are thinking of?—I think when recruits join, the commanding officer ought to be able to supply them.

7571. I thought you do not complain on that head?—We are an exception.

Sergeant THOMAS PARKINS examined.

7586. (*Chairman.*) What tunic have you on?—For the year 1858.

7587. Is anything the matter with it?—A great deal is the matter with it; it is worn out.

7588. Is it too tight?—It is tight all over, and not fit to wear.

7589. Have you been at Aldershot?—No, at Winchester. I am drill sergeant, and attend all the parades. This tunic has not been more than two months in wear. This jacket (*witness produced a colour sergeant's jacket supplied by the regimental clothier under the old system*) has been two and a half years in wear and turned, and it is a better jacket now than mine is.

7590. (*To Quartermaster Watson.*) Who furnished the rifles this year?—I do not know. Mr. Hamburger made some of the clothing. The privates' cloth is worse than this sergeant's jacket.

7591. (*Colonel French to Sergeant Parkins.*) Is that sergeants' cloth which you have on now?—Yes; the privates' cloth is very bad indeed.

7592. (*Mr. Turner.*) How long have you to wear that coat?—Till next April if I can.

7572. You are speaking by hearsay with respect to others?—I have been in barracks with other people who have not been supplied as we are.

7573. Of which regiments are you speaking?—The 13th. I am in barracks with that regiment.

7574. Was there any report made from your depôt upon the clothing for this year in February last?—I am not aware of any.

7575. Who would be the person to make that report?—Colonel Norcott.

7576. There purports to be a report complaining of 95 yards of cloth, but of nothing else; do you know anything about it?—I remember that cloth; that is, the report complaining of the shade of the cloth; we received the clothing in February 1858, which was supposed to be in wear on the 1st of April, but there was not time to make up the clothing for so many depôts in one month.

7577. In February, was there an inspection and a report?—Yes, on the receipt of the new clothing for the year 1858, commencing the 1st of April.

7578. Who suggested your coming here?—Perhaps it was Colonel Norcott. I think it was.

7579. You merely had an intimation from him?—Yes.

7580. We have been furnished with an abstract of reports upon clothing for 1858–59, received from the depôts up to the 19th of October, and in all but four or five cases they profess to be reports that the clothing furnished is satisfactory; would it be fair to judge of the whole army from a few witnesses who may have just cause of complaint?—There have been a great many complaints of the clothing since it has been taken into wear; even now, very many coats are rotten and giving way under the arm.

7581. Those are green?—Yes.

7582. (*Colonel French.*) I asked you the question whether the clothing that had been issued had been satisfactory, and I understood you to say that it was?—It has not given satisfactory wear, and as a proof of it I have with me a serjeant who has one of the tunics on.

7583. (*Chairman.*) You have stated that you never knew of any delay in the supply of clothing under the old system; were you ever in active service abroad under the old system?—Yes; I have been in the East Indies, the West Indies, North America, and the Crimea.

7584. Did you never know of any delay?—Never; I always saw the clothing ready to be put on the men's backs on the 1st of April.

7585. I suppose in most cases, except in an emergency like the war in the Crimea, you knew where you were going beforehand for a long time?—Yes.

7593. (*Chairman.*) How long has that colour-sergeant's coat been worn?—Two years and a half, and it has been turned. It will wear out three of those we have now.

(*Quartermaster Watson.*) Perhaps I may be allowed to remark that recruits joining in October, November, or December, and from that time up to the 31st March, have to wear their clothing six months or three months, and the whole of the subsequent year as well, according to the new warrant; that is to say, a recruit joining on the 1st day of October must wear the tunic that he has served out to him for eighteen months.

7594. (*Chairman.*) Was the coat that has been produced, worn by a duty-sergeant or a staff-sergeant?—A duty-sergeant.

(*Sergeant Parkins.*) He was every day on parade.

7595. (*Chairman.*) Is there anything to account for your coat not wearing well, except the badness of the cloth?—And the badness of the make.

7596. Is there anything in the wear to which it has been subjected to account for the difference?—

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(*Quartermaster Watson.*) There has been no extra wear. We have had orders from Pall Mall to exchange two and to repair some.

7597. On the whole, with your experience, do you

think that the cloth is as good as it used to be?—Not the rifle cloth; it is very inferior.

7598. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have your men been obliged to drill in their shirt sleeves?—No.

Colonel DAVID ANDERSON examined.

7599. (*Colonel French.*) What regiment are you serving in?—The 2nd battalion of the 22nd regiment.

7600. Where are you stationed?—At Preston.

7601. When was the 2nd battalion raised?—The battalion was formed from the 1st of March 1858, but the nucleus of the battalion arrived at Preston on the 9th of March 1858.

7602. What is the effective strength of your battalion?—On the 15th of this month it was 885 of all ranks, exclusive of officers, but including absentees.

7603. Have most of them been recruited lately?—I had 291 men of all ranks from the 1st battalion as a commencement.

7604. Has the clothing of the regiment been regularly supplied to you? Was it supplied this year so as to enable you to issue it in time to your battalion?—The battalion was only formed in March. The men to commence the battalion actually arrived at Preston on the 9th of March, and during the month of March I received the whole of the clothing for the privates of the regiment, except the band.

7605. Have you any complaints to make of that clothing? Has it worn well?—There has hardly been time to judge whether it has worn well, as the year is not over yet, and many of the men have only recently received it; but I think the clothing is good. I think the tunics of this supply are better than the 1st battalion had last year.

7606. Of course the clothing was examined by a board before it was issued to the men?—Yes, consisting of three of the senior officers, including myself.

7607. Were there any rejections?—There were no rejections amongst the clothing; the only complaint I have heard is that the staff sergeants, the sergeant-major, and quartermaster-sergeant say that their trousers are not so good as they were last year.

7608. Were those trousers approved of by the board?—Yes, as being equal to the sealed pattern. I believe my clothing came from the establishment of Colonel Hudson, in London, and the master tailor says that the cut of it is very good; that it is the best cut clothing he has ever seen.

7609. Recruits are now furnished with free kits by the Government. Do you keep any of those kits in store, in order that a recruit may be immediately supplied on his arrival?—I always had kits in store up to the 31st of August. I then had 50 in store, but a large number of recruits and volunteers came during the month of September to the regiment, and I applied for kits. I applied on the 31st of August and the 16th of September. Those two requisitions have not been entirely complied with yet.

7610. What was the nature of the articles deficient? Were complete kits deficient, or merely certain parts of them?—I am still deficient 42 shirts, nine chin straps, seven jackets, 25 stocks, 100 button brushes, 100 pocket linings for trousers, canvas for trousers, and buttons for trousers.

7611. What answers did you receive to your requisitions for these articles?—There was considerable delay in receiving shirts and shell jackets, also stocks and brushes, upon these two requisitions. I applied repeatedly to the War Office upon the subject, but it was not till the 14th of October that I received any of the shirts or shell jackets applied for on the 31st of August and 17th of September. Not being able to get these things, and having many recruits without a change of linen, and in the same shirts they joined in, I ordered on my own responsibility 300 shirts, 50 shell jackets, and some stocks, from Messrs. Gilpin.

Those came down in a few days. At the same time I reported to the Secretary of State-for-War that I had done so, and the answer I received was that the Government would not pay for those things. I then reported the matter to Sir Harry Smith, the lieutenant-general commanding the northern district, and requested that the correspondence might be sent to the Horse Guards, with the view of its being submitted to the Secretary of State-for-War for reconsideration. I have been officially informed at the Horse Guards that the correspondence was submitted to the board in Pall Mall, and that the Government will pay for the things that I ordered.

7612. From whom did you receive that letter informing you, in the first instance, that the articles would not be paid for by the Government?—It was a War Office letter, signed by Mr. Milton. I do not exactly know his official title.

7613. (*Chairman.*) Was it printed or written?—It was the usual official letter, by direction of the Secretary of State-for-War.

7614. (*Colonel French.*) In your rejoinder did you mention the receipt of that letter?—When I wrote to Sir Harry Smith I sent the whole of the correspondence with the War Office to him to be forwarded, should he approve of so doing, to the Horse Guards.

7615. Have there been any rejections of articles by the regimental boards?—There have been rejections of summer trousers and various small articles.

7616. Have any boots been rejected?—No boots; merely canteens, and one or two things that had got damaged in coming down, but with the exception of the summer trousers the rejections have not been numerous.

7617. Have those rejections been replaced immediately?—They have all been replaced except the summer trousers.

7618. Did you command a regiment under the old system of clothing by the colonels?—I commanded the first battalion at different periods in India and in England, but never actually during the time that the clothing was received for the year.

7619. Were the supplies of clothing in India or any where else that you have served at that time regular?—Generally speaking, they were very regular.

7620. So as to be issued on the 1st of April?—There was sometimes a little delay, especially when the regiment was transferred from Bombay to Bengal; that was almost necessarily the case, because the clothing had left England for Bombay before it was settled that we were to go to Bengal.

7621. (*Chairman.*) When was that?—In 1849.

7622. (*Colonel French.*) With regard to the quality of the necessities that are now issued, do you consider those that are issued as free kits by the Government are superior to those that were provided from the regimental stores?—I think that the blue summer trousers are worse, but I think the remainder of the kit is in some respects better; I think the brushes are better, and one or two of the small articles are better than they used to be; the shell jackets are decidedly better, but that is a doubtful advantage, except to the recruit, who on first joining gets a jacket given to him free; afterwards the soldier has to provide this shell jacket at his own expense; and I think 12s. 6d., its price, is more than a soldier can afford to pay. The old jacket cost about 8s. 10d.

7623. Have you formed any opinion of the working of the present system with regard to furnishing the recruits with free kits, whether it would be better that the Government should supply the whole army in the

same way? The system at present is that the regimental stores should be supplied by the lieutenant-colonel, or whoever it is; do you think that the Government would do it better, and that it would be more advantageous to the service were they to do so?—I would prefer getting the kits and necessaries on the old system, each regiment providing its own—not clothing, but free kits and necessaries. I think the only time when there might be a difficulty would be on active service, because a private house might not have the means of forwarding necessaries to the regiments in an enemy's country, and then the Government would have to make some arrangements to forward them.

7624. If the Government supplied, as you stated, in some degrees, a better article and at a cheaper rate, would it not be to the interest of the soldier that the

Government should supply them all?—I think we should get things from a private house with less delay, and they can always be got in small quantities from a private house, which is a great object to a regiment moving about, when you should have as little as possible in store.

7625. (*Chairman.*) If I understand you rightly, it would be better in time of peace than in time of war?—I think it better at all times, but in time of war there might be difficulties in the way of a private house forwarding articles to a regiment without Government assistance.

7626. Then when the pinch comes the Government is to be resorted to; is that so?—Merely to provide the means of conveyance, which in time of war a private house could not command.

Lieutenant-Colonel EDMUND WHITMORE examined.

7627. (*Colonel French.*) What regiment are you serving in?—The dépôt battalion at Deal.

7628. When was the battalion raised?—It was raised in the latter part of the year 1856; it was nominally raised in October, composed of dépôts of different regiments which were sent to join about the month of December, so that it was actually formed in December 1856.

7629. What is the effective strength of that dépôt?—The effective strength of a dépôt battalion varies very much according to circumstances; at present the effective strength under my command is between 600 and 700 men of all ranks, exclusive of officers.

7630. Are the greater proportion of these men recruits?—A great proportion of them are recruits. There would be a greater number, but for the recruiting having been principally dedicated to regiments in India. The second battalion was newly raised, therefore those regiments have not had so many recruits, and I am so circumstanced.

7631. During the period of your command have you given much attention to the clothing of the soldiers in respect to its quality and wear, and to the regularity of the supplies also?—I have. As far as the clothing is concerned, since I have had the command of the dépôt battalion, considerable delays have occurred as to its receipt, both this year and the year before. As it is formed of different dépôts, I might mention that the applications were made for each dépôt, and when the clothing was received, the great inconvenience was that it was received in detachments and not in bulk, as formerly. In the years 1857–58, a requisition for the clothing of the second dépôt was made, I cannot tell exactly when, but the clothing came in dribbles from the month of March 1857; three parcels in the month of March, others in April, May, June, and August, 1857, spreading over that period.

7632. When was it issued to the men?—As soon after as it could be altered.

7633. What period was that?—Varying from the month of April till the month of August. In the following year the clothing was applied for in the month of September 1857, and was received from periods varying from November till July 1858. In some instances the material was sent, but the garniture was not sent with it.

7634. Were the buttons deficient?—No, not in that dépôt; the material for making up tunics, such as lining and things of that kind; in that dépôt I had no difficulty about buttons. In other dépôts, buttons were not sent with the clothing. There were some tunics rejected on account of the darkness of the colour, being darker than the sealed pattern. They were reported by the board, and ordered by the War Department to be sold, but that has not yet taken place.

7635. To whom will they be sold?—I do not know who will buy them.

7636. Were they ordered to be sold by the dépôt?—They were ordered to be sold by me out of the stores; there were 35, and they were replaced; in the same way with the second battalion of the 2nd, which joined my battalion at the beginning of this year; there is great delay in the issue and receipt of the clothing; it was applied for on the 8th of April 1858, and two tunics (in material) and four dozen buttons were received on the 6th of May; for these tunics there were materials, but no garniture was received for them till the 12th of June. On the 5th of June there were seven tunics, nine pairs of trousers for sergeants, and four drummers' tunics, 100 tunics, 100 pairs of trousers, and 224 dozen of buttons received. On the 10th of June two collar badges were received, and on the 18th of June four pairs of trousers were received. A committee assembled on the 7th of June to inspect those articles that were received on the 5th, and they reported to the adjutant-general that no sealed patterns were received. We had directions from the adjutant-general on the 14th of June, that sealed patterns would be sent by the War Department, and on the 22d July I received a letter from the War Department, that samples from this clothing were to be sent to the War Office for sealing. On the 22d of July (same day), those samples were sent, and they were returned on the 6th of August, except the privates' trousers; and it was intimated to me that the privates' trousers were badly sewn. The War Office directed that another pair better sewn should be sent up to be sealed. Another pair was selected and sent on the 9th of August. These were returned on the 11th of September, with another letter from the War Department to say, that the trousers were badly sewn, and the kersey not so fine as the pattern, and directing another pair of a better description to be sent up to be sealed. I declined to do so, for the trousers were all the same; they had been originally sent to me from Weedon; and then authority was received for me to issue them, and no sealed pattern arrived.

7637. (*Chairman.*) How do you know that they came from Weedon?—Because they were made up clothing; they came from the War Department, at least.

7638. (*Colonel French.*) Did you say that you were ordered to issue clothing which you found objectionable?—I did not find them objectionable. I said that I had no sealed pattern with which to compare the trousers.

7639. Did you issue them without comparing them with the sealed pattern?—I did. The consequence was, that the clothing of the dépôt, 2d regiment, was not issued till very late indeed.

7640. Have you up to this time received the whole of the clothing?—Yes; it is now correct.

7641. When was the last portion received?—The last was received in June; but this correspondence about the trousers delayed the issue of it very mate-

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rially. The men were not all clothed till the latter end of August.

7642. That clothing you ought to have received on the 1st of April?—Yes.

7643. Did you complain upon the subject, and what replies did you receive?—There was a correspondence, urging the delivery of a supply, as recruits were coming in for whom I had no clothing. Cloth was sent without garniture.

7644. Did you make any complaint with regard to the quality of the trousers?—No complaint was made on my part about the trousers; I did not complain about the quality; my complaint was, that I had no sealed pattern by which to judge of them.

7645. You were directed to issue them?—After having sent a pair to be sealed which were not sealed.

7646. Have you received a sealed pattern?—No.

7647. (*Chairman.*) Did the public service suffer for the want of a sealed pattern?—It did not suffer, but the soldier did by the delay in the issue. The soldier was not able to wear the clothes which were due to him on the 1st of April.

7648. Was the delay wholly in consequence of the non-arrival of the sealed pattern?—To that, and also the lateness at which the supply came.

7649. (*Colonel French.*) Have you been regularly supplied with kits?—I have; because the supply has been from the regimental store by authority; I have had no supplies from Weedon.

7650. Who supplies the regimental store?—Now the supply is furnished by direction of the War Department, by Messrs. Gilpin. 100 kits per dépôt were sent for the recruits.

7651. Were you in the first instance directed to apply to Messrs. Gilpin for them?—No; in the first instance we supplied them from the stores of necessities supplied by the regimental furnishers of necessities of different dépôts, having all the necessities supplied by different tradesmen.

7652. Has there been any delay at your dépôt?—None whatever; in fact, it was the other way, if anything; more came down than we wanted at one moment.

7653. Have you had any opportunities of judging whether the present system of furnishing kits by the Government is better than their being supplied from the regimental store?—I have no means of forming a judgment upon the subject, not having received them from the Government myself; but it strikes me, judging of the dilatory manner in which the clothing has been supplied, that we might be in the same difficulty with regard to free kits; and, therefore, I consider the supply by tradesmen is more likely to be regularly given than it would be by the Government. I never found any difficulty in getting them direct from the tradesman.

7654. In what regiment did you previously serve?—I served in the 30th regiment.

7655. Did you ever find the supplies of clothing or necessities irregular in any way?—No, never.

7656. Were there ever any rejections?—I believe there have been such things both in clothing and necessities; but the tradesmen have always, without any exception, made them good, readily and willingly.

7657. (*Chairman.*) Did you hear Sir Alexander Tulloch's statement read?—I did.

7658. He mentions, that during the Crimean war there was a great scarcity of clothing occasionally?—I believe such was the case.

7659. Did that occur in your regiment?—I was not with my regiment at that time; I was on the staff, and therefore I was not aware what their wants were. They were not in the same division with myself.

7660. What is your means of knowing the fact, which you stated in answer to a question from Colonel French, that there was never any delay in supplying the clothing under the old system?—At the time I was with the regiment there never was.

7661. When did you leave the regiment to go to the staff?—Originally in 1852, and I was on the staff till 1855.

7662. During that time you speak at secondhand, if at all, with respect to the supply of clothing?—During that time I cannot speak from my own experience.

7663. With respect to what period do you speak?—Before 1852.

7664. Was not Sir Alexander Tulloch's statement that there was delay in the supply of clothing in the Crimea, a matter of notoriety?—I believe there is no doubt about it; the cause of the delay I do not know.

7665. Before 1855, were you on active service?—I was on active service in 1844. In 1852, I was on the staff at Malta.

7666. There was no sudden emergency, no great shifting of quarters that was not foreseen some time beforehand?—No, none.

7667. So that you had ample opportunity of knowing beforehand when clothing should be sent?—We were not taken by surprise.

7668. I should like your opinion upon a point of practical experience. Captain Gordon and Sir Alexander Tulloch have given an opinion as to the necessity of having always a store of clothing; Captain Gordon has said that it would have been impossible for the army in the Crimea to have taken the field with their regimental stores, because they had no means of transport, and they could hardly move themselves. In active service do you think it is better to depend upon the regimental store of clothing?—I think a regiment never could move its stores, therefore the movement of stores for the army must be managed by the Government. There must be a store somewhere, whether you call it regimental or government.

7669. Speaking of a time of war, supposing you had taken the whole of Sebastopol and moved on to the interior of the Crimea, Captain Gordon gave us to understand that it would have been utterly impossible under the system of regimental stores for the stores to accompany the army?—No doubt the Government must have undertaken the movement of the stores.

7670. That being so, would it not be easier to move the stores of clothing for the army in the bulk than the regimental stores in sets? Can you form an opinion about it?—I cannot; whether you take the stores in detachments or in bulk, they must be there, whether government or regimental.

7671. (*Colonel French.*) Would not large stores create very great inconvenience to an army in the field?—Immense.

7672. Would you not require a strong force to guard them and to escort them?—Yes. It strikes me that the one article of clothing most necessary to look after, is the boots; beyond that I do not think you much require stores.

7673. (*Chairman.*) Have you served in India?—No.

Colonel GEORGE DIXON, C.B., examined.

7674. (*Colonel French.*) In what regiment are you serving?—I command the dépôt battalion at Colchester.

7675. When was your battalion raised?—On the 1st of October 1856.

7676. What is the effective strength of your battalion?—It varies; it is an Indian dépôt, and we

are sending men abroad every month. We have now between 600 and 700, and I have had as many as 1800 or 1900 effectives.

7677. They are principally recruits of course?—Yes, with the exception of about 500 men, old soldiers and non-effectives.

7678. Have you received the clothing regularly for

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your men in due time to issue it?—No, it has been late; it has been behind time for the last two years, 1857 and 1858. I have not the exact dates, but the clothing was always late and not in sufficient time to be issued by the 1st of April.

7679. How many regiments are there in your battalion?—At present there are the depôts of six regiments.

7680. Has the clothing for each and all of them been late?—More or less late.

7681. Was any inconvenience suffered by the service generally from this tardiness in the delivery of the clothing?—It was not all issued on the 1st of April.

7682. Do you consider that there was any great inconvenience sustained?—Some of the men had their old clothing of course; and there was an inconvenience caused by having to issue some of the clothing to recruits; because I could not get the clothing sufficiently quick for the recruits, I had to give them the yearly regimental clothing to put on, therefore that caused great inconvenience.

7683. Did you examine the clothing by a board before you issued it to the troops?—Always.

7684. Was it always of a quality equal to the pattern?—It was, with one or two exceptions. The cloth for the tunics was very good in quality, but very bad in the dye; it wore white after a very few months.

7685. Did you pass it?—I was obliged to pass it; it was a good colour at starting.

7686. Did you ascertain previously that the pattern was defective in the dye?—We cannot tell whether a coat will wear white until it is worn.

7687. Did you report the circumstance?—Yes, I reported it in my half-yearly inspection returns, and also in the annual report.

7688. Will you state the nature of your report, and what was the reply thereon?—That the dye was bad, and the cloth trousers of bad quality. We had no reply.

Quartermaster HENDRY examined.

7697. (*Colonel French.*) Have you a quantity of tunics in store that were not sufficiently large for the men?—I have.

7698. Can you give any idea of the quantity?—I think I have about 70 of the 1st battalion of the Royals. I have about 50 of the 56th; they may come in useful for recruits who are principally lads, and very small.

7699. In the meantime are all your men clothed?—Yes, every man.

7700. (*To Colonel Dixon.*) With regard to the necessities that have been issued, have they been furnished from the Government stores?—They have.

7701. Can you state whether they have been duly supplied?—No; the necessities have come very irregularly; the requisitions that were sent in have not been complied with at all regularly; there were things wanting. All that were applied for have not been sent at the time; they have come in in dribbles.

7702. Can you give a general statement, in order that we may see what the deficiencies have been, as to the period and as to the quantity?—That I have not got; I can only tell you that there were deficiencies. I have not brought with me the dates of the applications or the amount of the deficiencies.

7703. Was it this year?—This year and last year the requisitions for clothing and necessities have seldom been complied with in full; the average time has varied from 23 to 83 days before we have got the requisition in full, and it has sometimes happened that second and third requisitions have been made before the first has been completed.

7704. (*Chairman.*) Have you made those requisitions in anticipation of expected wants?—Yes; the

7689. Was it properly made, satisfactorily fitted, and so forth?—No, it was badly made up; the cloth in the tunics has generally worn well, but the dye has been very bad; the tunic becomes nearly white before it is half worn. The last year's tunics were all cut too high in the collar, and too long in the neck, and the front of the tunic was not cut in proportion to the back; and, being too narrow across the chest, the men had invariably to be served with tunics some sizes larger than they should have had in consequence of the defect. That very often put us to great inconvenience. From not having tunics or anything to give to recruits, I have had men to drill for a month or six weeks, and even more, in their shirt sleeves, without anything to put on.

7690. Did you represent that to the general officer?—Yes, it has all been reported very often.

7691. What time was the clothing furnished to you, to supply the place of this defective clothing?—The requisitions for the clothing have never been complied with in time, or even a short time after.

7692. When were those men supplied with clothing who were drilled in their shirt sleeves?—They have had to wait a month or six weeks.

7693. Did you send back the defective clothing that was furnished?—It was not defective clothing; the men were not supplied because we were unable to get clothing for them to put on.

7694. You have stated that some of the tunics were not sufficiently large for the men to put on; was that clothing sent back, and other clothing received?—No, we were obliged to issue it. I was obliged to issue a suit of clothing for a man five feet four, that was made for a man five feet six, because it was not wide enough across the chest.

7695. What did you do with the smaller clothing, that was intended for the man of five feet four?—I suppose it fitted some of the lads in the end.

7696. Have you any in store still?—My quartermaster, Mr. Hendry, is here, and he will tell you whether any are left.

men were coming in fast, and we were obliged to have some in hand.

7705. Did the delay in complying with your requisitions prevent you from furnishing those men?—The men were in their shirt sleeves drilling for a month or six weeks.

7706. (*Colonel French.*) What steps have you taken to furnish your men with shirts and so forth?—We frequently wrote letters, and applied to buy shirts, and the answer we got was that they would be sent.

7707. Have you allowed your men to go without shirts?—We were obliged; we had not them.

7708. In what state were the men?—Some of the men were wearing their dirty things that they joined in for nearly a month, I think fully a month. We could perhaps give one man a pair of boots, and another man would get a pair of trousers, and another man a shirt, but we could not clothe them.

7709. The necessities were of course examined by the regimental board before they were issued?—Always.

7710. Were there many rejections?—We could not reject them, the sealed pattern of the necessities was so bad. I made the remark at the bottom of the board, that, although equal to the sealed pattern, the sealed pattern was very inferior; that was on the bottom of the boards that I sent to the War Office.

7711. Were the necessities equal to those which you have seen issued generally from regimental stores?—No, certainly not.

7712. (*Chairman.*) How long have you been in active service?—Thirty years.

LONDON.

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G. Dixon, C.B.

22 Oct. 1858.

Quartermaster
Hendry.

LONDON.

Quartermaster
Hendry.

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7713. Has not the state of things during the last three or four years been rather exceptional? Has not recruiting gone on with greater vigour than in any previous time during your experience?—Certainly, much quicker.

7714. May not the delays have been partly attributable to the fact that there has been a great strain upon a new machine?—I do not know; I am unable to account for them.

7715. Supposing such a state of things to exist, do you believe that anybody, an army clothier or other person, could have furnished the supply of the articles requisite for the unexampled number of recruits?—I think a tradesman would.

7716. Upon what do you ground that opinion?—I never found them to fail in any way.

7717. Did you hear Sir Alexander Tulloch's memorandum read?—Yes.

7718. He says that although in a regular time when there is no war there may have been no delays, yet that it is a mistake to imagine that army clothiers could have supplied suddenly the demand created by an exceptional state of things; do you agree with that?—It is my opinion that it would be done a great deal better.

7719. (*Colonel French.*) The clothiers were not tried upon that occasion?—No: I have had a great number of recruits in the last six weeks, and they have been supplied by tradesmen. I get everything I require as I want it.

7720. (*Chairman.*) Colonel French says that the clothiers have not been tried: they may possibly have been able to do that which the Government has not done, but have they ever had the same strain put upon them suddenly which has been put upon this new machine of the Government?—I do not suppose they have, never in my time.

7721. (*Colonel French.*) Have you any other complaints to make with respect to the clothing?—Our

black cloth trousers have been bad, both the serjeants' and the privates'; they have worn very badly.

7722. Where were they supplied from?—From Weedon, I believe; they appeared to be of a very rotten description, very short in the wool, and many of them were torn after a few months' wear; they were very bad cloth.

7723. Were not they compared with the pattern?—The pattern was the same; one of them had been sealed, apparently it was just the same; they were all the same, and we could not condemn them, because they were the same as the pattern; a garment only proves itself bad after wear.

7724. Did you represent that to the War Office?—I always have made the remark in my confidential report that they were bad and inferior.

7725. In your clothing report, have you made any observations in the column for remarks that the clothing has not worn well?—Yes, I have to the Horse Guards, at the expiration of the year.

7726. Did you make any report to the general officers at the half-yearly inspection?—Yes, I have told them that the clothing was not what it ought to be, that it was not good.

7727. How have you found the boots?—The boots have been good.

7728. (*Chairman.*) What are the regiments at your dépôt?—I have now the 1st Royals, the 6th, the 54th, the 56th, the 66th, and the 88th.

7729. I have before me what purports to be an abstract of reports from every dépôt in England by the commanding officers, upon the clothing of this year; did you concur in the report for the year 1858–59, stating that the clothing now furnished for the year is satisfactory for all the regiments of which you have the command?—It has passed the board, therefore it is satisfactory, but I shall have to make another report in April 1859, as to how it has worn.

Lieutenant-Colonel JAMES ARMSTRONG, C.B., examined.

7730. (*Colonel French.*) What regiment are you serving in?—I command the dépôt battalion at Canterbury composed of the dépôts of Indian regiments.

7731. What regiments?—The 64th, 70th, 82nd, 90th, and 98th.

7732. What is the effective strength of your battalion?—The effective strength varies very much; it is fluctuating; it has been up to nearly 1,300, and is now between 400 and 500, in consequence of the large number of men that have been sent out to India.

7733. Has the clothing been regularly supplied to you for those men?—The clothing was received late this year. I must state that the dépôts I now have only came under my command in February last; previously to that time I commanded another dépôt battalion.

7734. As far as your experience goes of those you have commanded, were they regularly supplied with clothing?—There has been delay in the receipt of the clothing; I always obtained all I wanted.

7735. When was the battalion formed?—My present battalion was formed on the 16th of February this year; the men came from Chatham to Canterbury, where I was ordered to take command of them.

7736. Were you able to issue clothing on the 1st of April?—No; the clothing has been issued gradually from April up to about the end of June.

7737. With regard to its quality and wear, sewing, cutting, and so forth, have you had any cause of complaint?—The clothing of this year was inspected in the usual way, and reported upon as being good, that is, for the present year. I have yet to see whether it will wear well.

7738. You have not had an opportunity of ascertaining that?—No.

7739. Were there any rejections by the board?—No; not of the clothing.

7740. With regard to the necessities furnished in the shape of kits, have they been equally satisfactory?—The kits that I had last year I obtained from tradesmen by order of the War Office, and some I have received from the War Office; I have had cases of some rejections.

7741. Were the rejections immediately replaced?—No, not immediately. I can give you one instance. I speak now of the battalion I commanded last year, of which the 50th composed one of the dépôts. In December 1857, I received 100 free kits of every kind; the whole of that supply was rejected by the board, and authority was received to return the whole to Weedon. A second supply was received about the 21st of January 1858; that second supply was again inspected and the knapsacks alone were rejected. Subsequently authority from the War Office was received, stating that the knapsacks were to be issued, and they were issued accordingly.

7742. You considered them defective?—The board considered them defective.

7743. In what respect were they defective?—They were not equal to the sealed pattern, which is the only guide by which we have to go.

7744. Can you produce that order?—No; it is in existence I know, because the 50th dépôt, with the other dépôts, was transferred to another officer at Parkhurst, and the whole of the documents were handed over to the officer who succeeded me in the command.

7745. Were your recruits much inconvenienced by the want of kits at any period?—No, I did not have much inconvenience in that way, except in one instance, as regards the dépôt of the 64th, which I have now under my command; they were deficient in shell jackets. This was in April this year; the jackets were not supplied at the same time that the other articles of the kit were received, 300 of them in eight

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eparate deliveries, from the 27th of March to the 14th of July. I had as many as 200 of the men of that depôt without shell jackets at one time, and I was compelled to drill them in their tunics, which is not the custom of the service. I may say that I have been rather swamped with kits, for they sent me more than I required.

7746. Your depôts are not much moved now, are they?—I have been moved a good deal, and it was in consequence of my having been subjected to so many moves that, when I received a supply of 400 kits from the War Department, for which I had made no requisition, I immediately applied that those 400 kits should be returned. I imagined another move might take place, and I had quite enough kits in store to supply the men I was likely to have; therefore I applied that those 400 kits which were sent without any requisition of mine should be returned, and an order came that they were to be returned subsequently to that.

7747. Where were you at that time?—At Canterbury.

7748. There must have been some expense in transmitting those kits backwards and forwards?—An enormous expense.

7749. Did not that add to the value of the necessities?—Not to the soldier, but to the country, of course. The packages were of enormous size; so much so that they were beyond the regulated size of packages, and I would not allow the soldiers to move them. I got the railway people to do it.

7750. Were the shell jackets of a quality superior to those that are usually furnished from regimental stores?—The shell jackets are superior.

7751. What is supposed to be the price of those

shell jackets?—The shell jackets now are dearer than the old ones.

7752. What is the price of a shell jacket?—It varies slightly, according to the supply of the new tradesmen; 8s. 10d. is the price now charged by tradesmen who supply the battalion; the jacket furnished in the "free kit" is 11s. 6d. or 12s.; formerly jackets used to be 8s. or 8s. 6d., and as low as 7s. or 7s. 6d., but those at the last price were not lined.

7753. Are the present jackets lined?—Yes; it was optional with the soldier in former days to have the jacket lined or not.

7754. Have the boots been good?—No. I look upon the cloth of the tunic as superior in quality to what was issued in former days.

7755. Have you found any inconvenience from the make of the tunics? Some of the depôts have complained upon that point?—I recollect last year a board reported upon the peculiar cut of a supply of 100 tunics which were issued to the 50th depôt; generally speaking, I have had no fault to find.

7756. The men are not measured for the clothing, I believe, but it is sent up in sizes, so that men with broad shoulders and men with narrow shoulders, if they are of the same height, get the same sized coats?—Yes; but when a man is of a peculiar shape a coat is made for him from materials; five suits per company are sent in materials for this purpose. I think the tunic cloth is apt to wear white and look shabby from much wear.

7757. Are you satisfied with the quality of the necessities which are furnished by the Government?—I have now free kits from tradesmen.

7758. You do not get them from the Government stores?—No; except the 400 which I sent back, and which I believe have been sent somewhere else.

Mr. CHARLES BISCHOFF further examined.

Mr. C. Bischoff.

7759. (*Chairman.*) Can you state what the effect of the competition for the supply of army clothing has been with relation to the wages of the persons employed?—I can give you the exact prices by referring to my books; in answer to the general question, I have no hesitation whatsoever in saying that the prices we are now compelled to pay the workpeople is considerably less than what we used to pay; we are compelled to reduce the wages in consequence of the competition created by the Government.

7760. The workpeople do get lower wages than they used to do?—I believe at this moment that the wages we are now paying for making a soldier's tunic and a soldier's pair of trousers are not sufficient to fairly remunerate the labourer for the work that he is doing.

7761. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are women employed?—To a certain extent they are; in trousers, for instance, the out-door tailor employs his women and children in portions of the work.

7762. Do you give out the work to tailors to be made up at their houses?—To workpeople; I will give an example of the reduction of price in an article which has been so constant a subject of remark in the newspapers, namely, shirt making; in former times we used to supply a good shirt at a certain price, and paid what we considered a fair and proper remuneration to the women for making them; now we have been compelled to reduce the rate of wages at least 30 per cent.

7763. (*Chairman.*) Were you formerly concerned in the manufacture of shakos?—We did not actually make the sides; they were made in the country, but they were put together in London.

7764. The War Office authorities have taken considerable credit, and for aught I know it may be deserved, for the very reduced price at which shakos have been manufactured; the representation in this book of Mr. Shaw is that almost the whole of that saving is effected by reduction in the wages of those

who make the shakos?—The shako itself, I consider, I merely go by what used to be the price 7 or 10 years back, was too high, there was no question about it; but the price given for the shako covered other things; now that separate tenders have been put out for the shakos, there is no doubt the price that the Government pay is considerably less than it used to be; but a very large reduction has certainly taken place in the wages paid to the labourer.

7765. Is that labour the labour of women and children?—No, of men and boys. Women are not employed in making shakos. With regard to the shako, we are enabled to use machinery more than we used to do. Formerly the front and everything was cut by hand, now we do it by machinery; the punching of the holes is done by machinery, and that reduces, of course, the labour part.

7766. Is there any security that the wages would be higher if the firms had a higher price, and had a monopoly? Might there not be the same competition in the labour market if you chose to avail yourselves of it?—There would be this security; if we had a fair and proper price for making a tunic, and we knew what we had to do, we should then be enabled to employ a higher class of labour, the best labour that could be got in the autumn and winter of the year, which is not then wanted by the tailors at the west end of the town; and it would be to our interest to give rather more to have a thing sent home in a perfect state; it saves us the trouble of examining, altering, and re-instating.

7767. So far as your interest is concerned you get more value for your higher wages. Can you suggest any mode by which the Government or anybody else could ensure higher wages being given?—We cannot ensure it, of course. The best security, I believe, that can possibly be given in any trade matters is that it is the interest of the party to do what is right.

7768. Is it not impossible for the Government or any one else to do more than give a higher price,

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leaving it to the employers of labour, after all, to determine how much of the additional price shall go in additional payment for labour?—It must be so. I believe, in regard to the principal houses, some half dozen houses that were in the trade in London, the

average rate of the wages they paid was very similar previous to the change of system.

7769. You mean equal among themselves, not similar to the present rate?—Equal among themselves; not the present rate.

Mr. A. Crocker.

Mr. ARTHUR CROCKER examined.

7770. (*Chairman.*) It appears by Mr. Shaw's pamphlet that the prices paid by you and Messrs. Dolan for making up the clothing of the Indian army in 1857 were in this proportion; you used to pay 1s. 2½d. for making a sergeant's jacket, you now pay 1s.; for a private's you used to pay 1s., you now pay 10d.; for sergeants' trousers you used to pay 9½d., you now pay 8d.; for privates' trousers you used to pay 8½d., you now pay 7d.; is that statement substantially correct?—The two first are quite correct, and the others are substantially correct.

7771. Then for the regiments in Great Britain, for a sergeant's tunic you now pay 4s., and you used to pay 4s. 6d.?—That is about correct.

7772. Did the old pattern require less work or more work than the new pattern?—About the same; we have always paid about the same prices. The statement here is right for the prices we pay now. Those are the correct prices that we paid for the old pattern; the present pattern is more difficult to make, as far as regards the finer cloth, than the coarser cloth.

Mr. C. Bischoff.

Mr. CHARLES BISCHOFF further examined.

7773. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you insist upon the same perfection in the work, even at those low prices, that you did at the higher prices you paid before? Is there any difference in the work performed for the money?—So far as we possibly can we are obliged to have the work good. We did a certain portion of work for the Government in making up their own clothing, and we were told that our work, as far as the work was concerned, upon inspection was perfectly satisfactory.

7774. Do you insist upon the same work?—Certainly, supposing they have not to go through an inspection, we must deliver them to the regiment of the same quality.

7775. I suppose, in London, it unfortunately occurs that there are plenty of persons seeking employment, and who will take it from you almost on your own terms, as a matter of necessity?—There are, of course. We have a difficulty in getting the better class of labour, which we prefer; but there are always people ready to take the work.

7776. Then there is rather a superabundance of labour in London?—Very large.

7777. And therefore a greater power on the part of those who are hard pressed in a contract to screw down the prices of labour?—Certainly.

7778. (*Chairman.*) If your payments were raised, would you raise the prices of labour?—Most unquestionably we should, for this reason. It is our interest to do so; if we are employing a person to whom we are paying what we consider a fair, proper scale of remuneration, we can get sureties from that man to return our goods back again properly made, and in a proper condition. We know that there is no necessity for him to pawn our goods, and that they will not be liable to be seized for his rent. The losses to us from missing garments, or from things

coming back spoilt, are very considerable indeed. If we could afford to pay a better price for the labour we employ it would exalt humanity, because the people could live in greater comfort, and we should get a better class of people about us.

7779. (*Mr. Turner.*) In your judgment would not every employer of labour be only too glad if he were able to give his labourers a good rate of wages?—Yes, a fair, proper rate of wages.

7780. (*Chairman.*) Can you point out any other means of ensuring a higher rate of wages than that the interest of the employer lies in doing what is just to those beneath him?—I do not myself believe there is one of the old houses whose business was confined to the army trade and not general tailors who would not concur in the views which I have stated. Their anxiety always has been to get about them a better class of labour, and pay fairly and properly for it. Our house tried the experiment of using the sewing machines, and we thought we had brought it to bear for certain portions of the work, but it was not liked on inspection, and we do not think ourselves that it is such good sound sewing as the hand sewing.

7781. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would not the effect of employing sewing machines be to throw a considerable number of hands out of employment?—Not exactly that, because women can use the sewing machines, and do a great deal of work which otherwise men might be called upon to do.

7782. Then you think that sewing machines if they cheapened the price of the article made would have the same tendency that the introduction of power looms had, not throwing hand-loom weavers out of employment but making hand-loom weavers into power-loom weavers, getting much better wages?—According to our experience we did not economize by it; it was quite as costly to us.

Mr. S. Isaac.

Mr. SAUL ISAAC examined.

7783. (*Chairman.*) You have been examined at considerable length before the Committee on Contracts, I believe?—No, that was my brother.

7784. Are you now contractors with the Government?—We were.

7785. I believe you came in under the new system of competition?—Yes.

7786. Were you previously contractors for the Government?—Not for the Government; we supplied regiments very largely.

7787. Have you any objection to state the price you pay for making up a serjeant's tunic?—I do not think I could tell you that safely from memory, but if you wish I have no objection to bring my books here and show that.

7788. Have you reduced the price of late?—Not at all; we have had no contract of late for tunics, therefore we have not been in a position to reduce the price.

7789. In consequence of your contract with the Government being open to competition, did that tend to lower the prices that you formerly furnished your goods for?—There is no doubt about it.

7790. Although the public appear to have saved that difference, did you lose it or did any portion of the loss fall upon those whom you employed?—The wages of labour would naturally be reduced in the estimate we should make for the tunics. I do not think I should be able to enter fully into that unless I had my books; if I had my wages book I could show the difference paid for garments for several years.

7791. Just look at those prices which Mr. Crocker of Messrs. Hebbert's house says are substantially correct (*handing Mr. Shaw's pamphlet to the witness*)?—I do not know that I could say positively.

7792. Do you think that you pay your workmen as high as the other houses?—I am told we do; we

have the credit for paying higher wages than many houses in the army contract line.

7793. (*Mr. Turner.*) What regiments did you supply before the new system commenced?—I think about eighteen militia regiments.

7794. Any regiments of the line?—Not as clothiers; we have supplied a great many regiments with necessaries.

7795. Then you could hardly speak of yourselves in the same way as Messrs. Hebbert and Company as suppliers of regiments?—Not having been of such long

standing as Messrs. Hebbert; but the clothing for the militia was just the same as the clothing for the line.

7796. I have always understood, it may be incorrect, that it was the new system which enabled you to come in as contractors?—We did more largely under the new system than the old.

7797. Did it not amount to more than that, that you pursued a business under the new system which scarcely existed before with you?—As I said just now the militia clothing was just the same as the line; there is no difference.

Adjourned.

LONDON.

Friday, 19th November 1858.

PRESENT :

Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH. | HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Colonel Sir ALEXANDER MURRAY TULLOCH, K.C.B., examined.

7798. (*Chairman.*) What is your present office?—I am military superintendent of pensioners.

7799. (*Col. French.*) I believe you have been a long time in the service, and have served regimentally part of the period?—I have been in the service about 32 years; for about 5 years I served in the East Indies regimentally, and at other periods with the depôt. I have been at the senior department of the Military College, and I was employed also upon the recruiting previously to my entering the War Office.

7800. You have mentioned in the statement which you laid before the Commissioners, that you would not have recommended so extensive an undertaking as the present system of clothing, and that the object in view would be attained by a small establishment, whereby you would be able to ascertain the price and quality of clothing, and so forth, in the market?—My object was to ascertain upon a considerable scale, say, 10,000 yards of cloth (being the quantity ordered at the time I left for the Crimea), what the cost would be of making up clothing for the army of a description superior to that which the soldiers had previously. Had I remained to complete the arrangements, I should have made up, perhaps, a fourth part or a fifth part of the clothing of the army ultimately in this way, independent of contractors, which would then have served as a standard whereby to judge of the cloth, the workmanship, and the price that ought to be paid to the contractors.

7801. Is not that already sufficiently provided for by Colonel Hudson's establishment, and the Woolwich establishment?—Yes, with the exception that Colonel Hudson has not a sufficient number of regiments of the line. I think it is principally the Guards that he makes for, but he is to make for a certain number of regiments of the line, and when he has a portion of them, of course their clothing will bear a comparison with that made by contractors.

7802. As respects the other portions of the army, would you revert to the old system of employing clothiers?—I would employ clothiers as is now proposed, that is to say, at a fixed price; they should tender for providing the clothing complete, but not as formerly, through the colonels of the regiments. Having the clothing made at the two establishments referred to, as a specimen of the description of clothing which ought to be furnished, I propose, after allowing a fair mercantile profit for the clothier, to clothe the rest of the army through their medium; continuing that system thereafter or not, according as is found

expedient for the interests of the public and the soldier.

7803. By employing checks as you have observed by those establishments as to price and quality, would there not be a great saving in store rooms, &c., besides a considerable guard against the incidental losses incurred by keeping stores?—I do not think that would make much difference; the clothiers must lay a corresponding price upon their clothing to cover these items. Of course there would be a saving, provided you take for granted, as some people do, that the Government cannot do those things as economically as contractors; that is to say, that in Government employment more is paid for superintendence, and that you have a greater chance of loss than persons who provide the clothing by contract, and may be supposed to look more sharply after their own interests. I do not concur in that being the case, however, although some people think so.

7804. Do you take into consideration the immense expense of making store rooms, and all the officials attending to the business?—It is a fair question whether the Government can do it as cheaply as private individuals. I am not prepared to give an answer upon that point; it would depend altogether upon the nature of the superintendence exercised in the Government office.

7805. You have recommended that one sort of cloth should be used for the whole service, except for trousers for the cavalry; would you likewise approve of a suggestion which has been made of having only one sort of facing and one sort of button?—The difficulty is to please the soldiers; some men, for instance, Irishmen, are particularly fond of green facings, and we must study those things a little. Were it not for that I should be very glad indeed to see one facing and one description of cloth used for all, for example, a blue facing; but you must, I think, consult the feelings of soldiers in these matters, and perhaps the feelings of officers also, who like to have some little distinction between their regiment and others. I may also mention, that in a country where the army is kept up by voluntary enlistment you require to study all these things much more than in France, where the army is raised by conscription, and the men can be made to wear any kind of uniform.

7806. What course would you recommend with regard to the inspection of the clothing previously to its being forwarded to the regiment and after its arrival?—I think you must do one or other of two

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things; either you must have an inspection by competent persons here, and that inspection final, or you must have no inspection here except what is necessary to check the price you are paying, and leave the inspection to be made ultimately at the regiment. I do not think that the two can go together. It may be necessary to have an inspection at the regiment, so far as regards the quantity of clothing received, and the state in which it arrives; that is to say, whether it is mildewed or injured by the voyage, or anything of that kind. But I do not think you can have military inspectors and civil inspectors here to pass the cloth, and afterwards have their decision overturned by persons at the regiment, who know little or nothing about it.

7807. I will put a case to you, not of a hypothetical character, but one which I know positively has more than once occurred, for instance, what Colonel Horne said the other day; supposing that after the inspection which has taken place by persons who are supposed to be qualified to inspect clothing, when it arrives at the regiment, there are 90 or 100 suits that will fit no man in the regiment, and it cannot be altered, what is the regiment to do? Is it to reject those suits or not?—Of course, if that clothing is made according to size (and the inspectors will ascertain whether it is so or not), the error must have originated in proper size rolls not having been made up at the regiment, and the regiment is to blame; not the contractor.

7808. If it should happen that the particular size which the clothes are supposed to be, does not correspond with the size on the ticket which is always attached to the clothing, what course would you suggest?—If that were the case the viewers would not have done their duty in passing it. They should ascertain that the sizes are proper as well as the quality. The quantity of clothing sent to the regiment of those particular sizes would be reported upon, and the officers would state whether they had or not received the sizes they had written for.

7809. What is the commanding officer to do who has received clothing which will not fit his men, if he has not power to reject it?—In such a case as that, the commanding officer would report that he had received certain clothing, that it was according to the sizes he had ordered, but that it would not fit the men, and that he had made an error in sending for those sizes.

7810. Must there not be an inspection to ascertain whether the clothing actually fits, and a rejection of that which will not fit?—Yes, and in that case I think it would be fair to charge against the public, or against the colonel, if he had made any mistake, the cost of replacing that clothing which was found not to fit the men. There may, however, be circumstances to account for it without blame being attachable to any one. For instance, growing lads, measured a year before, may have grown so much that the clothing will not fit. A certain proportion of the clothing is always sent out unmade, for the purpose of meeting those cases; but I think it would be very expedient, in the present state of the army, when so many growing lads are enlisted, that a larger quantity of unmade suits should be sent.

7811. (*Chairman.*) How are the size rolls determined in such a case as that which Colonel French has suggested, where clothes are sent out too small for the men? Do the regimental authorities furnish the authorities here with the number and sizes of the men who require to be fitted?—Yes. These used to be sent formerly to the regimental agents, and by the regimental agents to the contractors; now a return, specifying the sizes and description of suits required, is forwarded to the War Office.

7812. Might not the misfits which have been referred to have arisen from a great variety of causes? In the first place, as you suggest, from the men having grown; in the second, from an error in transcribing the number of men of a particular size; and, thirdly, from the contractor not attending to the directions that he received?—The latter point ought to be settled before the clothing leaves this country.

7813. In such a case the contractor would be to blame?—Certainly; and the clothing ought not to be taken off his hands till it is ascertained by the viewers that the sizes are those engaged to be issued.

7814. The contractor has an order to make so many suits of a particular size. Is not it the duty of the viewer not only to examine the quality and the workmanship of the clothing, but also to see that the sizes furnished correspond with the sizes ordered?—Most assuredly; he must measure them occasionally, otherwise the contractor might impose upon him a number of suits of a smaller size, and thereby save a large amount of cloth, and not fit the men.

7815. Do you know whether, in the examination of made-up clothing at Mark Lane, the viewers ascertain that the sizes are correct?—They ought to do so; or there is a simpler course by which they might determine whether the proper sizes have been adhered to. The weight of ten suits of a particular size ought to correspond with the average weight of 100; therefore they may determine by weight whether the whole of them are likely to be of the proper size. They might pick out one suit in ten and measure it; that is a practical course by which, I apprehend, they could ascertain, without measuring every suit, whether the proper sizes had been supplied. In regard to Colonel Horne's complaint, I understand that a person was sent down from the War Office who understood the fitting of the men; the clothing was examined, and all were fitted, except a very few suits. The want of fitting may arise from the colonel not understanding perfectly the way in which it ought to be done. The first thing in fitting a quantity of clothing is to bring in all men of a particular size, then to take the suits of that size, and place one before each man, who tries on each in succession, the colonel or the captains of companies standing by till he is fitted; then they go on trying every suit upon every man, till, perhaps, five or six only are left who cannot be fitted. But if a person does not take that trouble, it may happen that there will be a very great number of misfits.

7816. Are there not four causes, any one of which may contribute to those misfits? First, the colonel may give a wrong list of sizes; second, the men may have grown in the interim, as you have suggested; third, the War Office may have directed the contractor to make the wrong sizes, although the proper orders were received from the colonel?—Yes; such a thing is possible, though I do not think it is very likely, as we should send the requisition for the sizes right on to the contractor.

7817. And, fourthly, the contractor might (I do not say that he would) not execute the order faithfully, and make the clothing too small, but in such a case would it not be the fault of the inspector who passed the clothing?—Yes; if the clothier does not execute the order he gets he is wrong, although the inspector may improperly pass an ill-executed order. There is another cause of misfits, which is very important. By the regulation in the army now the clothing is to fit the men loosely; they are no longer to have it tight; whereas many commanding officers still adhere to the old practice of having the clothing fit closely to the men, because it looks better.

7819. (*Col. French.*) Does that apply to anything more than the sleeves?—All over.

7820. If a coat will not button within three or four inches, as we have heard described, is not that a misfit?—That is clearly a misfit, but there are some men who are very peculiarly shaped, and you cannot fit them well unless you have all their sizes taken separately; there are some men that are exceedingly broad in the chest as compared with others, and as no size will fit those men, they ought to be set apart and fitted from the extra cloth sent out.

7821. (*Chairman.*) Colonel Horne complained that the clothes that Mr. Tait furnished, did not fit his men because they were too tight; might not Mr. Tait have done wrong in not sending the clothes of the sizes they were ordered?—Yes; or the colonel may not have tried the clothing on the proper men. He

may have put the clothing intended for a man of 5 feet 6, on a man of 5 feet 7 or 5 feet 8, and then the breadth of course would not correspond.

7822. (*Col. French.*) Do you think it is fair that the soldier should pay anything for the alteration of the clothing? Ought he not to get it free?—Formerly, as you are aware, the colonels used to make slight alterations in the uniform which were not strictly according to regulation; for these I think the colonel ought to have paid, for you could not charge against the public what was done absolutely in contravention of orders.

7823. Do you think, under any circumstances, the soldier ought to be charged anything? Ought not he to get his coat free of all expense?—Certainly, as he is not to blame because the clothing does not fit him. Among the pensioners, who are very difficult to fit, owing to their being men of full growth and unusual size, my expenditure for alteration is not 6d. per suit altogether, which shows that by a little arrangement, that sum may be quite sufficient.

7824. Is not the clothing for the pensioners made very full?—It is not fuller than what the soldier's clothing ought to be, considering there are so many growing lads in the army now.

7825. You adverted in your memorandum to the defects of the old system in case of an emergency, and you instanced the deficiencies in the Crimean war; was not there an extra suit furnished to the soldiers by Government on that occasion?—There was not only one extra suit, but two extra suits in some cases for several of the regiments, but the difficulty was to get them. Being in the Crimea I could not myself tell what took place at home; but I have heard, and I believe with truth, that the clothing of many regiments that were abroad in the colonies had to be sent to other regiments in the Crimea. I saw some there wearing clothing that was not their own; they were obliged either to do that or have no clothing at all.

7826. Was there any deficiency on the part of the clothiers on that account? Were they responsible for those deficiencies?—No, not at all; but unfortunately the Government had no stores of clothing, and the contractors had no made-up clothing for the regiments in the Crimea. But having clothing ready for other regiments, these were made available for that purpose, and other clothing made up subsequently to replace it. I do not mean to say that there was any blame to be attached to the clothiers; they could not anticipate the necessity for a double supply of clothing, nor did the Government anticipate it.

7827. (*Chairman.*) Was it expected that the army would be the first winter in the Crimea?—No; nor that their clothing would wear out so rapidly as it did.

7828. (*Col. French.*) Did not the soldiers' being without clothing arise from the want of means to convey the clothing up to the camps?—It was after that difficulty was got over that the second supply of clothing arrived.

7829. Can you say that the clothiers were in any wise accountable for any of the deficiencies on that occasion?—Not in the slightest degree. I do not at all blame the clothiers, but I blame the Government for not having a sufficient supply of cloth on hand when the war was going on, to meet contingencies of that kind. I did not expect that the clothiers would keep a store. It is a defect of the system that existed formerly that the clothiers were not expected to keep a store, and the Government had none.

7830. (*Chairman.*) Was there time for the Government to obtain a store? Was not the commencement of the Government stores in 1855?—I left a small contract to begin with, for 10,000 yards of cloth at the end of November 1854, and it was nearly ready at the time I went away, early in February 1855.

7831. Was not that just the time when the alteration in the system took place?—Yes.

7832. (*Col. French.*) In the event of a great emergency, when very large portions of the army and levies would have to be furnished, would it be requisite,

do you think, in clothing them to adhere to the regulation cloth as to colour?—I think a great deal too much attention is paid to that; but it is a question for the Commander-in-Chief rather than for me. My opinion is that the soldier will not fight worse in broad cloth than in narrow, and that all such difficulties ought to be got over on any emergency. Hitherto there has been such uniformity expected in all soldiers' equipments, that there is a difficulty in admitting of any exception. I may mention an instance in which this difficulty was readily got over, as I think it worthy of being placed on record. In 1814, when the war was going on, and very great exertions had to be made for equipping the Russians and Prussians, I believe that there were about 800,000 of them clothed from England. I was always surprised how that could have been effected, and having made inquiries, I found it was done in this way. The Government sent into the market, and bought up all the cloth of every description that they could get, that was of a shade lighter than brown and blue. That cloth they had re-dyed blue I think for the Prussians, and brown for the Russians, and sent it off for the whole 800,000. I have no doubt a high price was paid for the cloth, but it shows that we can meet emergencies, provided we are not particular as to the colour of the cloth.

7833. (*Chairman.*) Was that done by the intervention of the Government?—It was done at the suggestion of Mr. Stacey of the Tower, who mentioned the fact to Lord Hardinge, when finding great fault that the pensioners could not be clothed more rapidly, as he said he had seen 800,000 men, Prussians and Russians, clothed in a few weeks. Mr. Stacey, in justification of himself, described the way in which it was done, he having carried it into effect.

7834. Was that made-up clothing?—Some of it was made up, not the whole of it. In Germany they have good tailors, and in Russia they are able to make up clothing much cheaper than we can.

7835. (*Col. French.*) Does not that prove the immense power of manufacture existing in this country even at that time?—For everything but red cloth, which is worn by nobody but soldiers.

7836. Supposing even in the case of an emergency, such as an invasion, when a large portion of our troops and new levies and the militia have to be called out, might not they be dressed in brown or grey?—Yes; I do not attach any importance to the colour whatever, if Her Majesty and the Commander-in-Chief do not.

7837. Looking at the very great difficulty we have had, and which exists now, in getting proper green dye, do not you think it would be rather an advantage if brown cloth were adopted, such as the Portuguese Cassadore troops wear?—I have heard this opinion expressed by officers who have served in the rifle corps; they think that brown would be a much better colour than green. These are in some degree matters of taste, but I have no doubt that brown would be a much better colour.

7838. You mentioned in your memorandum having failed to equip 15,000 pensioners?—We did not fail in it, but we could not equip them at the moment.

7839. Was the cloth required on that occasion the same as infantry cloth?—It was not precisely the same; it was a little better than the infantry cloth; it was an intermediate description, somewhat similar to artillery cloth.

7840. Did you apply to the clothiers upon that occasion?—Every exertion was made; tenders were issued in every direction, and the shortest time in which we could get the clothing was 10 weeks, and that is about the usual time required when a supply of that description is wanted, the cloth having to be manufactured before making it up.

7841. With regard to the mode of providing necessities for the army, you are aware at present there are two systems, one for recruits, and one for the regiments generally?—Yes.

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7842. Recruits are found with free kits by the Government?—Yes.

7843. Do not you think great confusion and difficulty would be avoided, were the whole of the necessities either provided by the Government authorities or by the colonels from the regimental stores?—The Government having given 3*l.* for a free kit, I think it is necessary to ascertain that the quantity of clothing, or whatever is contained in that kit, shall be equal to the sum which is given, and this could not be ascertained in the former way of outfitting.

7844. Cannot that be easily ascertained by inspecting necessities of any regiment? Hitherto it has been shown, so far as our evidence has gone, that the kits of the regiments are fully equal to those of the Government; supposing we admit, for the sake of argument, that they are equal, do not you think it would be the best plan that the Government should take the whole of that business into their hands, or leave it to the regimental stores to supply the recruits with kits, the Government allowing for them?—I should be disposed to adopt the same plan that we are pursuing with regard to clothing, that is to say, I should, perhaps, out of 10,000 kits have 2,000 furnished by Government as a kind of pattern, so as to ascertain what they could be bought for, and then trust the rest to clothiers, and if they furnished worse kits, the soldiers would take very good care to let them know it, as I have no doubt they would let them know if they found that the clothing from the Government establishments was better than what the contractors provided. There is a good reason for the confusion in the supply of kits referred to in the previous question. Perhaps never at any time has there been such a pressure for recruits, or such a number of recruits raised unexpectedly, as of late; we never know how many will be wanted, as fresh demands are coming every month from India; this increased number of recruits must occasion some difficulty in furnishing them with necessities. Had there been only 10,000 or 12,000 kits required annually, I do not think we should have had the confusion which has arisen in the present supply. I do not argue from that that they should be altogether supplied by the Government. I think the system of having a portion of them thus supplied, say 2,000 for every 10,000 by contractors, would be a very good check.

7845. (*Chairman.*) Can you give a little more in detail the mode by which you arrived at the conclusion that the cost of the improved clothing with superior workmanship was 30 per cent. cheaper than it was formerly?—I think I can give you a general idea of it. First, I may mention that it was not for the purpose of getting it cheaper that the change originated; it was in consequence of the colonel no longer providing the clothing. The first step I took was to put myself in communication with Colonel now General Bonner, to ascertain who were considered by him the very best manufacturers. Colonel Bonner is the officer who provides and sends out the cloth for the East India Company's army. The Company do not make up their own clothing in this country; it is made up in India. Colonel Bonner, as the store-keeper-general, sends out several hundred thousand yards of cloth every year, and he puts himself in communication with the contractors who are most likely to furnish it of good quality. He does not take the lowest tender.

7846. Is not the cloth for the East India Company's service made up at depôts somewhat in the same way that the artillery clothing is made up at Woolwich?—It is made up by native tailors in the East Indies, at certain depôts. I cannot go sufficiently into the details to say where the depôts are. I believe there is one at each presidency, and, in so far as the colonel's off reckonings in India depend upon what the clothing costs, there is a supervision exercised by three officers at each of the presidencies to see that too much is not expended in making it up. I believe it is made up in India much cheaper than could be done in this country,

7847. Have you any account from Colonel Bonner of the amount of cloth that is kept in store at the depôts in India?—I have no means of knowing that. I do not think there is much kept in store. As he gets it, it is sent out, and as it is sent out it is made up. In fact, unless the East India Company saw a necessity for it, they would not have any great store of cloth kept anywhere, because it is so liable to deteriorate. Perhaps in India, on the way out, or in the stores here, there may be twelve months' supply. I put a question as to the quantity, and it was upwards of half a million yards that General Bonner used to send out annually. I got from him the address of three or four parties with whom he dealt for cloth. I mentioned to him that I did not want to get the cheapest, but that I wanted the best. Upon that I communicated with those parties, and I had very considerable difficulty in inducing them to say for what they would furnish cloth, because they thought it would get them into bad odour with the clothiers here. But, of course, the more they objected on that account the more anxious was I to ascertain it, because concealment indicated an undue profit in the supply.

7848. Were they persons who furnished the clothiers for the army, and also General Bonner for the East India Company?—Some of them did. Having ascertained the price of the cloth from those men, which I think was about 5*s.* 4*d.* a yard for red cloth, I next ascertained by whom the clothing was made up, and I found that it was done mostly by my own pensioners. I ascertained that about 2*s.* 4*d.* was the payment given to them for a coatee, and 9*d.* or 10*d.* for a pair of trousers.

7849. What you ascertained from the pensioners was,—not the price of the cloth, but the price they got for making it up, which of course they were the best persons to tell you?—Yes, they told me what was the price they had.

7850. (*Col. French.*) The price of the cloth the pensioners could know nothing about?—They could know nothing about it; I ascertained from them merely what they got for making it up. Chatham was one of the places to which I applied, and I got this reply from the officer,—“I have made inquiries among the tailors of the 18th and 94th, and I find that none of them have seen the new uniform, therefore they can form no idea of the price that they should receive for making it up. For the old uniform they used to get about 2*s.* 4*d.* for a coatee, and 8*d.* or 9*d.* for the trousers.” I ascertained that in various other places to have been the price, and that they would conceive themselves well paid if they got 3*s.* 6*d.* for the new uniform; that gave us the cloth and the making, then came the trimmings.

7851. (*Chairman.*) How much cloth at 5*s.* 4*d.* a yard do you allow for a coat?—A yard and a half for a tunic; I allowed rather more than the usual quantity; that would be 8*s.* for the cloth, and making 3*s.* 6*d.*, or 11*s.* 6*d.* I sent to one of the first contractors to ascertain what the cost of serge was, and I found it 11*d.* a yard. I sent to one of the first establishments in Manchester to know the cost of the cotton, to another for cost of the tape, another for buttons, so that I took every means of ascertaining, as nearly as possible, what the prices were. The total was 14*s.* 7*d.* for a tunic, for which the price then asked by a contractor was 1*l.*

7852. Was that the improved cloth?—No, that was the old cloth.

7853. You have stated that you ascertained that the cost was at least 30 per cent. under the sum charged for it?—I cannot say exactly at this moment, but it was about 30 per cent.

7854. Your 30 per cent. is not a deduction from the intrinsic value of the material, but a deduction from the price charged for the article when made up?—It was the amount of profit to the parties who provided the clothing complete, subject to a deduction for all the expenses of establishment and other items, and also for sending it out, freight, and everything of that kind. I reported this to the Secretary of

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State-for-War, and I pointed out to him that I thought it would be a very good opportunity for improving the soldiers' coat, and bringing it up to the quality that the sergeants had, which appeared to me would bear comparison with the cloth worn by the soldiers of other nations. Our cloth was of a much coarser appearance, and of a much worse description than that of any other army in the Crimea; it was worse than the Sardinian, and worse than the French, at least that was my impression. I then, by the authority of the Secretary of State, sent out tenders to various manufacturers of cloth to know at what rate they would tender for cloth equal to the sergeants' cloth, but not scarlet, and upon that I was able to submit to the Secretary of State for War a calculation of what I thought the soldiers could be clothed for without any profit. I calculated it in this way,—I found that the sergeants' cloth could be obtained at about 9s. 8d. a yard, a tunic would require one yard and a half, that would be 14s. 6d., a yard and a quarter for the trousers, 7s. 6d.; for making the suit I allowed 4s. 3d., that was 3s. 6d. for the tunic, and about 9d. for the trousers; then cloth for faces, serge, tape, buttons, and lining, I ascertained to be 3s. 3d., being 1l. 9s. 6d. The amount which we could afford to give was about 1l. 10s., that is to say, without asking anything more from the public. On this, the Secretary of State said, get a quantity of sergeants' cloth, and let the experiment be tried, and in that condition I left the matter, having gone to the Crimea a few days after the contract was entered into for the cloth.

7855. (*Colonel French.*) Who was the Secretary of State-for-War at that time?—Mr. Sidney Herbert. Lord Panmure came into office a few days after, and one of his first acts was to send me out to the Crimea, so that I did not see what followed, but I have no question that a coat about equal to the sergeants' cloth might be furnished of the present pattern without any extra expense being incurred to the public.

7856. (*Chairman.*) Did not you suggest that four or five regiments of the line should be clothed at the clothing establishments?—Yes.

7857. Is that with a view to a tentative experiment for the purpose of afterwards extending the system, or do you suggest that there should be a permanent establishment to that extent with a view of checking the expenditure as regards the rest of the army?—It would depend entirely upon how the contractors satisfied the regiments. My impression is this, that if we found that matters went on well, and that the regiments were satisfied with the clothing sent them by the contractors, there would be no necessity for carrying the measure further than making up a certain proportion of the clothing at a Government establishment. One advantage of doing so is that there must then always be a supply of cloth on hand which will enable us to meet sudden demands that may arise, which otherwise we could not do, and we could not expect the contractors to do it.

7858. You would ascertain by such an establishment the cost at which the clothing could be supplied?—Yes, I have not ascertained the cost myself, but I know that it has been ascertained very minutely.

7859. Is any regiment of the line clothed by Colonel Hudson's establishment?—I am not aware that there is, but I believe he is to have 10 or 15 regiments of the line to clothe, and that will enable us to see whether his clothing, or the clothing of the contractors, answers best.

7860. Then the remainder being left in the hands of contractors, we should be glad to have your judgment as to the mode by which they should be selected. Would you have competition?—I certainly would not take the lowest price. I think that one of the great advantages of this establishment is, that we shall know what we can get clothing for; we ought then to add a fair amount to the contract for profit, which should be the minimum price; I would take no contract under it.

7861. There has been a good deal of evidence given as to the expediency of making the competition if it is to exist—competition as to quality, with the price

fixed by the Government. If I understand you rightly, by the establishment which you suggest, you would ascertain the fair price to be paid?—Yes; and I would add to the price so ascertained at the Government establishment whatever might be considered a fair mercantile profit on a ready money transaction, and that should be the minimum price. I would let the contractors compete, and if they can make goods better than the Government establishment it is a sign that the Government establishment ought to cease; at least it would be a strong argument in that direction, or would lead to the inference that it was not working in the way it ought to do.

7862. You also would prefer a competition as to quality rather than a competition as to price?—Certainly. I think in regard to price, that having got everything at the first cost in the Government establishment, you know quite well that it cannot be had cheaper; and if a lower offer be made, either the contractor must fail, or you must be cheated in some way or other. Therefore this establishment gives an opportunity of ascertaining what the minimum price ought to be. I may mention that the same practice is adopted in the French service. They have a minimum price, and they will not take any contract under that.

7863. Is the competition in the French service as to quality?—There is competition also as to quality.

7864. Do the authorities in France fix the price, and say to the contractors, "Now, give us the best article you can for this price?"—There is a minimum price fixed, but they do not say, "We will accept no other."

7865. Does not the French system invite tenders which may vary in price?—They do not fix the price.

7866. In such a case, having invited competition as to quality, the price being fixed, how would you apportion the orders in pursuance of tenders made? Supposing a dozen firms, as they might well do, were each of them to offer to supply a perfectly good article at that price?—I should divide the order among them. I believe that the clothiers as a body are very much in communication with one another, and fix their prices pretty nearly alike; if you took the most respectable of them, they would very probably give the quality much the same. It is one of those supplies which ought not to be thrown upon one firm, however well they might do it.

7867. Would you do that by Government selection or by colonel's selection?—I think perhaps you might have both. The colonel might say, "I would recommend so and so;" and if the War Office knew that that person had failed in previous contracts, or had done anything improper, it would be necessary then to point out to the colonel, "You have recommended a man who has not dealt well with the public before, and you had better reconsider your nomination." It is a great advantage to deal with a person that the colonel commanding a regiment has been accustomed to. It softens all correspondence about rejections, and anything disagreeable that takes place.

7868. Under that system would you not still have an inspection to see that the quality was equal to the requirements?—That would depend upon circumstances. If the Government were to agree to allow the paymaster to charge against the public the 3l. for the free kit, leaving it to the colonel to settle what was the quality, that is one course that might be adopted; but so long as the Government profess to give a free kit worth 3l., I think it is necessary that they should ascertain by inspectors that it is of the actual value.

7869. I am speaking of clothing generally; if you give to A. B. an order at a fixed price to furnish clothing for five regiments, would you have that clothing inspected previously to its delivery to the regiment?—I think it would be better to have it inspected, because otherwise you could not pay for it; if the regiment were in this country and likely to remain, the difficulty of regimental inspection would not be great; but if you had to wait for a regimental inspection at Moultan or Lahore, it would be a long

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time before the contractor got his money. I think it is better to have the clothing inspected, passed, and delivered over to the Government, and the contractor paid for the clothing, which otherwise he cannot be in proper time; but when the Government inspection has taken place, you cannot have a second inspection at the regiment, except so far as regards quantity, sizes, and the state in which the clothing is delivered.

7870. I presume you mean that you should not have it?—Yes; suppose you sent, as is the case at present, patterns, and the colonel commanding the regiment, after getting the patterns and comparing the clothing with them says, "This clothing is not of the same quality as the pattern," though your own inspector has previously ascertained that it was so; that of course renders his inspection of no avail whatever. An officer specially trained to this duty, who has inspected the clothing and compared it here, is surely a much better judge than one at Lahore or Moultan, who perhaps knows no more of clothing than regimental officers usually do.

7871. Do you still think that the inspection should be by military men and civilians?—Yes.

7872. Do you think the addition of military inspectors to the inspecting staff at home will obviate the necessity for regimental inspection?—I think there should be military and civil inspectors together; if they settle that the cloth is according to pattern, I think it would be altogether beyond precedent if you allowed the regimental board, consisting perhaps of officers who knew nothing about clothing beyond having seen what the regiments had got from time to time, to overturn the decision of the military inspectors and the viewers here, who are highly paid for performing the duty of inspection.

7873. Have you reason to know whether there is any natural professional jealousy amongst military men on the one hand, and civilians on the other, with regard to having their decisions reviewed the one by the other?—As there are military inspectors now I do not think that the regiments abroad could find any objection to the quality of clothing which they had passed; but perhaps they might have done so, had it been merely passed by civilians.

7874. The Weedon establishment is essentially civilian, although for a short time Captain Gordon was at the head of it. Captain Gordon has told us, that during the time he was at Weedon, although there were several rejections by regimental boards of articles which had passed at Weedon, he never knew one of those objections which was not ill-founded. Messrs. Isaac's kits were passed at Weedon after a rigid inspection, and they were objected to by regimental boards, and in every case Captain Gordon says, that those objections, in his judgment, were ill founded. Do you think that that is simply an inconvenience arising from allowing two inspections, one by civilians and another by the regimental board of the same articles?—I think it will not do to have two inspections, particularly now that you have inspecting officers of rank higher than that of the officers on the regimental board.

7875. You do not seem to attach much value to the regimental inspection now?—I am afraid that the regimental boards often decide hastily upon the quality of cloth; were two patterns of cloth sent to a regimental board,—the one highly dressed and the other not dressed at all—I am afraid that, not knowing much about cloth, they would probably say that the dressed cloth was superior, when really it was inferior in quality.

7876. Does not the quartermaster generally attend those boards?—He does.

7877. Is not he generally a practical man?—He may be, but I cannot say that he is a person who ought to know cloth as well as one of the viewers and the military inspectors appointed here.

7878. Have you ever been a member of a regimental board yourself?—I have been a member of various boards, but not for the inspection of clothing.

7879. Do you know whether it is the practice for the quartermaster to attend, and whether his opinion is generally asked?—He would attend, and I think his opinion might be asked, but I would not accept that opinion, in opposition to that of the viewers and military inspectors here.

7880. The question is, whether the regimental board, not being very practical judges of cloth before it has been worn, have been in the habit of deferring to the opinion of the quartermaster?—They might or might not. I think it is very probable that they would call him in and ask his opinion, but I would not always take his opinion as being a correct one.

7881. (*Col. French.*) Are you aware of the instance (brought to my notice by Sir D. Macdougall) in which almost the whole of the clothing of the 79th regiment, on one occasion, was rejected after it had been passed by the general officers?—At that period, I understand, clothing when passed by the general officers, was returned to the contractor, and forwarded by him to the regiment; there was consequently nothing to have prevented that contractor from sending totally different clothing from that inspected. There was no mark upon it to show that it was the identical clothing passed. Clothing after being passed is now given over to the Government store, and is sent out to the regiment, therefore there can be no substitution by interested parties. The reason for a regimental board inspecting the cloth, and reporting upon it after it arrived, was, I apprehend, to check the possibility of there being any substitution of the clothing after it had been inspected by the general officer.

7882. Of what advantage could it be to the clothier to change a large quantity of clothing on his hands—to keep the good clothing, and hand the bad clothing over to the regiment?—I will give an illustration. Suppose that the trousers of a regiment had been inspected by the general officers, the trousers cloth costing 5s. or 6s. a yard, while at the same time the Government had just sold condemned cloth that was mildewed, and unfit for use; that this was bought by a contractor, who, after good clothing had been inspected, sent out this bad clothing to the regiment instead. It does not follow that it would at the moment be detected, because we have many instances where it requires time to do so. In that way the contractor would be able to pass off a cloth which only cost 3s. or 4s. a yard, for cloth which would cost 5s. or 6s. A case somewhat in point occurs to me with regard to several of my pensioners, who were furnished with trousers made of cloth bought at a sale at the Tower.

7883. (*Chairman.*) Are you speaking of Mr. Gilpin's case?—Exactly. I yesterday received three complaints from three different districts informs me that the trousers were quite rotten, and I directed the clothing to be sent up for examination.

7884. I understood Colonel French to be asking you whether a case had occurred in which a contractor had substituted one cloth for another?—I point out where he might do it.

7885. You do not mean to say that that was done in Mr. Gilpin's case?—No; but the contract price was given to Mr. Gilpin to furnish the regulation cloth, and the cloth furnished was that which had been condemned.

7886. Were not the trousers, when they were made up by Mr. Gilpin, sent to Weedon for inspection?—It is quite possible.

7887. Did not you get the trousers direct from Weedon?—Quite possible; but my impression is, that any tradesman who contracts to furnish cloth costing 5s. a yard is not entitled to buy condemned cloth, which costs only 3s. a yard, and to pass that off as being of the quality which he ought to have furnished under the contract. I may be wrong, but that is my view of it; as between one gentleman and another such a course would not be adopted. The trousers are now returned, and I hope Mr. Gilpin will return us the difference in the price. The cloth is perfectly rotten.

7888. Supposing those trousers passed inspection, is not it rather an argument against what you were saying just now, that you would make the original Government inspection final?—Proper inspection certainly had not been made. There were then no military inspectors, and the trousers might have been passed by some of the viewers, who had not paid proper attention to the cloth.

7889. (*Col. French.*) To revert to my former question—why should the clothier, after the clothing had been inspected by the general officers for the 57th regiment, keep that to supply to the 65th regiment, and supply bad clothing to the 57th?—Supposing he had made up 10,000 pairs of good trousers and had them inspected, he keeps these till next year, and sends out trousers made from the rejected cloth. Of course he would get the same price for trousers of the inferior quality, as if he had sent the good cloth. All the difference is profit, and for the supply of the next year he sends the good trousers originally passed.

7890. Is that hypothetical, or can you say that such a case has occurred?—I merely point it out to you as an illustration that the necessity for inspection at the regiment is to a certain extent taken away, because we are now certain that the goods which have been received and paid for by the Government, are those sent out to the regiment; whereas before it was possible, after the general officers had inspected the clothing, that a substitution of other clothing might have taken place.

7891. (*Chairman.*) You are supposing the possibility of a fraud?—I merely point out the way in which the thing might be done.

7892. Your illustration from the case of Mr. Gilpin has no relation to that, has it?—Except that the pensioners have had inferior trousers. They make a complaint; Mr. Gilpin admits that he bought damaged cloth, and therefore he ought to make good those pensioners' trousers.

7893. Supposing your military officers had then constituted the board of inspection, you would have made their decision final, I presume?—If they had done so, it would have been final.

7894. Can you be certain that military inspectors, of however great intelligence and practical knowledge, may not commit a mistake in such a case as that?—The cloth was rejected previously, and therefore ought never to have been submitted again, for it is not so easy when clothing is made up to detect a fault as when it is in the piece.

7895. You have mentioned that it took 10 weeks to provide equipments for 15,000 pensioners, and you have also said that in all the kingdom there were not 5,000 sets of accoutrements that could be used for the purpose, and not as much ready-made cloth of an army pattern as would provide uniforms for that number?—The contract for the cloth had to be made, and 10 weeks was the shortest period. I can give you the quantities as we received it.

7896. If you had had a Government store, even of moderate dimensions, would that inconvenience have been avoided?—Yes. In regard to the accoutrements it was a very serious difficulty; when I mentioned it to the authority by whom I was employed, he said, "You do not mean to tell me that there is not in this nation, even supposing there were to be an invasion to-morrow, a few thousand ammunition pouches?" I said, "No, how could you have them? they are only provided once every 10 years, or thereabouts; you cannot find contractors who will keep such stores, and the Government do not want them in store, because the colonels are bound to provide them." I think, altogether, I found that there were not above 3,000 or 4,000 pouches at the Tower, and those were of different patterns, some were for the navy, and some had been used by the police in Ireland. A contract had consequently to be made, and I think eight weeks was the shortest time within which the contractor could begin to deliver them.

7897. Was that contract by open competition?—Yes.

7898. Do you know who had the contract?—I can ascertain it by reference. (*See Appendix No. 19.*) I observe that it has been stated in evidence before the Commissioners that 200,000 accoutrements could be furnished in two months, and I am glad to have an opportunity of mentioning that I have very little doubt that this could now be done; but it is after two wars. Plenty of ammunition pouches have been made since the period I am speaking of, which was in 1842 or 1843, after we had had a long peace, and no pouches were required, except to replace those which had become inefficient every ten years in the different regiments. Therefore, the trade had almost become obsolete. To make ammunition pouches requires practice, and, consequently, no large number could be provided within a moderate time.

7899. You speak of pouches, but accoutrements consist of many other things, do not they?—Pouches are the principal difficulty. We use black belts for the pensioners, and, therefore, we could buy plenty of common leather, and cut it up into belts. There was no difficulty in that.

7900. Do you adhere to the accuracy of your statement?—Most assuredly. The correspondence will show the difficulty which we had, and the time it took, for we got the clothing before we could get the pouches.

7901. Did you get all the pouches from the same person?—Yes. I was very anxious to get the men equipped as speedily as possible. I felt for the men being in plain clothes, and having none of the equipments of soldiers at the time when they were wanted. I have no doubt you could get any quantity now. After two wars everything of that kind comes into very general use.

7902. You say that the demand for pouches was once in ten years. Is the demand spread over a number of years, or is the renewal simultaneous?—No. Unfortunately instead of being bought and taken into store, in which case they could have been used for any emergency, the old pouches, being the property of the colonel, were sold, and went to pay part of the price of the new ones. There might have been a supply in the Tower that would have answered any emergency, had the system been adopted of buying the old ones from the colonels, and taking them into store.

7903. (*Col. French.*) Was not it rather an anomalous proceeding for the Government to furnish the arms, and the colonel to furnish the accoutrements?—Yes, it is one example of the error of the former system, and as such I alluded to it.

7904. (*Chairman.*) The material summing up of your observations is this, I think; "The measures taken since 1854 have in fact ended in the private getting clothing of nearly the same quality as sergeants without any increase of price"?—Yes, without any increased payment by the public; I think you will find this from what you have seen at Woolwich, and from what you may see at Colonel Hudson's establishment. The cost of the cloth which is nearly equal to what the sergeants formerly wore is not greater than what we paid under the old system.

7905. You say, "Four years ago none could be found to provide a tunic, even of the common army cloth of that day, for less than 1*l.*, whereas now several respectable houses have agreed to provide the same quality 50 per cent. better for a few pence less." Are you comparing the sergeants' clothing with the private's clothing?—Yes; just before I left this country to go to the Crimea, we inquired at several of the first-rate contractors for what price they would give a tunic of the new pattern of the ordinary quality of soldiers' cloth. The lowest price asked was 1*l.* Prices might be a little higher at that time than at present, but now we are able to get for less a coat of superior quality, which was precisely the result I anticipated, when I first made the calculation, and brought it under the notice of the Secretary of State.

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Mr. S. Isaac.

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Mr. SAMUEL ISAAC examined.

7906. (*Chairman.*) On the 30th of June last you had notice from Major-General Peel that your existing contracts were to be determined three months from that date in consequence of your having advanced a sum of 500*l.* to Mr. Elliott?—Just so.

(*The correspondence between Messrs. Isaac and the War Office was read. Vide Appendix No. 20.*)

7907. You gave before the Contracts' Committee a similar explanation to some extent of the circumstances connected with the loan?—I did.

7908. Was not the money lent on Saturday the 15th of May?—It was paid into the bank on that day.

7909. Were you at Weedon on that day?—I was at Weedon the day previous to that; the loan was solicited on the Friday.

7910. Did Mr. Elliott give you a memorandum?—He gave me an envelope, and in it the memorandum "Place 500*l.* to my account."

7911. That was at Weedon?—Yes.

7912. Did you take that memorandum with you to Northampton and send a cheque to the bank there?—Yes, the next morning.

7913. Have you the cheque?—Yes, I have it with me (*handing the cheque to the Chairman*).

7914. Heywoods, I suppose, are the London bankers of the Northampton Bank?—They are.

7915. What was the Northampton Bank?—The Union Bank of Northampton.

7916. The cheque passing through the bank in that way, you would not require any acknowledgment?—No; the cheque would speak for itself. The bankers have marked it on the back, and that would be our receipt.

7917. Have you the counterfoil?—I have not it with me—we have it in the book at home. I had no cheque book with me at the time. Whenever I leave town on matters of business, going to Manchester, Liverpool, or Birmingham, I always take four or five blank cheques from the cashier; he fills up the number, and when I return I tell him the amount of the cheque that I have appropriated. I have brought some other cheques to show that it is the practice of the house to fill up with numbers (*producing several cheques*).

7918. You say that it was on Friday that Mr. Elliott asked you for the money?—Yes; he asked me to pay it in that evening, but I arrived at Northampton too late, after bank hours, and the very first thing in the morning I enclosed that cheque to the bank with his memorandum.

7919. What took place when Mr. Elliott asked you for the loan?—He simply came out and said, "Will you pay 500*l.* to my credit to the bank at Northampton for two or three days." I replied simply, "I will, yes."

7920. Did Mr. Elliott say what he wanted the money for?—No, not a word.

7921. Had you ever lent him anything before?—No, he never asked me for anything in his life before.

7922. Were you aware at that time that he was leaving for Dublin?—He was on the books as the store-keeper of Dublin.

7923. Was not the "remain" taken at Weedon that very day?—The day previous, on the 14th.

7924. Was there any store at Dublin to which contractors sent supplies?—None.

7925. Was there any anticipation of such being the case?—None.

7926. (*Col. French.*) It would have been a delicate question to have asked Mr. Elliott what he wanted the 500*l.* for. Did not it surprise you that he should ask you for so large a sum of money and give no explanation?—No; he ran out of the door without his hat, and said, "Mr. Isaac, will you oblige me by paying 500*l.* to my credit at the bank." I was walking up the hill with two or three gentlemen. I said immediately, "I will." He ran back to his office and brought me out an envelope with its enclosure "Receive 500*l.* to my credit;" that was the whole transaction; it was done in a moment without

consideration. You must look at the circumstances; Mr. Elliott wanted the money to pay his wages that very moment, and I was the only person perhaps that he could ask, and without assistance at the very hour he was a ruined man; and it was there and then the thing was done.

7927. What did you suppose he wanted it for?—I could not tell. We had always heard of Mr. Elliott as being a man of high character, and never knew that he was embarrassed; the only parties who knew that he was in difficulty were the Government.

7928. (*Chairman.*) When you say that Mr. Elliott wanted the money to pay the wages with, do you know that from what has transpired subsequently?—Yes.

7929. He drew out 250*l.* for that purpose on the Monday?—He did on the 17th.

7930. When you say you were the only person he could ask for assistance, was no other contractor with you at the time?—No, I was the only person there; I was walking up the hill with some of the officials; Mr. Munro I think, was one of the gentlemen.

7931. You have put in the letter which you wrote, asking for repayment; have you the original?—That is the letter, and that is the enclosure (*producing a manifold letter book*).

7932. Do you carry this book about with you?—That is the book we kept at Northampton; we have a large factory there, and those are all letters relating to the business. This letter I wrote on the same day, remitting to Australia, to a son of mine, 10*l.*, and I have the boy's answer acknowledging the receipt of it. There is the enclosure showing the stock taking that day at Weedon.

7933. When did you expect to go back to London when you left London?—Not till Tuesday or Wednesday.

7934. This letter purports to have been written on Monday?—It was written on Sunday, the whole of these letters were written on Sunday, they were all dated on Monday although they were written on the Sunday. This book was telegraphed for from Northampton to show the Committee; and since that time it has never been returned to Northampton.

7935. Did you show this book to the Committee?—No, we were never called before them again on the subject.

7936. How many times were you examined before the Contracts' Committee?—I was only examined twice before the Committee; I was sent for, if you refer to the evidence, after Sir Benjamin Hawes came and stated this transaction, and I gave evidence upon the subject. I then claimed to be called before the Committee; I was called before them twice, but no reference was made at that time to the 500*l.*

7937. You were asked on the 6th of July, "Have you any explanation to give of the 500*l.* lent to Mr. Elliott," and you made a long statement?—I was never examined upon it. This was taken from a written statement.

7938. You read the statement which is in print; why did not you in that written statement put in the letter which you had written on the Sunday or Monday asking for repayment?—We did not at that time suppose for a moment that it was necessary: when we applied to be placed upon the list, then we were advised to send the full particulars.

7939. If you wrote it on the Sunday, that accounts for the expression in the letter, "I shall not be in town till next Tuesday;" but if you wrote it on the day it purports to bear date, why did not you say, "I shall be in town to-morrow?"—They were all written on Sunday. I was writing at the hotel almost all that day.

7940. Viscount Duncan asked you, "Did you ever ask him to repay the money?" The answer is printed here, "Yes, when he came to town." What did you mean by that?—I saw him after the Wednesday, when I returned to town, and I asked him for the money; he did not leave until the Friday following.

7941. You saw him in London; on what day?—It was the Thursday or Friday, I cannot tell which; but he appointed to meet me at Weedon the following day, the day he absconded, to go through my account with himself and Captain Gordon.

7942. Mr. Elliott left Weedon for London on Thursday the 20th, and was never at Weedon afterwards?—No, I believe not. I saw him on Thursday or Friday; he called at our warehouse, and stated that he would meet me at Weedon to go through the accounts. I asked him for the money, and I received the answer, "I will pay you in a day or two."

7943. I do not understand a question which the Chairman of the Committee asked you (Q. 6909, *Parl. Paper*, No. 328, 1858,) "Have you asked him since last Saturday week?" This was a question put on the 8th of June,—"last Saturday week" would be the 29th of May. Was not it perfectly well known that Mr. Elliott had not been seen since Friday the 21st?—I had not seen him after Friday the 21st; as a matter of course I could not have seen him.

7944. Then your answer, "I have not seen him," merely means since Saturday week?—I had not seen him from the 21st as a matter of course.

7945. When you saw him at your house, had you any reason to suppose that Mr. Elliott was at all in difficulties?—Not at all; not the slightest.

7946. Did he ask you for any more money?—No.

7947. (*Col. French.*) Looking at the circumstantial evidence I should be very much inclined to believe that the transaction is as you have stated it; but looking at the presumptive evidence, it appears to me an extraordinary thing that it did not strike a man of your acuteness in business that Mr. Elliott should ask you for such a sum without giving you some explanation. If a man were to come to me and ask me for 500*l.*, I should expect he would give me some explanation upon the subject?—I do not know. I have gone myself, when out in the city, into a warehouse, and said, "Will you lend me 500*l.* till I come into the city to-morrow or the next day," and the person has gone and written the cheque, and not taken even an I O U. I could instance one of the first houses in the city of London. Mr. Elliott was a man I had seen every week certainly for three or four years, never supposing him to be in difficulties. I never heard of it; and every gentleman in the public offices will tell you they never dreamt of it. I assure you that I had the very highest opinion of Mr. Elliott. I confess it was a very foolish act.

7948. (*Chairman.*) Do you know anything of Mr. Elliott's borrowing 350*l.* from Messrs. Cox?—Yes.

7949. Do you know when that was borrowed?—On Friday, the day he left London, he obtained it in gold from them.

7950. Do you know authentically what Mr. Elliott said to Messrs. Cox?—I know for a positive fact that he called upon Mr. Hammersley, the manager of Messrs. Cox's business, being a perfect stranger to Mr. Hammersley, gave his name as Elliott, and asked for change of a cheque upon a bank in Ireland, as he was pressed for money at the moment. Mr. Hammersley very kindly gave it to him. He went down stairs and changed it for gold, and they have never seen him since. The cheque he gave upon the bank in Ireland was upon the public account upon the "remain" that Captain Gordon had left to his credit.

7951. Could they have had any possible motive for lending the money, except good nature?—They never saw him before; and I assure you I had no other motive.

7952. (*Col. French.*) Have you ever made such loans under the same circumstances?—Never.

7953. (*Chairman.*) Do you retain the opinion that contractors cannot afford these losses?—Not if their contracts are taken upon the terms that mine have been.

7954. You stated, in answer to Mr. Jackson, that if you were to ask army contractors they would all tell you that none of them of late have made a profit; is that so?—I think so. I think I may say so with

great confidence. Mr. Dolan said in the room here, that he had lost by some of his contracts.

7955. He said also to you that he had lost by everything he had done?—He spoke to that effect.

7956. That being so, Mr. Turner, who is unfortunately absent, has been ruminating on these things, and he sends me up the result in the form of a question—"Is it not a surprising fact that notwithstanding all the losses, annoyances, indignities, and difficulties of all kinds which he" (that is you) "has to encounter, he is so pertinacious in his attempts to be placed upon the list of contractors?" If after all you are only to be on the list to be a loser, is it worth while to take this trouble?—I think as a mercantile man, character and position are very great things. I have been taken off that list, as I consider, very improperly, and I come to appeal to the Royal Commissioners in the hope that they will see through the case, and place me where I consider I should be.

7957. With reference to the observation that Mr. Dolan is a great loser, and you have been a great loser, I am not surprised that Mr. Turner's acuteness should suggest to him that it is very curious that you should think it of so much importance to be a Government contractor. Is it purely a matter of character?—It is character at the present moment and nothing else, I assure you.

7958. Were you in the habit of furnishing largely before the new system of open competition?—Very largely.

7959. Did you furnish direct to the colonels?—Direct to the colonels.

7960. I believe you are as strongly in favour of dealing directly with the regiments rather than the Government inspectors as any one can be?—I much prefer dealing with the regiments.

7961. Independently of the price paid?—The regiments have never paid more than the Government for their clothing or necessaries. The Government are paying at this moment from 3*l.* 3*s.* to 3*l.* 5*s.* for their kits, and none of the regiments ever paid more without competition. The regiments never clothed themselves, they were always clothed by the colonels, under an arrangement between the army agent and the clothiers.

7962. Do you mean to say that you did not get higher prices formerly, considering the value of the goods furnished, than you do now?—We did not supply clothing under the old system. We supplied kits and necessaries.

7963. You promised the Committee upon Contracts that you would furnish them with a plan with respect to clothing?—I have it all ready, and I shall be very proud to hand it over to you. (*See Appendix. No. 21.*)

7964. Do you concur in Messrs. Hebbert's plan?—I shall be happy to give you mine, and leave you to judge between them.

7965. Have you not a considerable amount of unsettled accounts still at Weedon?—Yes.

7966. Has any progress been made in the settlement of the accounts within the last two or three months?—The last month, I think, they have gone on much quicker. They are going through them, and settling them by degrees.

7967. What amount do you consider now to be due to you?—I should think from 7,000*l.* or 8,000*l.* at this moment.

7968. Has the discrepancy been cleared up as to which you made a representation about 1,500 pairs of boots?—They have traced that the boots arrived there, and the matter is now before the Director of Stores.

7969. You have the acknowledgment of their having received the boots; have you been paid for them?—Not yet.

7970. We rather gathered from our examination of the books at Weedon that you had several contracts running at the same time?—We had three or four running at the same time.

7971. One for kits in which boots were included, and another for boots only?—Two or three for boots only.

LONDON.

Mr. S. Isaac.

19 Nov. 1858.

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7972. Supposing you were under contract to deliver 2,000 pairs of boots monthly, and to deliver 2,000 kits monthly, the kits would comprise a pair of boots, therefore you would have to deliver 4,000 pairs of boots?—Yes.

7973. Did not you sometimes send in 4,000 pairs of boots, which would cover both the contracts, but without distinguishing to which contract they referred?—When we delivered the boots we always delivered them under a specific contract, and if there was an overplus in one contract and a deficiency under the other, we would ask them to transfer the surplus to the contract that was not complete. Still they had the number of boots, because, if we sent 7,000 pairs of boots and the contract for kits was in excess, and we were 2,000 under the contract 51, we will call it, they only had to transfer 2,000 to complete it; we should not send another inspection note in, because that would set them wrong altogether.

7974. As far as I can form an opinion I think you are rather to blame as well as the people at Weedon for not keeping strictly to particular contracts?—It is almost impossible, sending in as we did 8,000 pairs monthly. Many of them not being inspected for one, two, or three months, we did not know which contract was complete until we had the inspection notes back of those that were rejected; consequently we thought we were over in some contracts and under in others.

7975. You knew what your general contract obliged you to do and what your special contract obliged you to do,—namely, to deliver so many pairs of boots?—Just so.

7976. Could not you have divided the lots you sent in so as to show accurately to which contract each lot was applicable?—So we did: we can show our return from the period we commenced sending boots upon which contract we sent them; but we never knew upon which contract they rejected them, because they did not state the account to which they placed them.

7977. Could not they have done so with perfect ease if the delivery note on which that inspection note was founded, had specified accurately the particular contract under which the boots were delivered?—It always did on the top of the account, with the number of the contract.

7978. We have been told that the deliveries you made were changed from one contract to another?—I quite admit that under the contract for boots only, they were in excess, and the contract for kits was under; the kit contract would not be complete unless they had the whole of the boots.

7979. They ought not to have been in excess or under, because you ought to have sent what was required by your contract?—It was morally impossible, because in the many heavy inspections a great many boots were rejected.

7980. You have stated that one kit comprises some thirty-two articles?—Yes.

7981. Had you sub-contractors for each of those separate articles?—Nearly all of them.

7982. Did you send not complete kits, but so many brushes and so many razors from which the kits were to be made up?—Yes, as they were inspected.

7983. In such a case might there not be a deficiency of one article and a surplus of another?—Quite so; our report in the Appendix will show that they had a surplus over the payment on every occasion. (*See Parl. Paper, No. 398, 1858, Appendix No. 18, Page 192.*)

7984. Was that 500*l.* lent to Mr. Elliott the only transaction in money that you ever had with any one at Weedon?—The only one.

7985. Either with Mr. Elliott or any one else?—With no person either before or since.

7986. No inspectors?—No.

7987. No viewers?—No viewers.

7998. Have you reason to believe from anything that has ever been said to you that any one has ever given anything to an inspector or viewer at Weedon?

It has been stated to me by one gentleman; he said or he inferred that he had given something to an inspector.

7989. Who was that?—Mr. Wollen.

7990. When was it?—Really I cannot tell you the date; it was some time since.

7991. You say "he inferred;" do you mean he led you to believe that money had passed?—Yes.

7992. You inferred it from what he said?—I inferred it from what he said.

7993. What did he say?—It is a very long story. Mr. Wollen frequently called upon me upon matters of business, supplying us with various articles in his trade, and upon one occasion he remarked, "You have a number of rejections," and so forth. I said, "Yes, we have unfortunately;" it was merely a casual conversation. I said, "You had a lot of your serge rejected, a great deal of it;" "He said, 'Yes, he had a very large quantity,'" and I said, "Is it passed now?" he said, "Yes, it has been rejected, and they are passing it very well." I said, "You are a very lucky fellow." He merely said, "Yes, I went to Weedon upon several occasions, and I saw a party, indeed I saw Mr. Mallett. I did not see him in the village, but I met him out, and we had some conversation together, chatted, and so forth, and I have made it all right." And he further said, which fact he corroborated yesterday, I think, pretty conclusively, "If you are in a mess with your cloth, I am quite sure I can make it quite right for you." My reply was, that we had no cloth under examination, all our cloth had been passed, and there the matter ended. He moreover said in conversation, that the manufacturer of the serge called at Weedon on one occasion, and saw Mr. Mallett, and merely asked Mr. Mallett, "Had you some person from our house down here?" Mr. Wollen, who is a very shrewd, intelligent, clever man, said he really was quite surprised at the manner in which Mr. Mallett conducted himself. He told the manufacturer "there was a gentleman down here, but there are so many here at various times I do not know them all. I believe Mr. Wollen has been down here about the serge." The manufacturer went back to town and told Mr. Wollen, and Mr. Wollen made his explanation as a matter of course to the manufacturer.

7994. Do you know what the explanation was?—No. Mr. Wollen also informed me said that he had seen Mr. Mallett in London when he came up, and Mr. Wollen volunteered his services for me, if I required any help.

7995. Did Mr. Wollen say where he had seen Mr. Mallett in London?—I cannot say positively. I think he said at his own dwelling. I may be wrong.

7996. Was anything said about refreshments?—I think I may also tell you that they had a glass of brandy and water and a cigar together. I think as much as that was said. I paid no attention at the time, not taking any interest in the matter.

7997. Have you given us as nearly as possible the words that Mr. Wollen used?—As nearly as I can possibly. I took no note of the conversation, nor did I think of it.

7998. You say that Mr. Wollen made you understand, when he used the phrase, "all right," that money had passed?—I did understand it in that way. I could understand it in no other way.

7999. May not those words be used with perfect innocency, might they not mean, "I have explained the matter, and shown them that the objection is ill founded?"—It might be so.

8000. I wish to know as nearly as possible what the words were. Mr. Wollen is present, and, of course, will have an opportunity of giving his own version of the conversation; did you make any observation about the thing being all right?—No, there was no necessity for it.

8001. You might have expressed virtuous indignation—it is just possible?—I did not think there was any necessity for that on my part.

8002. Did Mr. Wollen ever furnish you with articles which you were to send in, and for the passing of which he made himself responsible to you?—No, we were under no contract with Mr. Wollen.

8003. Never?—Never.

8004. It is not serge, but rifle cloth and Oxford cloth. Look at Mr. Wollen's evidence?—(*The witness read the evidence.*) I have no recollection of it at all.

(*Mr. Wollen.*) I supplied Mr. Isaac with a great deal of cloth, and I understood that some of it went to Weedon. We sent him some rifle cloth that went to Weedon. We had 21 pieces of rifle cloth back from Weedon, and I know that we paid 3*l.* for the carriage.

(*Mr. Isaac.*) It was not at that period; it was a very long time ago. It was the early part of our contract; you will find by our contract when we supplied any green cloth.

(*Mr. Wollen.*) There was some red cloth also went to Weedon. I clearly understood that it went to Weedon. I have supplied them with a great deal of cloth.

(*Mr. Isaac.*) It is quite true with reference to the rifle cloth.

8005. (*Chairman.*) How did it come to pass that you believed from the expression, "I have made it all right," that there had been corruption. If such an expression were used by one of the Commissioners you would not suspect anything, I suppose?—Certainly not.

8006. What made you suspect that Mr. Wollen had passed money?—I should be very sorry to say that Mr. Wollen had passed money; but Mr. Wollen told me yesterday, that out of friendship to me he merely said that if I was in a mess with regard to cloth, he could make it quite right down at Weedon. I may be wrong.

8007. Mr. Wollen said, if you are in a mess with your cloth I can make it quite right—was that it?—Yes; that was the tenor of the conversation. I did not seek it from Mr. Wollen, it was voluntary on his part to serve me; but we had no cloth there.

8008. He said that he had made it right as to his own?—He had made it quite right as to this serge.

8009. Can not you tell by the tone and manner in which a man is speaking what he means?—I should be sorry to give an opinion as to the tone and manner.

8010. If you are telling a man that you have done

a thing *sub rosa*, you give him to understand that you have made it *all right*. But a man may mean by the words "I made it all right," merely "I satisfied them that the serge was good." Cannot you tell us a little more distinctly what took place?—I cannot. I have told you all that I know of the matter. I have given my impression.

8011. There is something in an impression sometimes—there is moral evidence in it. We want to get at the ground of the impression?—The impression merely was that Mr. Wollen had behaved generously to the inspector; that was my impression. If I am wrong I must say that I am sorry I should say so. Mr. Wollen told me yesterday very plainly, "I can only say, that in the course of 12 or 18 months I will tell you exactly what did take place." At the present moment, with this business going on, "I cannot." He called upon me yesterday morning, accidentally, I presume.

8012. Accidentally on purpose?—I have no idea why it should be on purpose; I can only say that Mr. Wollen did call yesterday morning, and I challenged him upon the original conversation. I read his evidence in the newspaper at Frankfort, and I was surprised at it; I said, "You were a very clever fellow if you could make the Commissioners believe that you managed your affair so well at Weedon,"—he then said, "You took it in a wrong light. In the course of twelve or eighteen months I will tell you what occurred really in fact."

8013. Did Mr. Wollen say to you that Mr. Mallett was a clever fellow, or that it was a strange thing that Mallett should not remember him?—Mr. Wollen was explaining to me what a very sharp shrewd fellow Mr. Mallett was that he could so conduct himself before the manufacturer by saying that there were a great many gentlemen came down to Weedon, and that he did not know them all; he had seen Mr. Wollen, and he had been down there about serge. He was leading me to suppose that Mr. Mallett was a very shrewd intelligent fellow, and that the manufacturer could scarcely tell that he had seen Mr. Wollen.

8014. You said something about Mr. Wollen not seeing Mr. Mallett at the store; did he tell you where he had seen him?—Mr. Wollen did not name that.

8015. You said that he told you negatively that he did not see him in the store?—Of course he must have seen him in the store, but he saw him somewhere else afterwards; he had met him out.

8016. Did he say what time of the day?—He did not mention that.

Mr. FREDERICK WOLLEN further examined.

8017. (*Chairman.*) You have been examined before?—Yes.

8018. Probably your evidence is fresh in your memory?—Yes.

8019. Do you adhere to all that you then said?—Yes; that is the truth.

8020. Nothing but the truth?—Nothing but the truth.

8021. And the whole truth?—Yes, with the exception of these little matters which Mr. Isaac has told you. You do not want me to tell you that. Mr. Isaac tells you a conversation which occurred between himself and myself I suppose 15 or 18 months ago, and I really do not know what I may have said; but as far as regards making the serge all right, it was done in a totally different way to what he supposes. I told you in my evidence, as you will see, that I had the whole of those goods back. I received 58 bales of serge, containing 40 pieces each, back from Weedon. After going there three or four times to endeavour to settle the matter with the inspector by pointing out where the serge was proper and where they were wrong, I received 58 bales back, and went through the whole of it piece by piece, packed them up, and sent them back again, with some fresh pieces, and nearly all were passed. I kept back 200 or 300 pieces. I

cannot tell the exact number, and those I sold in the trade.

8022. (*Col. French.*) Who inspected them on the second occasion when they were sent back?—I do not know who inspected them, but I suppose Mr. Mallett. He generally inspected the serges.

8023. (*Chairman.*) You went three times to Weedon, you say?—Three times or four, I do not know which.

8024. Might it be four?—I think three times. I might have gone four times.

8025. You mentioned that the first time you went was with twenty pieces that you had as samples?—Yes.

8026. They were passed?—The twenty pieces were passed.

8027. Did you bring them back again?—I left them there.

8028. Then you sent in a large quantity?—Yes, 3,000 pieces as nearly as possible.

8029. Were they all rejected?—No, they were nearly all passed; the order was divided into three portions, and it was the second portion that was rejected; that was about 3,000 pieces.

8030. Was not nearly the whole of the second portion rejected?—Yes, you may say the whole.

LONDON.

Mr. S. Isaac.

19 Nov. 1858.

Mr. F. Wollen.

LONDON.

Mr. F. Wollen.

19 Nov. 1858.

8031. You have already stated that you had a long correspondence with Mr. Howell, and he told you that he could do nothing in the matter?—It ended in that.

8032. And the second portion all came back from Weedon?—Yes. I went down to Weedon upon the matter, to see if I could do anything, and then in my own mind I adopted the plan of having them all back and going through them personally, throwing out the light ones, and sending the best in again. That is the fact; that is what I did.

8033. Those were passed as you have stated?—Yes, nearly all were passed. They were not all passed. I had some rejections afterwards.

8034. You have heard what Mr. Isaac has said; did you make it "*all right*"?—I made it right in the way I tell you, by very hard work, and paying an expense of 80*l.*, which I spent in having the goods finished, in carriage, and in insuring the goods; that is the only expense I was at.

8035. Did you make it all right in the sense in which Mr. Isaac seems to have understood you?—Certainly not. I think when gentlemen get together and talk about business, they are not so very strict as to what they say as they would be in this room. You may gather from a man that he means one thing when he really means quite the reverse. I do not think in the conversation which I had with Mr. Isaac I could have ever told him or led him to infer that I had given money.

8036. Or money's worth?—Or money's worth.

8037. Although Mr. Isaac lends money so easily he is not a fool?—No; I know Mr. Isaac very well, and I know that he is no fool.

8038. Does not a commercial man generally understand what another person is saying to him on such subjects as that?—I do not know what Mr. Isaac may have thought; he must think what he pleases.

8039. Did you say to Mr. Isaac, as he says you did, that if he had any contract, and could not get his things through, you could make it all right for him?—I had to go to Weedon at one time about my serge. I had understood that he had a great many goods rejected, and I asked him if I could do anything for him at Weedon. When I have been at Weedon, I have been asked my opinion of several cloths which were there, and I said, "possibly I may get to know what is the fault with your goods"; but I think he then said he had nothing at all there.

8040. Did you suggest that you could make it all right for him?—I should simply do it for him as a friend.

8041. Do what?—Speak about the goods.

8042. It was not your speaking, it was your labour of selection afterwards, by which, as you say, you made your own goods all right?—True.

8043. I do not understand how anything that you could do at Weedon could make it right for Mr. Isaac?—I do not know that I said so; I cannot tell that.

8044. Mr. Isaac says that you did?—It is 18 months ago, and I cannot repeat word for word all that I said.

8045. I do not want word for word. I ask you to answer this question as if you were upon your oath. Would you swear that you never directly or indirectly gave anything at Weedon to Mr. Mallett or any body else, in connexion with goods sent to Weedon?—Yes, I have said so before.

8046. Have you never spoken on this subject to Mr. Saul Isaac?—I do not remember any conversation with Mr. Saul Isaac; all the conversation I had I believe was with Mr. Samuel Isaac; I may have said a word or two to Mr. Saul Isaac, but I very seldom spoke to Mr. Saul Isaac; my business, generally speaking, was with Mr. Samuel Isaac.

8047. I do not see why you should talk so much to them about the matter of the rejection of your goods?—We were upon very friendly terms. I have supplied Messrs. Isaac with many thousand pounds worth of goods. I was frequently there, and we

talked over various little matters that might occur about themselves and other people. It is in that conversation I dare say he imagines that I have done something wrong.

8048. Mr. Isaac had the impression that you had done something; do you mean positively to say that that impression of his was altogether unfounded?—Yes; I mean to deny that impression being correct.

8049. I asked you before, owing to some information I had received, whether you had ever seen Mallett, except in the stores. Mr. Isaac seems to be under the impression that you told him you had seen Mallett elsewhere than in the stores?—I said in my former evidence I met him outside the gates; I think Mr. Mallett denies that. He says he thinks it must have been somebody else. I thought it was Mr. Mallett. I do not know him very well. I have not seen him anywhere else but in that place.

8050. There was a second conversation, in which you adverted to the fact that Mr. Mallett said he did not know you. Mr. Isaac is under the impression that you said to him that Mallett must be a clever fellow, because the manufacturer had been there, and asked Mallett whether he knew you. Mallett said he did not know you, or something, which gave the manufacturer the impression that he did not know you. It might be very wrong to deny an acquaintance, but why should there be any cleverness in it?—I do not see any cleverness in it.

8051. Did you use that phrase?—I do not remember.

8052. Why should you advert to the fact that Mallett was supposed to have denied having any acquaintance with you?—I do not think he could deny it altogether; he might have a slight acquaintance.

8053. Did you make the remark that Mallett was a clever fellow to pretend ignorance of you? That was the substance of what Mr. Isaac said?—I do not remember that I ever said he was a clever fellow for that.

8054. Why should you speak to Mr. Isaac about the manufacturer having been at Weedon and questioning Mallett?—I do not know.

8055. How did you learn that any manufacturer had been to Weedon, had seen Mallett, and asked Mallett if he knew you?—Because the manufacturer told me so.

8056. Who was he?—Mr. Knowles.

8057. Did he make the serge?—He made the cloth, not the serge.

8058. What did you say to Mr. Knowles when he told you that?—He said that he had been at Weedon about his goods, that he had seen Mr. Mallett, and he had asked Mr. Mallett whether he knew me. He said, "Yes, he did, but he had a very slight knowledge;" he seemed as if he knew but very little of me; I had seen Mr. Mallett but once or twice, once probably, therefore he did not know much of me.

8059. Did you say anything to Mr. Knowles, or to anybody, as you are represented to have said to Mr. Isaac, about Mallett being a clever fellow to affect ignorance of you?—I do not remember it.

8060. You must remember it if you said it?—If I had said so it would imply the meaning you seem to put upon it. I do not remember it.

8061. Has Mallett ever been at your house in town?—No.

8062. Or anywhere else?—I do not know that he has not been at our warehouse in London; he never saw me; I heard once that a gentleman called, and I had him described; I do not know who he could be but Mr. Mallett. He was described as a moustached gentleman.

8063. Did you ever drink with Mallett?—No.

8064. Or smoke with him?—No.

8065. Never?—Never.

8066. What did you mean by saying to Mr. Isaac that a year or two hence you would tell him everything?—Because he seemed to have got a wrong impression.

8067. Why did not you tell him at once?—Because I would not go into it yesterday; he wanted me to go into it, and I said, “I will tell you by-and-by;” there is really nothing particular to tell. I can tell you with regard to smoking at Weedon; I smoked and drank brandy and water with a gentleman not connected with the establishment, Mr. Graham, the packer.

8068. You do smoke?—Yes; not a great deal.

8069. And you drink brandy and water?—Yes; a Mr. How also was in the hotel with me.

8070. Where was it at Weedon?—At the “New Inn,” not the “Globe.”

8071. Did you sleep there?—Not at that time; I slept at the “Globe” on another occasion.

8072. Did you never meet Mallett anywhere out of the stores on any occasion?—No; that I would swear to, except at the gates, as before stated.

8073. Why should you mention a year or 18 months? I can understand your saying “by-and-by,” if you did not want to enter into a discussion?—I might have said “next year.”

8074. Why “next year”?—I did not want to enter into conversation; Mr. Isaac was in a hurry to be off.

8075. That might be a reason for putting it off till “to-morrow”?—I do not know why I should explain it to him.

8076. Why did you say “I will explain it 18 months hence”?—If he wanted to know anything about it, I would tell him by-and-by. He seemed to think all the smoking was with Mr. Mallett; it was no such thing.

8077. Why did you say to Mr. Isaac “I will tell you 18 months hence”?—I said something of the kind. I had no particular motive, any further than I wanted to get rid of the inquiry.

8078. Why did you go to Mr. Isaac?—In the course of business. I wanted an order from him.

Mr. SAUL ISAAC further examined.

8088. (*Chairman.*) You are the brother and partner of Mr. Samuel Isaac?—I am.

8089. Are you acquainted with Mr. Wollen?—I am.

8090. Have you ever had any conversation with him upon the subject which we have been examining him about?—I have.

8091. Do you remember the time?—I do not.

8092. Had you such conversation with him more than once?—I had two conversations with him.

8093. With reference to the particular question upon which we have been examining him?—Yes; about the rejection of the serges. I unhesitatingly say, that my firm conviction, from Mr. Wollen’s manner, and from the insinuations that he made, was that he had been drinking with Mr. Mallett, and that he had been smoking with Mr. Mallett. Mr. Mallett’s name was mentioned by him; not only that, but I firmly believe that he gave Mr. Mallett money.

8094. Do you say that you firmly believe that Mr. Wollen told you so, or gave you to understand it?—Decidedly, he gave me to understand it.

8095. Can you give the mode in which he did it?—I cannot; I took no particular notice at the time beyond being firmly impressed with the opinion that that was his meaning, and to such an extent that the first time I saw Mr. Wollen, after reading his examination before you in the paper, I challenged him boldly with having told either the Royal Commissioners or myself an untruth. Mr. Wollen is here, and he knows the conversation that took place in my office. I said “You certainly told an untruth either to the “Commissioners or to myself.”

8096. What did Mr. Wollen say to that?—He said I was under a misapprehension, I must greatly have misunderstood him. I told him I had not done so, that my brother and myself in after conversation had compared the remarks made by Mr. Wollen, and we both believed that Mr. Wollen had done what he cer-

8079. When did you get the notice to attend here?—When I went back, about one o’clock yesterday afternoon. I was very much surprised.

8080. Did not you know at the time you called upon Mr. Isaac yesterday morning that you were to be called here to-day?—Positively not.

8081. Did you know that Mr. Isaac was going to be examined?—He told me so yesterday.

8082. Did you know it before?—No.

8083. Did not you know that he had asked to be examined?—No; I had not seen Mr. Isaac for six weeks.

8084. Did not you learn through the papers or in any other way that he was going to be examined?—No, certainly not.

8085. Was not your going to his house yesterday a curious coincidence?—It was curious.

8086. Who first mentioned the subject of his examination?—Mr. Isaac.

(*Mr. Samuel Isaac.*) Yes, I think I said I was going before the Commissioners to be examined.

(*Mr. Wollen.*) When I got home I found this note from the Secretary of the Commission. I live at Clapham, and I sometimes go round westward before I go to the city, when I have business west.

8087. (*Chairman to Mr. Samuel Isaac.*) What time did Mr. Wollen call upon you?—Between 10 and half-past 10 in the morning.

(*Mr. Wollen.*) That note arrived in Wood-street. I went from Clapham to Westminster. I did not get into the city till 12 o’clock. It is very singular that I happened to call upon Mr. Isaac, but I declare positively I had no knowledge of Mr. Isaac coming up here till he told me yesterday. I do not read all the reports in the papers. I have plenty of business to attend to without that. I came here to-day in consequence of this note, at very great inconvenience, thinking there must be something. I am glad to answer any question which you may put to me.

LONDON.

Mr. F. Wollen.

19 Nov. 1858.

Mr. Saul Isaac.

tainly endeavoured to impress us with the idea that he had done. Mr. Wollen’s conversation with me was in my office, and with my brother in his office. I think on one occasion I went up to my brother’s office when he was there, and they were talking upon this matter. I could not tell you what was said, but if I had had the least idea that I should ever have been called upon to mention it, I should certainly have been more particular in taking a note of what occurred; but I was perfectly astonished to find that that evidence had been given by Mr. Wollen here. I had not mentioned it up to the time of that evidence being in print to any one.

8097. (*Chairman to Mr. Wollen.*) I asked you about a Mr. Webb when you were here before; do you know more than one Mr. Webb?—Only one; he is the only one living now of that family.

8098. Do you know anybody of the name of Webb in the lace trade?—I do not know Mr. Webb in the lace trade.

(*Chairman.*) There are three possible solutions; first, Mr. Isaac may be mistaken, and his brother may be mistaken; or, secondly, it may be true that there may have been bribery. There may be a third solution, that Mr. Wollen may have intended to convey that impression to you, and yet his story might be untrue.

(*Mr. Saul Isaac.*) It would take a very great deal to make me believe that I could have misconceived Mr. Wollen’s intention. I could not see the object of his telling me a circumstance of that kind that would be untrue. If it is, I am only sorry that I should have fallen under such an impression.

8099. Were you present yesterday morning when Mr. Wollen was speaking to your brother?—No; I was down in Kent yesterday.

8100. Was any sum, or anything of that sort, ever mentioned?—No.

8101. It was merely a general impression?—It was a general impression, but it was conveyed to me in so

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Mr. Saul Isaac.

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decided a tone that I have not a doubt in my own mind as to what had occurred. As I tell you, I made no mention of it to any one. I do not believe I mentioned it to a soul beyond my brother, and when I took up the "Times" newspaper, and saw Mr. Wollen's evidence, I immediately, without any hesitation, said to all who spoke to me upon the subject, "Mr. Wollen told me quite the reverse to what he has told the Commissioners."

(*Mr. Wollen.*) Told you quite the reverse? I never told you that I bribed anybody.

(*Mr. Saul Isaac.*) I think what you said was as plain as possible to that effect.

(*Mr. Wollen.*) You must draw your own inferences from any observations that I made.

8102. (*Chairman to Mr. Samuel Isaac.*) Did you communicate the substance, or what you conceived to be the substance of your conversation to anybody shortly after it took place?—Almost immediately.

8103. Who was that person?—Mr. Webb, the lace-man in Bond Street.

8104. (*Chairman to Mr. Wollen.*) I am sorry to appear to doubt the truth of anyone's statement, but if there be anything behind,—I do not say that there is,—I would exhort you, even at the eleventh hour, to make a clean breast of it?—Certainly; I would at any time. I cannot answer for what impressions my conversations may convey; I am not answerable for them.

8105. I think you are to some extent. If a man speaks so as to convey to an intelligent and acute man a certain impression, and not to one but to two, at different times, he is responsible for not using greater caution in making observations which affect the character of others?—I have not made observations that would affect the character of any man.

8106. You have made observations which have affected the character of another man; whether you intended to do so or not is another question, and two intelligent men at different times have been led to think that a Government officer has been guilty of receiving a bribe?—It is one and the same conversation. I simply deny that I ever smoked a cigar or pipe, or any tobacco with Mr. Mallett. I simply deny that I ever gave him any money or ever spent a day with him or an evening with him, and though some of my conversation has been rather free, say loose, and it has led to a good deal of mischief, I see, but so far as regards giving that answer, I have not the least hesitation about it, whatever may be thought of it.

8107. As a general rule, impressions are not evidence, but under the circumstances your own impression is evidence. Do you mean to pledge yourself that you do not believe directly or indirectly that any one at Weedon ever received a bribe so far as you know?—I have no knowledge of it.

8108. I go further in your case. Do you say that you do not believe any one ever received a bribe at Weedon?—I do not believe anybody did; I can say this as far as regards Mr. Isaac, in speaking of his conversation yesterday, he said he wished that he had an opportunity of doing it, and he probably would have done it.

(*Mr. Samuel Isaac.*) I said that Mr. Wollen was a very fortunate man, and very successful, and I was only sorry I did not follow his example; there was nothing behind the bush with me.

(*Mr. Wollen.*) That is the way loose observations are made to which no meaning at the moment is attached. Mr. Isaac and myself have been on friendly terms for a great many years—15 or 16 years.

8109. (*Chairman.*) When Mr. Isaac said that he was sorry he did not follow your example, what did you understand by that?—That was joking, fancying I had done it, which I certainly deny.

(*Mr. Samuel Isaac.*) I think I may say I told Mr. Wollen these words, and I think this pretty conclusively proves my impression. I said "Well, Mr. Wollen, you came here as a volunteer, to know if I had any cloth to get passed in the same manner as you got yours passed; if you did not mean to do me a good service you would not have offered it, but if you meant to deceive me, you must have had another object in view."

(*Mr. Wollen.*) I should have done it as a friend, hearing that you had a great many rejections.

(*Mr. Samuel Isaac.*) I assure you yesterday morning that that occurred really unsolicited by me, for one of my clerks, the cashier, was in the other room, and he heard the conversation. I said to Mr. Wollen pointedly, "Why not tell me now what did occur, why put it off 18 months?" His answer was just this, "It is no use telling you now, while this affair is all abroad; it is not worth while making bad friends with anybody; I will tell you in 18 months time."

(*Mr. Wollen.*) I meant I will tell you any time—by-and-by, twelve months hence—it was all done in a laughing, joking way.

(*Mr. Samuel Isaac.*) I am merely repeating conversation that took place at the moment.

(*Mr. Wollen.*) It will only prove to me that in any conversation I may have with you in future, I must be more circumspect; I must measure my words very nicely, if they are to be called for afterwards. I am sorry anything has taken place of the kind to lead you to suppose that I have bribed, or anything of the sort. I again say distinctly, that nothing of the kind occurred. I never saw Mr. Mallett but at Weedon, in the stores. It certainly will be a lesson to me in my conversations. I have been 40 years in business, and I have never had such a thing occur to me before. I never had a stain on my character, and this appears to leave a little one. How far it can be wiped off by the opinions of people I do not know. I can refer you to hundreds of people in the city for my character, and you will find it without a stain. People may infer what they please from observations that are loosely made.

(*Chairman.*) The stain, if any, upon your character, would consist in your not being perfectly candid now. Though bribery is very wrong, yet it is a trivial and venial offence compared with a man persisting in an untruth when he is pledged to tell the truth. The question is, whether you are telling the whole truth now.

Adjourned to Tuesday next at 12 o'clock.

WOOLWICH.

Tuesday, 23rd November 1858.

PRESENT :

Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH. | HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. PAUL HUBBARD examined.

WOOLWICH.

*Mr.
P. Hubbard.*

23 Nov. 1858.

8110. (*Chairman.*) What are you?—A flannel manufacturer.

8111. Where do you carry on business?—66, Wood-street, Cheapside.

8112. Is Mr. Frederick Wollen your partner?—Yes, my only partner.

8113. How long has he been your partner?—Four years come Christmas.

8114. Had you an equal interest with him in the supply of serge that you sent to Weedon?—The same interest.

8115. Did not Mr. Wollen manage that business?—Yes. It came more immediately within his province. We do not interfere with each other's department.

8116. Are the accounts of the firm open to the inspection of each partner?—Yes.

8117. Do you take as active a share in the general management of the business as Mr. Wollen does?—Yes, quite.

8118. Are you cognizant of all that takes place in the business?—Yes.

8119. If any outlay of money takes place must you know of it?—Undoubtedly.

8120. We hear that you contracted for the supply of about 10,000*l.* worth of serge?—One hundred thousand yards; it was between 8,000*l.* and 10,000*l.*, that was one transaction; I suppose you are confining yourself to this particular case, of the supply of 100,000 yards to Weedon; we supplied that lot to Weedon, and we had a great deal of trouble with it, as Mr. Wollen told you; eventually we completed the order and received the money without any fines. At the conclusion of that transaction the Government offered us a further order either for 20,000 or 30,000 yards, speaking from memory; I know I was at Cheltenham, and my partner wrote to me and said that the Government had offered us a further order for the same goods.

8121. Did you take that order?—Yes, and executed it; we had no further trouble with it.

8122. According to your knowledge and belief, was your partner, Mr. Wollen, at any expense excepting the trouble of having the goods backwards and forwards, inspecting them, and substituting one lot of goods for another, for the purpose of making matters smooth at Weedon?—Not a farthing.

8123. If we could administer an oath to you, are you prepared to swear that?—I am.

8124. Did Mr. Wollen ever say anything to you about his having been at Weedon?—Of course, when he went to Weedon it was a matter for consideration when he was to be spared. Ours is not a very large business; we have not a lot of people about us, and we are obliged to leave London as we can best spare time; therefore it would be under discussion which would be the best day for him to go, and so forth. With regard to expenses, I see he has debited to Weedon 1*l.* 5*s.*, or 1*l.* 2*s.*, or whatever it might have cost him—just his railway fare and dinner.

8125. Does Mr. Wollen keep a petty cash-book?—Yes.

8126. Have you an opportunity of inspecting that petty cash-book?—Yes.

8127. Have you looked at it?—Yes.

8128. For the purpose of refreshing your memory upon this point?—I did not. A thing of that sort we should put in the general cash-book, not in the petty cash-book.

8129. If there were a payment made, it might have been masked under other names. Can you undertake to say that you sincerely believe that nothing ever was paid in anyway by Mr. Wollen to anybody at Weedon?—Not in any form or shape or way, either in money or money's worth, or anything of the kind. Not so much as the worth of a pinch of snuff was given to anybody at Weedon; that I will swear.

8130. Did Mr. Wollen tell you whether he had seen any of the inspectors?—No; we never had any particular conversation about the matter. I might have said when he came back, "Well, how did you get on at Weedon?" and he might have said "It is a troublesome job,—we have got to have the goods back,—we must change them," and so on; nothing beyond that,—and perhaps he said, "I have instructed Graham to pack them and return them to London."

8131. Was Graham the packer of the rejected goods?—I do not know; I never was at Weedon but once; I went to get a pattern, and when I got there I found they did not know anything at all about it.

8132. Did Mr. Wollen tell you that he had seen Mr. Mallett?—No; I never heard of Mr. Mallett till the other day.

8133. Nor that he had seen any inspector?—No.

8134. Nor any inspector's wife?—No.

8135. If you heard anything of that kind you must remember it?—I never heard anything of the kind. You appear to have a strong impression, either from the manner in which Mr. Wollen answered the questions, or something, that the transaction is not quite straight; I assure you that it is.

8136. Will you pledge your entire belief that there was nothing approaching to corruption?—I will; not the slightest,—not a farthing.

8137. Mr. Wollen says, that that rejection cost you some 80*l.*; is that the case?—Perhaps I might as well explain that. I should say it was much more than 80*l.* out of our pocket; but the loss of the 80*l.* did not fall upon us, it fell upon our principal. We were simply agents in the matter, and we had no interest in bribing or anything of the kind. If the parties we employ undertake to make these goods, or rather, if we take a contract for them and they undertake to supply the goods, if they do not send them up properly that is no business of ours, and no loss to us.

8138. Who was the manufacturer in that case?—If Mr. Wollen did not tell you, would you excuse my answering that question? I do not mind giving it you privately on paper.

8139. What objection have you to giving the name?—The party's name was Shaw; he is a manufacturer in the country.

8140. (*Col. French.*) Was Mr. Shaw the loser of the expenses you have mentioned?—He would lose in that case. Of course, the expenses fell upon him.

8141. (*Chairman.*) Did the expenses fall upon him?—They did, undoubtedly.

8142. Every farthing of expense you were put to fell upon Mr. Shaw?—Yes; but I look upon the loss as a good deal more than 80*l.*; it took a great deal of Mr. Wollen's time when we were extremely busy, and he could very ill be spared.

8143. As the loss fell upon Mr. Shaw, did you furnish him with a bill of what you had so spent about the serge?—No doubt about it. If you would like to see it, I can produce that from our books.

8144. Can you show what you debited Mr. Shaw with in respect of that transaction?—Yes.

8145. Is there no item for "palm oil," or anything of that kind?—No.

8146. What made me press Mr. Wollen, perhaps, more than I should otherwise have done, was because Mr. Isaac represented that Mr. Wollen said to him, only on Thursday last, "I will tell you all about it a year or 18 months hence." Have you heard of that?—I saw it in the papers.

8147. Mr. Wollen could not explain what he meant by that; have you any idea what he meant?—I have no idea at all what he meant.

8148. Have you had any conversation with Mr. Wollen upon this subject since he was examined?—Yes.

8149. Have not you asked him what he meant?—He says, "The fact is I only wanted to get rid of the subject."

8150. Why should he want to get rid of the subject?—I cannot understand it.

8151. He began the subject with Mr. Isaac?—I was not aware of that.

8152. Why should Mr. Wollen wish to get rid of the subject, having introduced it to Mr. Isaac?—I cannot explain it at all. I do not know what induced him to say, "Oh! I will tell you in 12 or 18 months." He really had nothing to tell; that I am quite satisfied of.

8153. Have you any belief yourself upon the subject of bribery at Weedon?—My belief, in fact my conviction is, that there has never been anything of the kind done, not a penny.

8154. Nor tried at?—No; they did not even try it on.

WOOLWICH.

Mr.
P. Hubbard.

23 Nov. 1858.

WOOLWICH.

8155. Another thing Mr. Isaac said that Mr. Wollen said to him was, that if he had anything to pass at Weedon, he could make things right for him. Did you hear of Mr. Wollen having said that?—No; I did not see that.

8156. Mr. Isaac told us, that Mr. Wollen said to him, if he, Isaac, had anything to pass at Weedon, he, Wollen, could manage it for him, or words to that effect. Did you never hear that before?—No; I am quite sure he had no more power at Weedon than I had. We only required ordinary influence, and the goods were generally passed. I do not know why this particular lot was rejected which gave us so much trouble, because they had passed one or two lots of exactly the same goods before. We remonstrated

very strongly with Mr. Howell, and a good deal of correspondence took place upon the subject of this rejection.

8157. (*Col. French.*) Would you have countenanced such a thing as bribery?—Certainly not; let us stand upon our merits or fall;—that is the way.

8158. (*Chairman.*) Where does Mr. Wollen live?—At Clapham.

8159. Do you visit him?—No; I never was at his house in my life.

8160. Do you know whether he ever saw any Weedon inspector in London?—Not that I am aware of.

8161. Or at Clapham?—No; I never was at his house, nor he at mine.

Adjourned.

LONDON.

Tuesday, 7th December 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

LONDON.

Mr. P. Tait.

7 Dec. 1858.

Mr. PETER TAIT examined.

8162. (*Chairman.*) You are an army clothier?—Yes, that is one branch of my business.

8163. What other branches have you?—I am a general draper.

8164. You live at Limerick?—Yes.

8165. Have you been a contractor with the Government?—Yes.

8166. When did you first become a contractor?—About 1856; perhaps towards the end of 1855, since the war broke out with Russia.

8167. Did you ever furnish clothing under the old system?—To one regiment of militia.

8168. Never to the line?—No.

8169. What was the regiment of militia?—The Royal Limerick County Regiment.

8170. Have not you been somewhat fortunate in tendering under the new system of open competition?—Yes.

8171. What has been the extent, speaking generally?—I have supplied during the three years for the service of the line 120,000 suits of clothing in round numbers.

8172. Did you furnish the cloth in the first instance?—For this year's service I have; formerly the cloth was supplied from Weedon.

8173. Then your contract was to make up cloth?—Yes, and furnish the garniture and trimmings.

8174. Have all your supplies been the result of competition by tender?—Yes, all.

8175. Have you reason to know that your tender has been the lowest?—I have reason to know that it has not been the lowest tender in any of those instances in which I have supplied this large quantity of clothing.

8176. The general rule being that the lowest tender shall be accepted, how is it that you have been the person employed?—I have not been the only person employed. I believe the principle adopted is this, if the lowest tender is sent in by a respectable firm, they get the largest portion of the contract; then the next in price is taken, according to the respectability of the house that tenders.

8177. Have you tendered for larger quantities than your tender has been accepted for?—The quantity is not specified in tendering for line clothing; the price is given and the Director of Contracts allots to one person as many regiments as he thinks the price warrants him in doing.

8178. Do not you state how many you are prepared to take, because if that is not done you might have more apportioned to you than you could make?—We never got more than we were able to make.

8179. Do not you say, "I will make 10,000 or 20,000, whatever the number may be"?—No, not in all instances.

8180. I presume you have hardly had an opportunity personally of comparing the old system and the new one?—I have gone a good deal into the question. I have samples with me which I shall be happy to lay before the Commissioners, of the clothing supplied under the three different systems which have been in operation during the last six years. I have also calculations, as to which I shall be happy to afford any information in my power.

8181. Have you had opportunity, practically, of knowing the working of the old system?—No, not further than by statistics.

8182. Then your statement would be merely a matter of opinion as regards the past?—No it would not; I am a practical tradesman, and so far as cloth goes, I have specimens; I know what they cost, and I am in a position to state the facts of the case on those points.

8183. Do you use the sewing machine largely?—I do.

8184. Do you use the American machine or Thomas's?—Thomas's.

8185. Do you find that answer?—I do. I have samples of clothing which have been cut and made by steam power, which I am prepared to lay before you.

8186. You know the size rolls from information received from the Government?—Yes, and where the size roll is not supplied, I have a size roll, which I furnished to the Government, comprising about 45 different sizes for a regiment 1,000 strong. I have gone practically into the question, and measured several regiments.

8187. (*Mr. Turner.*) I think we heard from Colonel Horne that you rather objected to make the coats according to the size of the men, and adopted your regulation sizes, and expected the men to fit them?—That is not the fact.

8188. (*Chairman.*) Colonel Horne says that you furnished the 13th regiment, 2nd battalion, with a certain number of suits; that he suggested that the tunics should fit the men, but that you wished the

men should fit the tunics. Is it the fact that you objected to measure a man in the position that he placed him in?—I did not object to measure a man in the position that he placed him in, but I showed by my eye, that I disapproved entirely of the manner in which he wished the man measured.

8189. (*Mr. Turner.*) Tell us why you objected to measure the man as he stood?—I received a telegram from the War Office requesting that I would send some practical tradesman to Winchester to have an interview with Colonel Horne relative to the clothes, and instead of sending anybody I went to Winchester myself. When I got there, Colonel Horne was not in barracks, and I was delayed till the following day, when the regiment was paraded for my inspection. Colonel Horne stated what his views were with reference to the clothing, with which I entirely disagreed.

8190. What were his views?—In fitting a man he took hold of him by the two shoulders and expanded his chest, and he wished the cloth cut out of the back of the coat and put in the front of the coat. I told him that his notions were entirely absurd; as the mission which I had been commissioned to fulfil by the Secretary of State was a very important one, I would be very careful, in making my report, to state the principles upon which the clothing was cut for the general army.

8191. (*Chairman.*) What did you say to Colonel Horne?—I told him that the clothing was cut according to the pattern which had been approved after the measurement of several regiments, and had been found to answer well for the service, and had been approved by the War Office.

8192. (*Mr. Turner.*) Whether the clothing fitted the men or not?—The clothing fitted the men.

8193. Colonel Horne states that it did not fit the men?—He stated what is not correct.

8194. (*Col. French.*) Colonel Horne stated that the clothing did not meet by two or three inches across the chest?—That is not the case. If the clothing had been made according to Colonel Horne's plan, when the man got on his knapsack, or had his firelock on his shoulder, his coat would burst.

8195. A soldier has to go through extensive motions; if you put a man into a coat that is merely to button up, it may not fit him; you are aware that a soldier requires to use very great exertion?—That was all provided for in the patterns adopted by the War Office. I supplied other battalions, and evidence was given by Colonel Elmhirst the same day, which entirely disagreed with the evidence of Colonel Horne with reference to the same clothing.

8196. (*Chairman.*) Did Colonel Horne put the right men into the right coats?—Would you allow me to state that when the second battalion of the 13th was raised Colonel Horne did not command the regiment; there were 550 men in the regiment when Colonel Horne joined, and as soon as he joined he found fault with everything; the clothing had been passed by Colonel Faunce and Colonel Cathcart, and Colonel Horne disapproved of it. I made the clothing up in anticipation of the wants of the regiment.

8197. Did you make the clothing which had passed the inspection of Colonel Faunce and Colonel Cathcart?—Most unquestionably. (*See document following Question 7370.*)

8198. Colonel Faunce was commanding the regiment in February?—Yes, and Colonel Horne succeeded after the regiment was 550 strong, on the 20th of July; it was the very same clothing. I told Colonel Horne that I should make a report to the Secretary of State stating that I saw no ground to alter the patterns; that the clothing had not been made on defective principles, and at the very time I had an order for 280 suits, 42 suits of which he complained of and referred to in his evidence given on the 21st of October, as being inferior and bad. A few days after, namely, on the 25th of October, I went down to Winchester; and I have omitted to state, that

when I was at Winchester on the former occasion I found that Colonel Horne's master tailor had deserted, and there was no person there to fit the men. I then suggested to the War Office, in order to meet the requirements of the service, that if the buttons were forwarded to me I would have them placed on the tunics, and that when I visited London the next time I would assist in fitting the men. I went down to Winchester and I fitted 143 men in about two hours, and I found that the 42 tunics which the adjutant-general had ordered to be taken into wear also fitted.

8199. Those which Colonel Horne objected to, and which he was ordered by the Horse Guards to take into wear, did fit the men?—Yes; the tunics ought never to have been rejected.

8200. Colonel Horne says, that in the position in which the men would frequently have to stand, the coats would not meet by a couple of inches in the front. I understand you to attribute that to the fact that he threw the men's shoulders too much back?—He got behind the soldier and took him by the two shoulders and put him in a position in which it would be impossible for any man to walk, either with or without his knapsack.

8201. Do you think that your experience upon the subject is to be put in competition with that of Colonel Horne?—I will meet Colonel Horne or any other officer, and prove that the clothing was not cut on defective principles. I will prove that it was the proper cut, and well made and fit for any soldier to wear. When I got the order for making up the clothing for that battalion there was not a single soldier in the battalion. I received the order in the month of September, and I delivered the clothing in the December following. It was inspected by the Government, and on their certificate I was paid. I heard nothing about the clothing till twelve months after I got the certificate.

8202. When you send in clothing according to sizes, do you mark the size upon each coat?—Yes; there is a printed ticket with the tradesman's name and the size of the garment placed upon each coat.

8203. As you had not measured the men, and were making clothes in Limerick for men in Winchester, must it not be, to a certain extent, a chance whether the man upon whom the garment was put would fit it?—There is no difficulty in it whatever. We make 45 sizes for a regiment; we commence with 5 feet 4, and increase to six feet. For every height we make four different widths. When a regiment is 1,000 strong, there are from 50 to 100 suits always supplied in material to meet the requirements of men who are out of proportion, as frequently occurs.

8204. Have you anything more to say with regard to that interview with Colonel Horne?—When I had fitted the 143 men Colonel Horne wished to inspect them, but on account of the trouble I had had with Colonel Horne, I declined to inspect the men I had fitted unless two other field officers were present with himself. After some difficulty, Colonel Horne agreed to that, because I stated that I should not inspect the clothing with Colonel Horne only. He, therefore, appointed two other officers to inspect the men with himself. I requested that I should get a certificate stating what I had done at Winchester. I had been at an expense of about 30*l.* for nothing, and I thought it was only fair to me, as a tradesman, that I should get a certificate, and this is it:—"We certify that we have this day seen and inspected the 143 tunics supplied by Mr. Tait, army clothier, for the 2nd battalion of the 13th foot, fitted by him in our presence. We are perfectly satisfied with the make and fit, little or no alteration being required.

"Signed,

"ARTHUR HORNE, Lieutenant-Colonel.

"THOMAS FAUNCE, Brevet Lieut.-Col.

"A. M. CATHCART, Brevet Lieut.-Col."

That is dated the 26th of October, three or four days after Colonel Horne was examined. Those are some

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of the tunics which Colonel Horne stated in his evidence he had rejected for being bad and inferior.

8205. Colonel Horne complained of the misfit some months before?—The tunics are cut on precisely the same pattern for every regiment. Colonel Horne's complaint was that the clothing was cut on defective principles. This clothing was cut precisely by the same patterns, and if they were defective in one instance, they must of necessity have been defective in another. I should have been very sorry to cut up 20,000 suits of clothing upon the principles laid down by Colonel Horne.

8206. You say that the alteration of position that he suggested would have left too much cloth in front?—Yes; in fact no man that knew anything of his business would have made such a coat. If Colonel Horne had offered me 30s. a garment, which would be 10s. more than I am at present paid, I would not make them.

8207. Why not?—Because I would not have my character as a tradesman disgraced. I was not dependent upon Colonel Horne for any character. I am anxious to show you the different coats under the old system. It has been stated by many witnesses that there never was any cause of complaint under the old system, but I can show by samples that the new tunic is fully 3s. 6d. more valuable than the former tunic, for which the same price was paid. I have here the coats supplied under the off-reckoning system; then the tunic under the patronage of the colonels; and now the tunic supplied by public contract.

8208. (Mr. Turner.) Where did you get the specimen of the coatee made under the off-reckoning system?—At the War Office. I applied to them to allow me to have a coatee out of store, which they did.

8209. (Chairman.) When?—As soon as I communicated with the Commissioners. That is the coatee supplied under the off-reckonings (*producing a coatee*). I must observe, however, that this is a militia coatee, but it is just the same cloth as was cut for the line. There is the garment supplied when the colonel had the patronage, and gave the orders to his own tradesman; that the country paid 1l. for (*producing a tunic*). This is the garment which I am now supplying under my present contract for 19s. 9d. The whole of the coat is cut and made by steam power. The buttons are supplied by Government. The real cost of that tunic to the country is 20s. 5½d. My price is 19s. 9d. The buttons cost 6½d., and the regimental tailor is allowed 2d. for sewing them on.

8210. (Chairman.) Did you furnish any clothing to colonels before March 1857?—I supplied a militia regiment.

8211. How did it come to pass that there was such an enormous difference in price between the double-breasted tunic and the old coatee, both being made of the same cloth?—Because there is more cloth, and more facings.

8212. There is an enormous difference apparently charged?—I believe the price charged for the coatee during the war was 14s. 10d.

8213. Is there more or less cloth in the improved single-breasted tunic?—There is a little less cloth and a little less facing; but the real difference in value between those two garments is about 3s. 6d., so that there is a saving of 3s. 6d.

8214. Do you mean to say that you could get the old cloth at 3s. cheaper?—Yes, the cloth could be supplied at 3s. cheaper than that.

8215. Would you undertake to do it?—Certainly.

8216. You now supply a tunic at how much?—19s. 9d. is my price, but the real cost of the garment is 20s. 5½d.

8217. (Mr. Turner.) Is this cloth furnished by yourself?—Yes.

8218. How do you test the strength of it?—There is Hebdon's testing machine, but I do not use it. I trust more to the character of the manufacturers I

employ. I pay the highest price that is paid in the market, and go to a respectable house.

8219. (Chairman.) From whom do you get your cloth?—From Joshua Ellis and Sons, of Dewsbury.

8220. (Col. French.) Have you always resided at Limerick?—No, I am an Irishman by adoption, but not by birth. I am a native of the Shetland Islands myself. This is a serge frock supplied this year for India, and is supplied for 7s.

8221. (Chairman.) Can you compare it with anything equivalent to it?—This is supplied in lieu of shell-jackets. Regiments in India have a tunic one year, and a shell-jacket the other. This serge frock is a cheaper article, and far more comfortable. (*The witness produced several pairs of trousers, and a tunic rejected by Colonel Horne at Winchester.*)

8222. How much a yard do you pay for your cloth?—I pay for drummers' red, 8s. 3d.; for sergeants' scarlet, as sergeants are very particular, I am supplying a superior article that costs me 10s. 3d. a yard.

8223. (Mr. Turner.) You say that you employ machinery; can you make all the parts of a coat by machinery?—That coat is entirely made by machinery, with the exception of the buttonholes and sewing on the buttons.

8224. An objection has been raised by many other clothiers that sewing machinery is not applicable to many operations, though it may be useful in light descriptions of work?—All I have to say is, that I have proved machinery to be perfect. I have gone to a great deal of trouble with it, and I have now brought it to a great state of perfection. I can conduct many branches of business with it. I have a garment here which I believe could not be made as well by hand (*producing a quartermaster-sergeant's tunic*). That badge is put on by steam power, and every stitch, except the buttons and buttonholes, is done by steam power.

8225. (Col. French.) How long would it take, cutting out and all?—There are only four staff sergeants in a regiment; ordinary clothing we make at the rate of 4,000 a week. I am at present able to supply the whole of the British army with clothing; I have only been in the trade three years.

8226. (Mr. Turner.) You have been very candid as to the price of your cloth, perhaps you will have no objection to state what is the saving between steam power and sewing machinery applied to the making of a coat of this kind and hand work?—This quartermaster-sergeant's coat is made very much superior to what a quartermaster-sergeant would be entitled to have it made if it were made by hand; that is the way I find machinery turn to advantage. The price paid for soldiers' clothing is not at all sufficient to have the clothing made properly. I was anxious to make this statement before you, that I am able to make the clothing far better for the same price by introducing machinery, and at the same time to raise the wages of my workpeople.

8227. What would be the difference of cost to you, between making this staff-sergeant's coat by machinery and making it by hand sewing?—The difference in that garment would be about 2s. in favour of machinery, besides the superior workmanship. The price of that coat is 3l. 5s.

8228. Then there is a saving of something like 3 per cent. in the workmanship?—The saving would be 3 per cent. on the workmanship.

8229. Besides giving a much superior article?—Yes; I made these three garments specially for the Commissioners' inspection, and I have no objection to have them inspected by any tradesman in London if I am present. We have to thank Sir Thomas Troubridge for machine sewing being brought to perfection for army clothing. When it was first introduced the master tailors and colonels reported against the machine sewing. I bought a sewing machine, and I was so perfectly satisfied with the superiority of the sewing that I took it to the War Office and worked it before Sir T. Troubridge, and he was perfectly satisfied that

the sewing was sound and good. I first of all took pains to ascertain the perfection of the sewing machine. Early in 1856 I bought one, fastened it up in my own study and took it all to pieces, and I was satisfied that the machine sewing was better than hand sewing. There is one machine by which if one stitch is cut the work will all run, but in Thomas's machine the stitch is perfectly the same on both sides. You will see that the sewing on that tunic on one side is green and the other side is scarlet; that is done at the same time with the same needle.

8230. (*Chairman.*) Are we to understand you to say that you have machine power by which you could clothe the British army?—If the Government will give me an order I can clothe the whole of the British army.

8231. How many suits could you make in a year?—I calculate for about 250,000 suits. If the Government were ever in an emergency, whether I am in the army trade or not, by steam power I then could supply them with 10,000 suits a week.

8232. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you had an opportunity of looking at the prices quoted as the cost of the artillery clothing?—I have. I went down to Woolwich to see the establishment there.

8233. The parties there rather impressed the Commissioners with the opinion that there was a good deal in what they said, and that they were making very excellent garments, of a better quality and cheaper than they had previously been supplied for the artillery?—That is quite the fact.

8234. But the prices for artillery clothing were formerly very high. I understood that the contractor had a very excellent price for them, and therefore, perhaps, it is not a fair comparison; we asked several of the clothiers, Mr. Dolan particularly, and he pledged himself to produce an article equal to that made at Woolwich, and that he would contract for any quantity at the price which they professed to make them for. Have you had any opportunity of judging about that?—Yes.

8235. Would you take a contract at the price they state to be their cost price?—Certainly.

8236. Would you be glad to have a contract at that price?—I would not be glad to have the contract; the price would not be such as to give a large profit; the profit would be exceedingly small; but it could be done at the same price. They are doing their business very well at Woolwich. I was quite surprised to see the way they are turning out the tunics.

8237. They turn the machinery by the feet of the workpeople?—That is only for trousers and for cap covers. I believe no person has attempted to use the machine in making tunics with the exception of myself.

8238. (*Chairman.*) Did you never hear of the London army clothiers making use of machinery?—I did; but my impression is that they did not know how to use it, and it turned out a failure. Mr. Dolan, I know, had Thomas's machine. I recollect Mr. Thomas telling me that he had been with him on two or three occasions; but they could not get on with them somehow or another; and I should have had a difficulty in getting on with them, only I made myself practically acquainted with them, and could work them myself.

8239. Do you know any other London army clothier who has had sewing machines?—I understood that Messrs. Hebbert had them. I believe Mr. Bischoff stated so, and he found them not to answer.

8240. Do you attribute that to their not knowing how to set to work?—Most certainly; it is a good thing for the country that we have more persevering tradesmen to supply our army now.

8241. (*Col. French.*) Does not the use of the sewing machine throw a great many people out of work?—No. I employ about 1,000 people, and I am enabled to pay them superior wages. I employ no man at lower wages than a guinea a week. I pay about 30 per cent. more than is paid in London for labour. I will give you an instance in which the introduction

of machinery has been of great advantage to the public service: I received by telegraph an order from the War Office on Monday evening, the 22nd of May, for 800 suits. On receiving that telegram I imagined that unfavourable news had been received from India; the telegram stated that haste was of the greatest importance. I had not all the materials in stock, and I was obliged to telegraph to England for a portion of the supply, and request that I should have the materials by express train. I had my people in attendance and we worked all night, and on Friday morning at 11 o'clock I forwarded 800 suits complete by express train to London.

8242. (*Chairman.*) Could you have done that without machinery?—No. Perhaps I may be permitted to read a certificate that I have received from Lieut.-Col. Maude:—"I certify that Mr. Tait, of Limerick, has supplied the 2nd battalion, 3d foot, during its formation, with a considerable number of free kits, and the articles comprising them have been found, on close examination by the Board of Officers, to be very good. The promptitude with which Mr. Tait executes an order, owing in a great measure to his extensive sewing machinery, added to his own business-like habits, cannot fail to gain for him extensive patronage. I gave Mr. Tait an order for 100 free kits, and the next evening he supplied me with the greater part of all the articles, some of which, the trousers for instance, had been made up by him on that day; he seems to be a very enterprising respectable contractor, and as such I trust to hear of his success. W. F. Maude, Lieutenant-colonel, Limerick, 16th November 1857."

8243. Did not you send 200 forage caps to the 2nd battalion of the 13th regiment?—Yes; I shall be very glad to state the whole circumstances. I received an order on the 3rd of May for 200 forage caps, and I sent in error blue caps for green, not knowing that the 13th was a light infantry regiment. When I arrived in London soon after, I ascertained that the caps had been sent in wrong. I went into the City to the agent of one of the Kilmarnock houses, and asked to see their best rifle green caps. They showed me a dozen. I opened a parcel and took out two caps. I stated that I could not give any order till I ascertained whether the caps were equal to the sealed pattern at the board. I submitted them to Sir Thomas Troubridge. The caps were approved and sealed, and I sent down 200 green caps to replace the blue ones. Those green caps were rejected, but previously to my hearing that the caps were rejected I received an order for a second supply of 200. Those I forwarded immediately to Winchester. A correspondence ensued with the War Office, the adjutant-general, and myself, making a delay of three months, and the caps were ultimately returned to Limerick. When they came to Limerick I compared them with the second sealed pattern, and on examination I found they were equal in every respect to the sealed pattern. I re-packed the caps and returned them to Winchester, and they were received by the regiment and approved of.

8244. They were returned to you in August, were not they?—Yes; they were received at Winchester about the 1st of September. That was three months from sending the first green caps, till the caps were issued.

8245. Were they received by the same regiment?—By Colonel Horne; Colonel Horne did not know anything about it, he did not know that I returned him the precise caps that he rejected. I was not fool enough to tell him that.

8246. And he passed them?—Yes, because he was no judge of them. I dispute Colonel Horne's judgment very much. The mistake of sending blue for green arose because I was not aware that the 13th was a light infantry regiment. I had an order for kits for 2,000 men, all of which wore blue caps, and I supplied this regiment with blue as well as the other regiments.

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8247. You had an order for kits, shell-jackets, and various things, do you remember when you received that order?—I have all the particulars here of every article that I supplied Colonel Horne with, and with the exception of those caps, which were ultimately approved of, all my supplies were received; that is the date of the order, the date of the execution, and the particulars of the free kits that I received for Colonel Horne's regiment (*handing in a paper*).

8248. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have given us some valuable information with regard to your enterprise as a commercial man, and the perfection to which you have carried manufacturing by machinery; do you think that it is possible for any Government establishment to manufacture clothing so as to contend successfully against an enterprising man, who is engaged in the business himself?—I do not; I think if the Government manufactured their own clothing, it would give rise to many grave objections; supposing they had establishments sufficiently large, and machinery in sufficient perfection, they would be more or less dependent upon tailors; and if it was all confined to one trade, the trade could do just precisely as they liked. I think it is not a bad plan to have a small establishment if they wish to ascertain the net cost of every article. They have an opportunity of doing that; they have an opportunity of knowing how soon or how long it will take to execute an order of a certain magnitude.

8249. You think that for the bulk of the supply of army clothing it would be much wiser for the Government to trust to the commercial and manufacturing enterprise of the country, than to attempt to manufacture the whole of the clothing themselves?—That is my decided opinion. I believe, however, that clothing supplied by public contract is the true principle.

8250. (*Chairman.*) Why do you think so?—Because competition is the life of business. If there is competition and the enterprise of Great Britain is brought to bear upon one particular branch of trade, it ought to be done pretty perfect.

8251. Would you have competition as to quality or price?—As to price; I have read the paper put in by Messrs. Hebbert with reference to that subject, and I entirely disagree with it; that is, competition for quality instead of price. I think that plan would be a very difficult one to carry out; in the first place it could not obtain uniformity of pattern; if the War Office had in their pattern-room a perfect set of patterns, then competition is of no use. If we are anxious to give a good garment to the soldier, let us give it at a fair price; for instance, Col. Horne and myself had great difference of opinion respecting clothing. Supposing the 2nd battalion of the 9th foot were lying at Winchester, and that regiment was clothed by Messrs. Hebbert; they do not much like me to be in the army trade, and they might say, "We can afford to throw away 100*l.* here to get Tait put out of this trade; we can order cloth of a superior quality, and get a superior make, so as to supply that regiment with clothing much superior to the pattern." Very well, when Messrs. Hebbert's clothing is inspected by the general commanding in the district, it can be easily brought to the general's notice, that I am paid the prices that Messrs. Hebbert are paid, and that Messrs. Hebbert have supplied the soldiers with a very much superior garment; and, of course, there would be a report sent to His Royal Highness to that effect. It does away at once with competition; there is no competition at all, as in an ordinary commercial transaction. When anything is introduced in the silk or any other trade, the price is brought down by competition, as I know from being engaged in general business.

8252. I do not think Messrs. Hebbert's memorandum suggested that because one supply might be a little better than another, the contractors should be dismissed at the next contract?—Certainly not; if the colonel had the choosing, or if the commander-

in-chief represented to the Secretary of State for War, that one regiment had been clothed much superior to another, and that Messrs. Hebbert were willing to supply the one regiment precisely the same as they had done the other, of course, the Government would be bound to accept the offer.

8253. Are you not assuming that the contract is annual? Would you have annual contracts or triennial?—Triennial would be the best.

8254. Then the suggestion that you made of Messrs. Hebbert throwing away 100*l.* must be carried out for three years?—No; for the Government have the power to terminate the contract, if satisfaction is not given.

8255. (*Col. French.*) If triennial contracts were carried out, would you take care to have such a supply of cloth on hand that you could meet a great emergency if it arose?—Most certainly. I have suggested to the Government that they ought to extend the contracts longer, and I believe the next contracts will be for two years. The tradesmen, from not knowing whether they will receive a contract next year, are not able to hold a sufficient supply to meet urgent demands. There has been a good deal said in reference to delay in issuing clothing; I am now under contract for clothing for next year, and I have sent the clothing for 26 regiments complete to Mark-lane.

8256. (*Chairman.*) Where are those regiments?—At home. My foreign clothing is shipped. I think the clothing for the Indian regiments was delivered about the end of September or October.

8257. Would that clothing be packed by Messrs. Hayter and Howell?—Yes.

8258. Mr. Hayter stated, on the 7th October, that he did not think that any of the clothing was then delivered complete for packing?—Our clothing for the Indian regiments is paid for. I have had the money for the 15 regiments that I supplied for India.

8259. When did you get the money?—About a fortnight ago.

8260. We have heard that the clothing ought to start nine or ten months before it is taken into wear?—Yes; under the new form proposed for the next contract, the clothing is to be delivered at certain periods for different stations, which will do away with the difficulty which has arisen, for the Indian clothing must be completed by the contractor in the month of March.

8261. When did you enter into your contract for the supply of clothing for the Indian regiments?—Not till towards the end of May. The red serge frock being introduced, and this being the first year of its introduction, a difficulty arose which would not arise in subsequent years; the article had entirely to be manufactured. No person held a stock of that precise article. A similar article was very much used in the China trade, but not quite so good as that required for the army. The difficulty arose in getting the serge manufactured, and in the dyeing.

8262. Which system, in your opinion, would be the most beneficial, assuming competition for price, to leave the colonels or the Government to fix upon the persons who should execute the contracts?—Most certainly the Government.

8263. Why?—Because I find in this book (*Parl. Paper, No. 269, 1857, Appendix No. 9, page 638,*) that one house, Messrs. Hebbert's, got 110 regiments and depôts; and if the thing went back to the colonels, it would be in the same way through interest. I believe if the thing was back in the hands of the colonels, I should not get a single regiment to supply, but I have no objection to the system on that ground.

8264. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would it not be to the interest of the colonel to have good clothing for his regiment?—I do not say that Messrs. Hebbert would not supply as good clothing as I would. The difficulty, that arose during the Crimean war was in consequence of the army clothing trade being confined to a few houses. The business was most lucrative; almost every one engaged in it had made

large sums of money, and of course, as is natural, they are anxious that the clothing should return to the same channel; but if we want the country to save money, and the soldiers to get good clothing, public contract is quite the thing in my opinion.

8265. (*Col. French.*) Do not you think you are arguing in your own favour? You having established your connexion may get a good portion of the regiments yourself?—I have no more chance than any one else. The Government can do without me as well as any other tradesman. I believe the Government are the trustees of the public money, and whoever will supply them with the best and cheapest article has a right to the business. I have laid out 4,000*l.* on machinery, although I have no claim upon the Government.

8266. (*Mr. Turner.*) With reference to the subject of the inspection of these garments, have you any observations to make? Have you had any cause of complaint of the way in which your garments were treated?—I believe I differ in opinion entirely from almost every other tradesman upon that subject. The inspection is very rigid; but when I look at the Government inspection, compared with that in ordinary commercial transactions, I find it is entirely a different thing. The viewers who inspect the clothing cannot be allowed any latitude. They may on the one hand do me an injury, or they may do the public service a very great injury. When I am called upon to tender I am instructed by the Director of Contracts to make an inspection of the specifications and patterns. If I do that, and am anxious to supply the precise article I tender for, I have no cause to complain.

8267. In your experience have you not met with an inordinate number of rejections?—I have had rejections, but I have never had rejections for the quality of the material. I have supplied, if not a superior article, always the same as the pattern.

8268. Did not you complain of Colonel Horne's rejections?—He did not make any rejection; the clothing had been passed, and I had been paid for the garments. I only went to Winchester as a matter of compliment; I was called upon to go to Winchester and make a report upon a certain subject.

8269. Do you think that Colonel Horne was unreasonable in his criticisms upon your garments?—I think he was most absurd.

8270. Have you any reason to think that there has been the same absurdity displayed by the Government inspectors?—No; I have had no cause of complaint, as I have stated already. The inspection is very severe; but only such as will warrant the soldier getting proper garments. I cannot make any complaint of the inspection.

8271. Have garments been returned to you for trivial causes?—They have been returned for small things, such as stitches being wrong.

8272. Those defects you could repair and send the things back, as you did the caps to Colonel Horne?—That always has been the case; they have put a chalk mark to denote the defects, which I have remedied and returned the garments.

8273. Is it the fact that you have not had to retain in your establishment any number of garments that have been rejected?—I have not a single garment. I am able at this moment to go out of the army trade without any difficulty. When I have completed my present engagements, I shall not have 50*l.* worth of Government articles in my possession. I have not a garment of any description.

8274. (*Chairman.*) What do you do with the rejections?—I never have had them. I have remedied the objections.

8275. Then I presume you would see no advantage in an appeal from the decision of the inspector?—There are great difficulties connected with the question of appeal. The question was raised the other day, at a conference of tradesmen, at the War Office, upon the subject. The present system is, that supposing I have a difference of opinion with the inspector, I make a report to the War Office upon that

subject; my letter or my report is referred by the War Office, and probably the same inspector reports; however, to obviate that, the Government are quite sensible that a practical tradesman, connected with the department, should look into it to see that no rejection is made, unless upon serious and real grounds. On that statement we are perfectly satisfied; I am perfectly satisfied to tender on those conditions. The conditions of the contract are very binding; we are obliged to give sureties.

8276. You are content that the referee should be a person in the department?—Yes, different from the person who had already inspected the clothing.

8277. Would that be better than giving a contractor with the Government the same right which every man has at common law, if he says that his contract has been fulfilled, and another man says it has not?—We have to bear in mind that the Government tender for 20,000 different articles, and if a clause to that effect was put into the contract there would be no end of appealing. My decided opinion is, that the complaints that we have had would never have been made if tradesmen tendering had determined on supplying the article they tendered for; I believe they have not supplied the right articles; they have gone in at a low price calculating upon supplying an inferior article.

8278. Supposing there were a power of reference, such as that which you say the trade are now content to accept, to a practical man connected with the department, not the same inspector who previously rejected the goods; would that be better, in your estimation, than allowing a man to have as against the Government the ordinary legal remedy which he would have as against an individual?—Yes, I think it is better on account of the questions that would arise. In tendering with the Government we are quite satisfied that we shall get our money, and from an experience of three years, I believe that vexatious rejections will not be made. There are some trifling things which we might account vexatious, but when we make the contract we decidedly state that we will supply the precise article. We see the specification and the patterns before tendering, and I do not think we have any reason to grumble.

8279. As you have no establishment in London, of course you have all the extra expense of transit from Limerick. That must be paid for somehow or other?—I pay for it; the clothing must be delivered free in London.

8280. Do you find the distance any material objection?—I find that I pay a very large sum annually to the railway company, which I would save if I were in London.

8281. Have you not other advantages?—I have no advantage; I pay more for my labour in Limerick than the clothiers do in London.

8282. You have handed in the prices that you paid, as compared with the prices of Messrs. Dolan and Messrs. Hebbert and Co. (as stated in Mr. Shaw's pamphlet), for making up clothing for the Indian army for 1857?—Yes; I executed a portion of the contract referred to on that paper with Messrs. Dolan and Messrs. Hebbert.

8283. For a sergeant's jacket they paid 1*s.*, you paid 1*s.* 6*d.*; for a private's jacket they paid 10*d.*, you paid 1*s.*; for sergeant's trousers they paid 8*d.*, you paid 10*d.*; for private's trousers they paid 7*d.*, you paid 10*d.*?—The reason I put down those prices is because I saw the question was raised with respect to labour.

8284. (*Col. French.*) Was not your clothing made by machinery?—Those that I have produced were made by machinery; if you refer to that precise contract, the clothing for India for 1857, it was made by hand.

8285. I suppose you pay according to the number that the workpeople make?—Yes.

8286. (*Chairman.*) Is there not now an inspection by a regimental board besides the Government inspection?—Yes.

LONDON.

Mr. P. Tait.

7 Dec. 1858.

LONDON.

Mr. P. Tait.

7 Dec. 1858.

8287. What is your opinion of that?—My opinion is, that if regimental boards are conducted on the same principle that I saw that conducted at Winchester, by Lieutenant-colonel Horne, they are a complete farce. I should be sorry to think that such is the case. I have come in contact with several officers who understand clothing practically, and who are very anxious to meet the views of the tradesmen, and receive any suggestion that may be made. But my opinion is, that there should be no regimental inspection further than this,—when the clothing arrives at the regiment and is unpacked, unless it is damaged by transit or in anyway spoilt in the packing, there should be no appeal. The Government have now appointed two military inspectors in addition to the civilian inspectors, and I believe that those gentlemen are fully competent to judge of the supply, and I think there it ought to end.

8288. (*Col. French.*) What was the rank of the officers who sat upon that board at Winchester?—Three lieutenant-colonels. Colonel Horne was the board himself; that is the precise way to say it.

8289. (*Chairman.*) What were the articles?—The tunics I have referred to.

8290. (*Col. French.*) Did they bring in the master tailor?—Yes, he had got a new master tailor then on approbation.

8291. Was the quartermaster there?—Yes, the quartermaster was there, but he was not asked his opinion, nor did he give any opinion.

8292. Nor any of the sergeants?—No; Colonel Horne asked no opinion.

8293. (*Chairman.*) Do you wish to make any other statement to the Commissioners?—The first year the clothing was to be supplied by the Government was April 1857. Sir Thomas Troubridge was then Director-General of Army Clothing, and he went very practically into the question. When that supply was made, the cut of the tunic was altered from the former tunic to a single-breasted. I had a portion of that supply to make, but when the clothing was made, Sir Thomas Troubridge and Mr. Ramsay being deeply interested in the matter, and very anxious that the clothing should be made complete, and that the colonels should have no complaint, requested that I should go, on my return to Limerick, to the different depôts at Dublin, to the camp at the Curragh of Kildare, and the barracks at Limerick, and look through the regiments without going officially, to see whether I could suggest any improvement in the cut of the garment then supplied. I found, in consequence of the uniform being altered, an error had arisen to a small extent, and the

clothing had been cut rather too round in the breast, something in the way that Colonel Horne wants it. I conferred with Lieutenant-colonel Tracy, of the 56th, and told him what my views were with reference to the cut that would meet the requirements of the soldier. He fully agreed with me; and when I returned to Limerick I made up such a coat and cut a set of paper patterns, and forwarded them to the War Office with my observations. Those were inspected by practical tradesmen and approved of, and those patterns have been adopted since. I gave the dimensions of every height. I have gone to a very great deal of trouble. I have measured several regiments myself, and entered into the matter as closely as it is possible for any tradesman to do. I also made out for the Government a statement of the quantity of material, when clothing is supplied in material for rifle regiments, for light infantry, infantry, and highlanders.

8294. What proportion of clothing unmade do you now send to a regiment?—To a regiment 1,000 strong the supply of unmade clothing has been fifty privates, twenty band, and eight drummers; but it has been suggested, and I believe the suggestion will be carried into effect, that clothing for 100 privates should be sent to be made up by the master tailor; in time of peace at home that could be arranged. There are many men who are differently made, some are higher in the shoulders, and some more corpulent than the ordinary scale, and in order to meet those requirements, and to save unnecessary alteration, it has been suggested that a greater number of unmade suits should be sent to a regiment.

8295. Do you know of any other army tailor who now uses machinery as you do?—No; I think, from what Mr. Dolan stated, they use it for trousers to some extent.

8296. Have you many women and children in your employment?—No children; we have girls and women.

8297. What number?—Perhaps about 800.

8298. How many men?—A great many men work out of doors; I have about 40 men in-doors.

8299. Are the majority of your workpeople females?—Yes.

8300. (*Mr. Turner.*) I presume you do not include all those girls and women in the 1*l.* a week tariff?—That is the lowest price I pay the men.

8301. What do the women get?—Those that put on the lace that you see on that sergeant's coat can earn from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 6*s.* a week, and those that have the finer portions of the work earn up to 10*s.*

Mr. DAVID LUDLOW examined.

8302. (*Chairman.*) I think you were formerly connected with Messrs. Hebbert's house?—I was only connected with it by taking garments to make.

8303. What were you?—We used to take the garments that were cut from Messrs. Hebbert down to Colchester, to have them made by hand labour.

8304. Are you a tailor?—No.

8305. What were you when you did this work for Messrs. Hebbert?—A contractor for getting work made; the principal part of it was slop work. We employ some thousand hands at Colchester.

8306. The only point upon which we desire to ask you anything is the sewing machinery of which Mr. Tait has spoken; was that used by Messrs. Hebbert's house?—I had some machines of Messrs. Hebbert's, some of Judkin's machines.

8307. What are they?—The Anglo-Saxon Judkin's machine is a sewing machine.

8308. Did you find them answer?—I found them answer very well indeed.

8309. Did Messrs. Hebbert use them?—I believe they did.

8310. Do you know?—Those that I had of Messrs. Hebbert I used, and had a great deal of work made by them.

8311. You had those from Messrs. Hebbert's?—Yes.

8312. Do you know whether Messrs. Hebbert had given up the use of them?—They had sold them all, with the exception of five or six.

8313. Do you know why?—Principally, because they had no one to superintend them. I do not think they found them answer sufficiently, but they were given up entirely for want of practical superintendence.

8314. Mr. Bischoff said, in answer to Mr. Turner, "We did not economise by the sewing machines; they were quite as costly to us." Do you agree with that?—I should think they were, in consequence of their not having practical experienced parties about them. The tailors had a great objection to sewing machines, and put every obstruction that they possibly could in the way of their being practically worked.

8315. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is not the real difference between Mr. Tait's experience and Messrs. Hebbert's, that Mr. Tait has thrown his whole soul into the working of this system, and carried it out with spirit, and Messrs. Hebbert did it under difficulties, and never entered very heartily into the adoption of machine sewing?—One part of the firm objected to

Mr.
D. Ludlow.

the machines, and another part did not. I believe that is the result. I am quite convinced, that Mr. Tait's evidence is correct, and perfectly practical on the machinery point; it answers thoroughly.

8316. (*Chairman.*) You say that as a practical man?—Yes.

8317. Do you know Mr. Tait?—I never saw him before.

8318. So far as you have had any connexion with this matter, you were connected with Messrs. Hebbert's house?—Yes. I made in one day 95 pairs of blue serge trousers by one of Judkin's machines with one hand, without the button holes or buttons.

8319. As a practical man, quite unacquainted with Mr. Tait, and having no interest in this system, you can corroborate his evidence?—I have no interest in it whatever; I am quite convinced that Mr. Tait's observations are perfectly right.

8320. Did you come here by accident?—Quite so. I shall be happy to place my books of the prices that were paid me in 1856, 1857, and 1858 before the

Commissioners, if they are of any use; I have worked very largely for nearly all the army contractors.

8321. You were a sort of middle man?—Yes, I should be so called; I used to pay from 100*l.* to 200*l.* a week as labour.

8322. Principally at Colchester?—Yes.

8323. I hope your workpeople are better paid than they are in London?—The fact is, the class of people who take work in London have no house to work in, and the pawnbroker's shop and the gin shop take them away from the work. In the country, a labourer's wife will make three pairs of these serge trousers at 6*d.* a pair in a day; and if they have constant work, it makes them very comfortable, and pays them very well. Now to give a woman in London 6*d.* for a pair of trousers would appear absurd.

8324. (*Col. French.*) Did you give a man more than a woman?—They were all labourers' wives, they used to come on Saturday, and take their 7*s.* or 8*s.*; in fact it made them quite independent of their husbands.

Adjourned.

LONDON.

London, Wednesday, 15th December 1858.

PRESENT:

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. JAMES ANGLES examined.

LONDON.

Mr. J. Angles.

15 Dec. 1858.

8325. (*Chairman.*) What are you?—Principal viewer of military clothing at Mark Lane.

8326. How long have you been so?—I have been at Mark Lane about two years and a half. I have not been principal viewer all that time.

8327. Have you ever been an inspector?—No.

8328. When did you go to Mark Lane?—In June, 1856.

8329. Do you remember being employed soon after you went there to view Guards' clothing? Tunics and trousers?—No, we never have Guards' clothing at Mark Lane.

8330. You do, of course as viewer, view tunics and trousers?—Yes.

8331. And some are rejected perhaps?—Yes.

8332. Where did you live then?—At Walworth.

8333. Are you living there now?—Yes.

8334. At the same house?—No.

8335. Had you ever any articles of any kind which you had inspected or viewed at Mark Lane, removed to your own residence?—Yes.

8336. Explain the whole of the circumstances connected with that transaction?—There was some clothing delivered from a contractor in Ireland of the name of Sykes, and some portion of it was rejected by the two viewers.

8337. Were you one?—Yes. The contractor was written to, and he sent some gentleman, an agent I presume, to see what was the matter, and the rejections were shown to this gentleman at Mark Lane. He wanted to know whether he could have the defects put right in London.

8338. Were the faults such as could be remedied?—Yes; he asked Messrs. Hayter, and he asked me if he knew any one that could do them; I told him, no I did not, but I would make inquiry, which I did; I found there were some persons that were willing to make them good; I represented it to Mr. James Elliott at Weedon.

8339. Mr. James Elliott used to come to Mark Lane occasionally?—Yes, sometimes twice and sometimes thrice a week; he said that as it was very

urgent India clothing, and it was necessary to get it out, could not it be done in London, and asked me if I knew of any one that could do it.

8340. Were you a tailor by trade before you came to Mark Lane?—Yes, I represented it to these parties, and they were willing to do it.

8341. Who were those parties?—Some women; the things would have been sent direct to the women that were going to do them, but it was considered unsafe to trust them with any quantity of clothing.

8342. (*Col. French.*) What quantity was there?—There were about 400 jackets and trousers altogether, so that they were sent to my house, and given to them as they could do them.

8343. (*Chairman.*) That is, sent to your house at Walworth?—Yes, completed, and then brought back again.

8344. (*Mr. Turner.*) Where did the women work?—At their own places.

8345. Then you did trust them with that clothing?—Only small quantities at a time.

8346. (*Col. French.*) How many women were there?—Three or four.

8347. (*Chairman.*) What were the alterations required?—Such things as seams wanted re-seaming.

8348. Had the clothing been made by machinery?—No.

8349. The women, when they had sewed them, brought them back to your house, and you brought them back to Mark Lane; then did you view them again?—No, I did not.

8350. Were they then passed?—Yes.

8351. Had the objections been removed?—Yes.

8352. Did you work upon them at all yourself?—No.

8353. Did you derive any benefit from the transaction?—No, rather the other way.

8354. Did you have to pay the carman?—Yes.

8355. Did you get paid again?—No, it was not charged separately.

8356. How did you lose anything?—It was only threepence a piece that was charged for doing them.



APPENDIX TO WEEDON EVIDENCE.

APPENDIX No. 1. (*Question 168.*)

REGULATIONS for the Conduct of the Tower Inspection Branch, approved by Director-General of Stores, March 4, 1856. No. 1414—T.^a.

Firstly. The Superintendent of Inspectors being a member of the Storekeeper's Department, will take the storekeeper's instructions with respect to the arrangements and conduct of the Inspecting Department, and if he should think it desirable to make any change in them, he will submit his proposals to the storekeeper.

He will be responsible for the entire duties of his department, and will suggest such rules and regulations, the necessity of which may arise from time to time, both as to the efficiency of inspection and the prevention of unreasonable delay.

It will not be his duty to examine or inspect stores as to quality or fitness for the service, except in so far as his opinion may be sought by the Inspectors, in confirmation of their own, or where doubts may arise as to the supply, either in their, or in his mind.

It will be his particular duty to answer with dispatch all references through the civil officers relative to the inspection of stores, and conduct the correspondence with contractors, and also to sign all certificates for payment of contractors, and return them to the storekeeper with as little delay as possible.

He will suffer no one in this branch to communicate with contractors, excepting through himself, or in his presence.

It is expected that once a day at least, and more frequently if practicable, he will visit personally, in company with the inspector of each division, every viewer employed, obtain a general knowledge of the progress made, and the amount of work remaining for inspection, and render by his advice and judgment such assistance as may be necessary.

Secondly. The duties of the inspectors will be to obtain instructions as to the conduct of the division of inspection committed to their charge from the superintendent, to whose control they will be subject.

Their principal duty will be carefully to compare the supply with the specifications and patterns, and to take care that it shall in every respect correspond with them.

The inspectors will be responsible in all cases for the quality and fitness of the stores inspected by them, or by the viewers working under them; but as it is not supposed that every article viewed will pass under the individual notice of the inspectors, great vigilance will be necessary on their part to see that stores are not marked as approved, which are unfit for the service.

They will see that the stores are properly described in the inspection report according to the terms of the specification or order, the service stated, and the order for the supply quoted. Upon the completion of the inspection, they will insert in the proper columns the quantities accepted or rejected, and against each item of rejection they will clearly and fully state the cause, that notice of the same may be forthwith sent to the contractor.

The inspection report will be signed by the inspector when complete.

Should the average daily receipts or stores exceed their means of inspection, either through want of space, or insufficiency of viewers, the same should be immediately notified to the superintendent, and repeated as often as occasions may arise.

They will see that the viewers make the necessary entries of each inspection in the viewers' journal; but will not be required to keep books, as it is intended the whole of their time shall be spent in inspecting stores, and giving the requisite directions to the viewers.

All receipt transit notes made out by the viewer to accompany the stores when handed over to the storekeeper's charge, are to be signed by the inspector who has passed them.

Thirdly. The duties of the clerks appointed to assist in the inspection branch will principally be to keep a concise register of references, and the delivery vouchers sent to the superintendent from the storekeeper's office; to enter letters

to contractors in a letter-book, to compare certificates of payments with the entries in the contractors' ledgers, kept in the storekeeper's office, prior to the same being signed by the superintendent; to write out, and transmit to contractors, notices of rejections; to write many letters of small moment, and generally to assist in the conduct of the office.

The ledgers of contractor's accounts to be kept in the storekeeper's office alone, and to be discontinued in the inspection branch.

Fourthly. The inspection of stores to be separated into four classes or divisions; viz.:—

FIRST DIVISION.—Mr. PAGE, Inspector.

This will comprise, linen, cotton, woollen and waterproof articles, such as marquees, tents, valises, pin bags, linen paillasses, bolster-cases, sheers, slip cases for beds and bolsters, haversacks, nose bags, bags for camp kettles, dowlas, Osnaburgh, linen, duck, packing-canvas, tarpaulins, hospital and barrack rugs and blankets, mops, cotton canvas for tents, flags, bunting, hospital dresses, drawers, and shirts, hair beds and bolsters, feather pillows, horse-hair, &c. &c.

SECOND DIVISION.—Mr. LOOKER, Inspector.

Tools for field service, mining and for general service, of great variety, locks, saws, cutlery, fire-irons, tin and zinc ware, barrack and hospital utensils, camp kettles, &c. &c.

THIRD DIVISION.—Mr. McDONALD, Inspector.

Fire engines, pumps, agricultural implements, cranes, clocks, lathes, stoves, pipe, iron bedsteads, coal boxes, fenders, ironwork for soldiers' tables and forms, &c., barrack, hospital and office furniture, tent and picket poles, mallets, tent pins, coal trays, tool chests, packing cases, mess-trays, exercising clubs, wooden bedsteads, pails, buckets, tubs, canteens, water-butts, vats, &c., brushes, ironmongery, musical instruments, ropes and twines, stamps, mats, scales and weights, pewter ware, lamps, metals, candles, cotton wick, and miscellaneous stores.

FOURTH DIVISION.—Mr. FESSEY, Inspector.

Accountrements, scabbards, leather, fire buckets and cavalry buckets, hose pipes, straps, &c. &c.

And to this division will be attached all articles that it may be necessary to inspect away from the premises, such as brick, stone, coal, slate, oats, &c. &c.

(Signed) J. R. GODLEY.

APPENDIX No. 2. (*Question 166.*)

STOREKEEPER'S DEPARTMENT.

J. R. GODLEY, Esq., to Sir BENJAMIN HAWES.

SIR, War Department, June 23, 1856.

THE experience which I have had of the conduct of business in this department has convinced me that the system now pursued of attaching particular rates of pay to particular local offices, instead of to particular classes of officers, is not a good one. It has been founded on the assumption that certain stations are more important, more laborious, and more responsible, and that they therefore require higher qualifications in the men who do the business there than certain other stations; and it has been, I do not say necessarily, but naturally, accompanied by the practice of retaining the same officers at the same stations from the beginning to the end of their service, and promoting them from the bottom to the top of their respective offices by seniority as vacancies occur.

This system is productive of many inconveniences and evils. In the first place, stations alter in importance, so that a salary proportioned to the work and the qualifications of the officers at one time is not so at another. Again, it is seldom possible at present to place or keep officers precisely in the positions for which experience of their qualifications may show them to be best fitted; they must now, as a general rule, remain where they happen to have been placed on their first entrance into the service; the exceptions being only those comparatively rare cases in which the change involves increase of pay and rank sufficient to compensate them for the expense and inconvenience of moving. For example, it might be very desirable, having reference to some particular circumstances, to send the Malta storekeeper

to Corfu, or the Woolwich storekeeper to Portsmouth. But if this were done, the officer transferred would, without any fault of his own, be degraded in rank and pay; therefore, it can *not* be done. Again, it is now impossible to reward or promote deserving officers without removing them from their stations, and as such removals are generally inconvenient for obvious reasons, not only to themselves but to the service, their promotion is often stopped, actually in consequence of their efficiency and usefulness where they are.

Finally, it must be evident that the service generally would be much benefited if a roster for foreign service were established; but this, for the reasons which I have mentioned, is, under the present system, impossible. However long a man may have served abroad, perhaps in an unhealthy climate, he cannot come home without loss, unless an office to which superior pay is attached happen to fall vacant in the United Kingdom, and unless, moreover, he be deemed fit to hold such superior office; so that, practically, as I have said, a large proportion of our officers live, till they die or retire from the service, in the station to which they happen to have been allotted at first, taking chance, whatever may be their qualifications, merits, or defects, of the accidental promotion current in that station; a process more calculated to turn them into mere vegetables, than to make them active and efficient servants of the public.

The change which I propose for your consideration is as follows:—

That the officers belonging to this department at out-stations shall be classified; that all the members of each class shall receive equal pay, and hold equal rank, wherever they may be stationed, or whatever duties they may have to perform; that selection for promotions from one class to another shall be made from the whole service, and not from the station in which the vacancy may happen to occur; that a roster of service be established, to be adhered to, of course, only so far as may be consistent with the public interests; and that in all cases of transfer, the whole expenses of removal be borne by the public. The last of the above propositions is the only one which will involve expense; but I look upon it as absolutely essential to the working of the plan, as otherwise a new and therefore unfair burden will be cast on the officers.

If the general idea, of which I have given a sketch, be approved of, probably the best plan will be to appoint the Accountant-General (or some one delegated by him) and myself a committee for drawing up a scheme of classification, as above suggested, with the understanding—

1st. That no alteration will be made in the gross sum now appropriated to salaries; and

2nd. That no officer's *existing* pay or rank will be interfered with.

(Signed) JOHN ROBERT GODLEY.

I quite concur.

(Signed) B. HAWES.

I concur.

(Signed) W. MONSELL.

STOREKEEPERS AND CLERKS, AT HOME AND ABROAD.

J. R. GODLEY, Esq., to Sir BENJAMIN HAWES.

War Department, Pall Mall,

Sir, September 12, 1856.

IN compliance with your instructions, I submit (see Tables annexed) a scheme drawn up by Mr. Veasey, Mr. Ripley, and myself, with the view of carrying out the change proposed in my Memorandum of the 23rd June 1856.

In doing so, it may not perhaps be out of place to recapitulate shortly the objects which I had in view when I made that proposal, adding some general observations in explanation of the scheme in the accompanying Tables. Those objects were chiefly,—

1. To impart a general stimulus to the service of the Store Department, by giving greater facility and freedom in the promotion of meritorious officers;

2. To make the officers of the Department moveable, and thereby to facilitate the selection of men for the places for which they are fit, independently of the accidental circumstances of their original appointments;

3. To establish a gradation of rank in the service, corresponding to the responsibilities and remuneration of the officers respectively.

In proposing certain administrative changes, with these ends in view, I limited myself by laying down, as a preliminary condition, that the sum now paid for salaries should not be exceeded. But, at the same time, I stated that, inasmuch as, if I am right, the public will be a direct and

positive gainer by those changes, and as, on the other hand, the officers, taken as a body, will be placed in a worse position financially, and as regards their personal convenience, by being made moveable instead of stationary, a certain compensation would undoubtedly be due from the former to the latter, and that such compensation ought to be sufficient to counterbalance generally the expense and inconvenience of moving.

Accordingly, you will find that the amount of *salaries* proposed in the scheme which we now submit, is not only not increased, but considerably reduced. On the other hand, compensation for introducing the "moveable" principle has been sought by increasing the number of persons to whom *allowances* are granted, and in some cases the amount of those allowances.

Of the allowances now paid, we propose to deal with two only, viz., "Climate Pay Abroad," and "House-rent at Home." The former of these allowances we propose, as you will find, to alter slightly in amount; and we propose to modify largely the principle on which the latter is granted. All officers stationed abroad either have quarters found for them or receive an allowance in lieu thereof—a plan which we could understand if it were intended as a regular compensation for the disadvantages of foreign service; but it becomes unaccountable when we find that, at home, *Storekeepers* and *Deputy-Storekeepers* enjoy in every case the same privilege, though as a matter of favour, it is said, not of right; while *Clerks* as a rule do not. But the inequalities do not end here. At some home stations all the clerks also enjoy the privilege of free quarters; at others, one or two; at most none; but in no case does a clerk at a home station receive lodging allowance except when having had a house he is turned out of it. Yet it is quite clear to any one who looks into the matter closely, that salaries have not been fixed with reference to the enjoyment or non-enjoyment of free quarters; and accordingly, whenever it has happened that a clerk has been deprived of his quarters for any reason, his successor has not been considered to be entitled either to pecuniary compensation or to increase of salary. It may be said therefore to be a mere matter of luck whether a clerk finds himself attached to a station where he has quarters, *i.e.*, whether he gets an addition to his salary, equivalent perhaps to 25 per cent., or not.

It might at first sight appear that the best way to get rid of these anomalies would be to give neither quarters nor allowances, but to merge all such advantages in an equitable scale of salaries. But to this the following reply is to be made, and it appears to us to be complete.

In the first place, Government has got a large number of houses available for this purpose, which are useless for any other, and which it is therefore evidently desirable to make use of in diminution of the expenditure in salaries which would otherwise be required; and in the second, it is always desirable, and often indispensable, that the officers of the department should live close to their work, and in many cases they are unable to find suitable accommodation elsewhere than in Government buildings.

Our proposal is that there be henceforth three kinds of allowance:—

1. Allowance for house-rent in all cases where quarters are not provided. This will equalize the advantages of the various stations in this respect, and be the natural and proper compensation to the home service (the foreign being dealt with below) for the inconvenience of becoming moveable, as that inconvenience chiefly affects officers in the matter of house-rent. All officers will be provided either with quarters or an equivalent, and this must be considered to be a direct compensation, though undoubtedly a partial and inadequate one, to the service for ceasing to be local. We have proposed a graduated scale of allowance for house-rent at home, but we do not think it advisable to interfere with the existing scales of house-rent abroad nor the regulations that govern it, those scales having been fixed with reference to the local circumstances of the colonies where the officers happen to be stationed.

2. Foreign service allowance. If the allowance for house-rent were to be granted alone (inasmuch as on foreign service such allowance is now given) it would be merely an additional premium on home service, which is already, of course, the most desirable. For this reason, and with the further view of equalizing, as far as possible, the extrinsic advantages and attractions of various stations (we mean advantages irrespective of the nature of the work and its proportionate remuneration), we propose an allowance for foreign service. This will greatly facilitate carrying out the principle of moveableness, as it is when officers are sent abroad that discontent is produced, while everybody is glad to get home.

3. On the same principle, we propose the continuance of the present allowance, given under the head of "Climate Pay," which is, in fact, and should perhaps be called, "Al-

lowance for Tropical Service," the rate for each class being double that of the Foreign Service Allowance assigned to that class. Bermuda is the only station outside the tropics to which we propose to extend this privilege, and we do so because its climate is in fact of a tropical character; and we think that the special rates mentioned in the Table No. 1 should be granted at Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

On the whole, taking all these allowances together, and adding them to the collective salaries, the result will be an increase of about 557*l.* a year, or not quite one per cent. on the expense of the existing establishment. We think it will be admitted, therefore, that if the change is worth effecting at all, it is worth the proposed expense. Indeed, it is with great reluctance that we have abstained from asking for a larger increase on the collective remuneration, as we feel that the inconvenience and expense to individuals involved in the change is not adequately compensated by that which is proposed. But we have kept in view the contemplated withdrawal from the store department of the cash duties now discharged by it, a measure which will involve not only reduction in numbers, but in some cases a diminution to a certain extent of work and responsibility. As regard numbers, it is quite impossible, in a department so extensive and so fluctuating as this, to give anything like a precise estimate of the permanent establishment. Since I have come into office—*i.e.*, in about fifteen months—reductions have taken place in the establishment to the extent of no less than fifty-five officers and 12,900*l.* a year. At present, on the other hand, the return of the army from the east, and its redistribution among the colonies and at home, is making it necessary for me to ask for increases in several stations, and even while these papers are under consideration various changes are taking place; these, however, do not alter the terms of the comparison between the present and proposed scales, and that is the only point of importance in connexion with this branch of the subject. On the principle, then, of accounting for the number of officers which now happens to constitute the annexed establishment, the several tables will show—

1. A schedule of the proposed classes, with the rank, salaries, and allowances proposed for them respectively;
2. The proposed ultimate distribution of the officers of the department; and—
3. A summary of the expense of the proposed scheme, as compared with that of the present scheme.

We need hardly add, that it will be just as easy to increase or to reduce the strength of the establishment as circumstances may require, under the new as under the old system.

These tables show the *ultimate* results of the new scheme, and it would of course be very convenient if we could bring the establishment under the operation of it at once; but after the most careful consideration, we have come to the conclusion that this would be impossible, without either imposing an unfair burden on the public, or inflicting injustice on individuals. If the whole of the salaries were placed at once on the new scale, a large number of officers would have their present pay and rank reduced, which is not to be thought of; whereas, if only those who would *benefit* by the new scale were placed upon it, while those who would *suffer* were exempted, a large and unnecessary expense would be incurred. We are therefore compelled, however reluctantly, to propose that in cases where the new scale of salaries would have the effects above described, its introduction be deferred until promotions or fresh appointments occur.

Acting on these views, we have arranged all the individuals now in the department receiving, as they now do, no less than forty different rates of pay, in six classes, the numbers of which correspond with those of the scheme, with the understanding that this arrangement is for the present only conventional, so far as substantial emoluments are concerned: *i.e.*, that it involves no alteration in their pay or allowances. But we propose that the principle of personal instead of local position in the service be immediately applied to the whole body of officers, so that as vacancies occur in the classes so formed, they will be filled either by promotion from the classes next below or by fresh appointments, as the case may be; and the individuals so promoted or appointed will come into their new positions upon all the terms and conditions of the new scheme. We propose also, that the principle of "moveableness" be at once applied to the whole service, and that, in order to counterbalance the personal inconvenience which this must entail, the *allowances* of the new scheme, which are intended expressly for that purpose, be granted to every officer who shall be moved.

In classifying the officers of the department, we have been guided almost entirely by the rates of pay, which must be assumed to be, generally speaking, the gauge or standard

of qualification. The few cases where this rule has been departed from are those where the responsibility of the charge of a station, and the official rank corresponding with that responsibility, have been allowed to outweigh a slight difference of salary in favour of a clerk at some larger station. We have not thought it necessary to complicate the question at this stage by submitting the list of names to Lord Panmure: it will be time enough to do so if the plan in the abstract meet with his approbation and with the sanction of the Treasury.

We now come to the question of *rank*. The present arrangement with respect to rank is of a very rough and general character, and errs as much on the side of comprehension and uniformity as that with respect to pay does on the side of subdivision and variety.

There are only three denominations of officers—storekeepers, deputy-storekeepers, and clerks. A "storekeeper" has the rank of major, a "deputy-storekeeper" that of captain, and a "clerk" that of ensign. But the differences in pay, responsibility, work, and official position, between the officers thus grouped together, are almost infinite. There are "storekeepers" receiving 850*l.* a year, and 250*l.* a year, and presiding over establishments consisting of fifty clerks and one clerk respectively. Nay, there are two or three "storekeepers" who have no clerk at all, so small and unimportant are their stations. Yet all these have the same rank—that of majors. Again, there are some deputy storekeepers receiving twice the pay of some storekeepers, and exercising functions of correspondingly superior importance: yet they are subordinate in rank. Again, all "clerks" are classed together, and have the military rank of ensigns; yet there are often no less than five and six classes of clerks *in one station*, differing from each other proportionably in pay and in responsibility.

In order to get rid of these anomalies, we propose to attach separate rank to each class, observing, in this respect, as nearly as possible, an analogy with the other great non-combatant branch of the military service—the commissariat. We do not, however, propose that any officer of the Store Department should have a higher rank than that of lieutenant-colonel, whereas the principal commissariat officers rank with brigadier-generals. We have also to propose a change in the designations of store-officers. At present there are but three, *viz.*, storekeepers, deputy-storekeepers, and clerks. Since the abolition of the Board of Ordnance they have been, of course, deprived of the prefix "Ordnance," which gave them, in popular estimation, a special character and position. But the bare designations of "storekeeper" and "clerk" are not appropriate or distinctive, especially in colonies where shopkeepers are called storekeepers; and those of "storekeeper and clerk, War Department," besides being clumsy, are common to them with other branches of the department, where they are applied to persons holding, comparatively, a far inferior position. We therefore propose that the store officers should be authorized to prefix the epithet "military" to their present designations, an epithet which is strictly appropriate, simple, and distinctive. If this be approved, the six classes would be designated and hold rank as follows:—

Principal military storekeepers	- }	Rank equivalent to
Military storekeepers	- - }	Lieutenant-colonel.
Deputy military storekeepers	-	Major.
Assistant military storekeepers	-	Captain.
Military store clerk (1st class)	-	Lieutenant.
Ditto - " - (2nd class)	-	Ensign.

If, on the one hand, we appear to make too large a claim in asking for the first two classes the rank of lieutenant-colonel, it must be remembered, on the other, that we only do so in the case of eight officers altogether, at home and abroad, and that we propose a *reduction* of rank in the case of a far larger number—no less than *thirty-two*—who are now entitled to that of major and captain respectively. We wish also to represent the special importance, now that officers of the Store Department are attached to armies in the field, of having their rank and position in those armies not only carefully and discriminately fixed, but also placed on a level corresponding to the arduous and responsible nature of their functions.

As the introduction of the proposed changes, in point of rank and designation, will cost next to nothing, we propose that they be effected at once, in those cases where they will not involve reduction.

A Queen's Warrant will be required to effect the changes proposed, but if the principles above stated be approved, it will be time enough to consider the regulations which must be embodied in the Warrant when we come to that point.

(Signed) JOHN ROBERT GODLEY.

No. I.—LIST of the proposed STORE ESTABLISHMENTS at HOME and ABROAD, showing their Departmental Rank, corresponding Military Rank, Scales of Salaries, and Allowances for House Rent at Home Stations, Foreign and Tropical Pay.

No.	Departmental Rank.	Corresponding Military Rank.	Scales of Salary.			Allowances.			Probable number in each Class who would receive the Allowances.		
			Minimum.	Increase.	Maximum.	1. House Rent at Home Stations, when no Quarters are available.	2. Foreign Pay.	3. Tropical Pay.	1.	2.	3.
2	Principal Military Storekeepers.	Lieutenant-Colonel.	£ 750	£ 25	£ 850	£ 60	£ 70	Double the Foreign Pay to Stations within the Tropics and Bermuda. At the Gambia, the Assistant Military Storekeeper to have 80l. And at Sierra Leone, the Assistant Military Storekeeper to have 80l., and the two Clerks 50l. each.	1	None.	None.
6	Military Storekeepers.	Ditto -	540	20	680	40	50		1	2	None.
19	Deputy Military Storekeepers.	Major -	370	20	490	30	35		4	6	5
52	Assistant Military Storekeepers.	Captain -	250	10	330	25	25		10	13	10
68	Clerks -	Lieutenant	150	10	220	20	20		52	23	5
89	Ditto -	Ensign -	80	10	120	20	15			32	10
236									68	76	30
Numbers in United Kingdom for whom Quarters are at present available										174	
										62	
										236	

No. II.—DISTRIBUTION of the OFFICERS of the DEPARTMENT.

Stations at Home.

Stations.	Principal Military Storekeepers.	Military Storekeepers.	Deputy Military Storekeepers.	Assistant Military Storekeepers.	Clerks.	Clerks.	Total.
Tower -	1	1	5	5	10	15	37
Woolwich -	1	-	1	4	7	8	21
Dublin -	-	1	-	1	3	2	7
Portsmouth -	-	1	-	1	3	5	10
Devonport -	-	1	-	1	2	2	6
Purfleet -	-	-	-	1	1	2	4
Cork Harbour -	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
Dover -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Edinburgh -	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Priddy's Hard -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Athlone -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Charlemont -	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Chester -	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Tilbury -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Hull -	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Keyham -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Alderney -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Carlisle -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Fort George -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Guernsey -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Harwich -	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Hyde Park -	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Jersey -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Marchwood -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pembroke -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Weedon -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Sheerness -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Stirling -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Tipnor -	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Upnor -	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Enniskillen -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Duncannon -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Tynemouth -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Chatham -	-	-	1	1	1	1	4
Totals at Home	2	4	8	29	40	47	130

Stations Abroad.

Stations.	Principal Military Storekeepers.	Military Storekeepers.	Deputy Military Storekeepers.	Assistant Military Storekeepers.	Clerks.	Clerks.	Total.
Gibraltar -	-	1	-	1	2	3	7
Malta -	-	1	-	1	2	4	8
Barbadoes -	-	-	1	1	1	1	4
Jamaica -	-	-	1	1	1	1	4
Graham's Town -	-	-	1	1	2	2	6
Bermuda -	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
Cape Town -	-	-	1	-	1	2	4
Colombo -	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
Corfu -	-	-	1	-	2	2	5
Halifax -	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Hobart Town -	-	-	1	-	1	2	4
Hong Kong -	-	-	1	-	2	2	5
Mauritius -	-	-	1	-	1	2	4
Montreal -	-	-	1	-	1	2	4
Bahamas -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Demerara -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Trincomalee -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Sierra Leone -	-	-	-	1	1	1	3
Honduras -	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
New Brunswick -	-	-	-	1	-	2	3
Newfoundland -	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Auckland -	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Point de Galle -	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
St. Helena -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
St. Lucia -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Sydney -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Trinidad -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Kingston -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Wellington -	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Port Natal -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Quebec -	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Santa Maura -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Simon's Town -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Zante -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Fort Beaufort -	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
King William's Town -	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Cephalonia -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Gambia -	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Prince Edward's Island -	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals Abroad	-	2	11	23	28	42	106

No. III.—RETURN of the present and proposed ESTABLISHMENTS, showing the mean Expense of each.

PRESENT ESTABLISHMENT.					PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT.				
Nos.	Ranks.	Scales (various).	Mean Salaries.	Estimated amount of Allowances, consisting of Climate and Foreign Pay, and House- rent at Home and Abroad.	Nos.	Ranks.	Scales.	Mean Salaries.	Estimated amount of Allowances, consisting of Climate and Foreign Pay, and House- rent at Home and Abroad.
8	Storekeepers -	£ 500 to 950	£	£	2	Principal Military Storekeepers.	£ 750 to 850	£	£
14	Ditto - -	330 to 550	52,333	5,200	6	Military Store- keepers.	540 to 680	49,990	8,100
15	Ditto - -	200 to 350			19	Deputy Military Storekeepers.	390 to 490		
20	Deputy Store- keepers.	200 to 600			52	Assistant Military Storekeepers.	250 to 330		
25	Ditto - -	140 to 250			68	Military Store Clerks, 1st Class.	150 to 220		
6	Clerks - -	300 to 600			89	Military Store Clerks, 2nd Class.	80 to 120		
54	Ditto - -	150 to 350	£57,533				£58,090		
94	Ditto - -	80 to 180							
236					236				

APPENDIX No. 3. (Question 189.)

MEMORANDUM addressed by Mr. GODLEY, in July 1857, to Sir B. HAWES, on the Expediency of taking periodical Store Accounts.

It appears to me that no sufficient check has hitherto been exercised on the expenditure of military stores; indeed, the information, on which alone such check could be founded, has never been made available by this office.

The expenditure of military stores consists in the issues made from store to the various branches of the service for use (for it is perhaps hardly necessary to take into consideration the "expense stores" actually in charge of the services which expend or use them), and it is therefore shown by the ledgers of the different store stations. But the amount of the collective issues which the ledgers show is never added up, nor is the amount of the issues (as shown by each separate ledger) regarded or criticised in this office, the ledgers being examined solely with reference to the sufficiency of the vouchers, and not to any other information which they contain.

Of course it follows that no attempt is made to ascertain the money value of the stores expended in any place or at any period, or to compare the expenditure of one year with another, or to show the amount of stores in the possession of Government at any given time. In short, the only question ever raised which is even connected with information on the subject of stores, is the question of how much money is to be spent each year in purchasing new stores. But though this question has, no doubt, a certain importance, that importance is surely of a secondary kind.

If the stores are not of a perishable nature, or of a pattern likely to become obsolete, it matters comparatively little whether the state purchases them or not, even if they are not immediately wanted; that is, it matters only so far as regards the interest of the purchase money, and a certain appreciable amount of insurance for risk. Yet we profess to guard with the utmost jealousy against undue purchases, and often leave our stores most improperly and unwisely bare from such jealousy, while the really important questions of how they came to be bare, whether there has been extravagant expenditure of them, whether that expenditure has been increasing or diminishing, and whether it can be better regulated or lessened in future;—these questions are never even raised, far less taken up and considered.

I suppose it has been thought that by cutting down estimates for stores we could sufficiently check extravagance in expending them, and no doubt we do partially, in a rough, irrational, unequal way, so check it. But it must be quite evident that, acting as we do in ignorance, not only of the details, but of the gross amount of expenditure, a refusal to replenish stores involves the risk, nay the certainty, of crippling all services, both those which ought to be supplied and those which might advantageously be curtailed.

The main point to be arrived at is a thorough realization of the truth, that expenditure of stores and expenditure of money are identical in kind, and that there is precisely the same reason for accounting for the one as for the other.

Indeed, there is even more necessity for an account in the case of stores than in the case of money, for the following reason. Every year, the cash balances on each vote being paid into the Exchequer, we start afresh, as it were, with the next year's expenditure, and the estimate of money required on each head is necessarily framed with a view to its corresponding precisely with the estimate of the year's expenditure.

Thus that expenditure is necessarily brought into view, and thoroughly canvassed both in this department, and it may be in Parliament.

But in the case of stores the unexpended balance runs on indefinitely, and so there is no correspondence whatever, except accidentally, between the sum required in any particular year for purchasing new stores and the consumption of stores during that year.

At the commencement of one year the storehouses may be full, and we may be able to provide for a large consumption without fresh purchases; at the commencement of the next year, the storehouses being empty, we may require a large sum for purchasing, and yet be largely reducing our consumption; so that at no time does the question of the rate at which we are expending stores come up naturally, and it is, therefore, as I have said, the more necessary to raise it directly and formally.

I propose, accordingly, that once a year, as soon as all the store-ledgers have come in, a general abstract of account shall be prepared from them, showing:—

1. The amount of every article of store issued at each separate station (otherwise than in the way of transfer from one store to another).
2. The amount of every article remaining on hand at each station.
3. The collective amount of every article so issued at all the stations in the empire.
4. The amount of every article remaining on hand at all the stations collectively.

By these means we shall be able to compare the consumption of one year with another, both as regards the whole empire and as regards particular stations; we shall obtain indirectly the advantage of being able to distribute the stores better between the different stations, i.e. to supply the needs of one from the superfluity of another; and we shall arrive at the great and obvious desideratum of knowing what quantity of stores there is at any given time in the possession of Government, an object never, I believe, even aimed at, except as regards a limited number of the more important articles.

I propose further that the money value of the balances of stores on hand at the end of each year be ascertained, by which means, as we already know the amount expended in the purchase of stores during each year, we may be able to compare the outlay of one year with that of another on this great head.

Without such a process, indeed, being applied both to military and naval stores, it is clear that the accounts of the empire must be seriously defective. We know what the Imperial Government spends in any given year. We know, e. g., what it spent during the two years of war in money;

but that is not enough. A vast amount of that money was spent in purchasing stores, and if we had all, or a considerable part of those stores still in hand, our actual outlay would not by any means correspond with the apparent outlay expressed in pounds, shillings, and pence. Or, on the other hand, we may have spent a quantity of stores which we did not purchase during those years.

In other words, we may have begun with our storehouses full and ended with them empty, or we may have begun with them empty and ended with them full. Consequently an essential element in the calculation of our national expenditure during the years of war (or any other period) consists in the state of our store balances before and after them, which up to this time we have never sought to know.

It will be objected, no doubt, to these proposals, that their adoption would involve an amount of labour disproportioned to the results, but it must be remembered, in the first place, that all the materials for the account of store expenditure are ready to our hands in the ledgers, so that all we have to add is to add up the totals of the balances and issues, and show them on a separate abstract; and secondly, that such a complete return will save the waste, now going on, of a very considerable amount of labour on returns which are of the same nature, but which, from their including only a limited number of articles, and from those articles not being valued, are of little use, and are hardly ever even looked at.

The valuation will undoubtedly be more laborious, but I cannot suppose that the trifling expense which the additional labour may involve is worthy of being weighed against the benefit of knowing (approximately at least) what we spend under a category so important and extensive.

The only difficulty which we have to deal with in carrying out the plan effectively, is connected with the extent of the empire, and the consequent length of time which elapses before the ledgers from the more distant stations (such as New Zealand and Hong Kong) are received.

This difficulty may be met to a certain extent by requiring a sheet showing only the issues and balances to be sent immediately on the close of the financial year, which, as the transactions at the distant stations are not very extensive, can be done without much difficulty.

The period too, within which the Tower and Woolwich ledgers are now required to be made up ought, on other grounds, to be shortened, and at any rate balance sheets might be sent in very soon after the close of the year.

I may add that the French Government invariably takes account of its stores in the manner proposed (see Mr. Mansfield's report on the military expenditure of France, p. 4, par. VI., "Compte Général du Matériel.")

The store accounts of the manufacturing establishments have been made the subject of a separate paper, and I am still engaged in considering the form in which they should be rendered.

I conclude by repeating that if the principle of my proposals be sound it should be applied to naval as well as military stores: but of course on this branch of the subject it is not my business to enlarge.

(Signed) J. R. GODLEY.

I entirely agree with Mr. Godley.

(Signed) B. H., 7/7/57.

I entirely approve.

(Signed) P., 10/7/57.

APPENDIX No. 4. (Question 228.)

REPORT of Captain CAFFIN on visiting Weedon.

Mr. GODLEY,

ON visiting Weedon, and inspecting the clothing establishment last week, I found the following arrangements in operation.

There are three rooms for the inspection of cloth and clothing. Mr. Hoile, the chief inspector, does not extend his superintendence beyond these. They are as follows:

First room is for the inspection of red cloths of all descriptions;

Scarlet.
White.
Facing.
Piping.
Royal artillery.
Royal engineers.
Cavalry.

Under the immediate inspection of Mr. Hebdon, inspector.

1 viewer.

4 labourers acting as viewers.

Second room is for the inspection of grey kersey, for great coats; Oxford trouser cloth, for all ranks: green, for rifle corps, all ranks; blue, for military train; white kersey, white serges.

Under the immediate inspection of Mr. Mallett, inspector.

No viewers.

2 labourers acting as viewers.

Third room is for made-up clothing, such as—

Line clothing, all rank..

Enrolled pensioners.

Regimental schoolmasters.

School of musketry.

Warders' military prison.

Militia clothing.

Surplus clothing from the line and militia regiments.

Under the immediate inspection of

1 viewer.

2 labourers acting as viewers.

For the inspection, preservation, and packing of boots—2 rooms.

First room, boots.

Mr. Folkard, inspector.

3 viewers.

Second room, boots.

Mr. Watson, inspector.

3 viewers.

Miscellaneous articles forming soldiers' necessaries, consisting of—

Buttons and washers.

Chakos.

Caps, enrolled pensioners'.

Sashes for the sergeants and staff, socks, brushes, blacking, &c.

Under the inspection of Mr. Gray, inspector.

1 viewer.

1 labourer, acting as viewer.

The packing of these articles for issue is performed in this room.

Saddlery, two rooms.

First, saddlery and horse equipments.

Captain Smith, inspector.

No viewers.

Second, helmets, busbies, &c. for cavalry.

Captain Smith, inspector.

No viewers.

1 labourer.

On looking at this arrangement, you will no doubt perceive the want of skilled mechanics or tradesmen, and the employment of labourers in the inspection of the various articles. These labourers have been selected on account of their aptitude in acquiring a certain amount of practical knowledge of the articles under inspection; but in my opinion this is not sufficient to justify our retaining them in so responsible an office, and so long as they remain performing these duties we are not in a position to maintain that high standing respecting rejections which we ought to be able to take.

I therefore most strongly urge the necessity of taking immediate steps for the revision of the whole establishment, assimilating it as closely as possible to the one at the Tower, and with this view I would propose for Lord Panmure's approval the following classification and arrangement.

Proposed inspection establishment for Weedon:—

One superintendent of inspectors to have entire charge of the examination of all stores, and to be responsible (under the principal military storekeeper) for the due performance of this duty by the inspectors and viewers forming the staff under his orders.

The Tower Regulations should be adopted:

1 inspector of cloth and made-up clothing.

1 inspector of boots.

1 inspector of saddlery and miscellaneous articles forming a soldier's kit.

These inspectors must be chosen on account of their general knowledge of the articles coming under their inspection.

Their education, certificates of character, and antecedents must show that they are competent to express a sound judgment upon the decisions of the viewers.

They should have under them the following number of viewers, selected for their minute practical knowledge as tradesmen, and to be of high character:

Viewers of cloth and made-up clothing :

- 3 principal viewers.
- 5 1st class.
- 7 2nd do.

Viewers of boots :

- 1 principal viewer.
- 3 1st class.
- 2 2nd do.

Viewers of saddlery and miscellaneous articles :

- 1 principal viewer.
- 2 1st class do.
- 2 2nd do do.

The two establishments would stand thus :

In the proposed, the superintendent of inspectors would, under the military storekeeper, have the entire charge of the inspections.

In the present, the chief inspector confines himself to the three cloth rooms.

Establishment as proposed.	Establishment as at present.
<i>Cloth.</i>	
1 inspector.	2 inspectors.
2 principal viewers.	1 viewer.
4 1st class do.	6 labourers employed as viewers.
5 2nd do. do.	
<i>Made-up Clothing.</i>	
The cloth inspector as above having charge.	1 inspector.
1 principal viewer.	1 viewer.
1 1st class do.	2 labourers acting as viewers.
2 2nd do. do.	
<i>Boots.</i>	
1 inspector.	2 2nd class viewers.
1 principal viewer.	2 inspectors.
3 1st class do.	6 viewers.
<i>Saddlery and Soldiers' necessities.</i>	
1 inspector.	Necessaries and Miscellaneous Room :
1 principal viewer.	1 inspector.
2 1st class do.	1 viewer.
2 2nd do. do.	1 labourer acting as viewer.
	Saddlery :
	1 inspector.
	No viewer.

The cost of the proposed establishment would be :

	Per annum.
	£ s. d.
1 superintendent inspector	310 0 0
3 inspectors at 250l.	750 0 0
5 principal viewers at 42s. per week	546 0 0
10 1st class do. 35s. „	936 0 0
11 2nd do. do. 30s. „	858 0 0
Total	£3,400 0 0

This brings it within the Treasury grant, which is 3,410l.

I am of opinion that a temporary clerk will be required in addition (to perform the same duties as at the Tower), that is, attend to all the clerical work connected with the inspections, as the inspectors themselves should be relieved from any occupation which will take them from their immediate duty of superintending the viewers.

Should the proposed establishment be approved by Lord Panmure, I will endeavour to obtain the best men to fill the respective appointments (absorbing as far as practicable the present staff), and will submit their names for approval.

1 May 1857. (Signed) J. CRAWFORD CAFFIN.

APPENDIX No. 5. (Question 265.)

QUESTIONS addressed to Mr. TATUM, and his ANSWERS.

QUESTION 1.—Were you not aware that the system allowed by Mr. Elliott, by which the same person acted as receiver, inspector, storeholder, and issuer of public stores, was attended with extreme risk to the safe custody and disposal of the property of the public?

ANSWER.—I considered this system to be very objectionable, and it was with a view of effecting a change therein that I recommended the appointment of storeholders.

Mr. Elliott, however, spoke in the highest terms of the zeal and integrity of the inspectors and viewers, and I must say, that during the whole period of my service at Weedon these persons appeared indefatigable in the performance of their duties.

Question 2.—Mr. Munro has produced the remonstrance made by him on the 17th October 1857 to you, on the subject of the irregularities attending the keeping of the store accounts at Weedon, especially as regarded the absence of day books of receipts

and issues, and the want of check in the inspection notes. What steps were taken by you to bring these points to the notice of Mr. Elliott or to rectify them during the time that you were yourself in chief charge at Weedon in Mr. Elliott's absence?

Answer.—Mr. Munro's representation relative to the irregularities in the keeping of the store accounts at Weedon was brought by me to Mr. Elliott's serious notice in a personal conference, and Mr. Munro is aware that I went into the ledger room with Mr. Elliott, who, in conjunction with myself directed that the inspectors' notes and other vouchers should be carefully collected and compared with the entries which had been made in the ledgers, and that steps should be at once taken to trace out (by reference to the contract, issue, and registry branches) such vouchers and documents as were alleged to be missing. I, at the same time, pointed out to Mr. Elliott and to Messrs. Munro and Angell that the inspection notes which had been pasted into guard books were part of the documents required to accompany the store ledgers.

I would observe that prior to Mr. Munro's arrival I had brought the subject before Mr. Elliott, and had recommended that as I knew Mr. Munro to be an intelligent man of business, he should, immediately on joining, be placed in charge of the ledger and receipt branches, as Mr. Angell, the ledger clerk, was very imperfectly acquainted with store duties.

Mr. Munro objected to the arrangement, but I considered the plan which I had proposed the best that could be adopted, and on Captain Gordon's arrival at Weedon, that officer expressed his full concurrence with my decision.

As regards the absence of day books of receipts and issues, and the want of check in the inspection notes, I beg to state that books were kept at Weedon, which were represented to me as containing a daily entry of all receipts and issues; these books were shown to Captain Marvin, and can easily be again produced. If the full entries of receipts and issues were omitted to be made in these books, I can only say that such omissions were contrary to my express orders and without my knowledge.

Mr. Munro had charge of the receipt branch shortly after his arrival at Weedon, and I conceived that by co-operation with the contract branch, the store accounts could, after a time, be brought into order; but the arrears in the ledgers were the great difficulties with which Mr. Munro and the whole department had to contend, as it was impossible to tell how the charge stood until the ledgers were balanced and stock was taken.

From Mr. Elliott's strong testimony as to the high character of the inspectors and viewers, and from my own observations, I had no suspicion of any misappropriation of the public stores. During Mr. Elliott's absence in Dublin, I had not only my usual heavy duties to attend to, but I had also to devote a portion of my time, in conjunction with Mr. Munro, to the preparations for the remain.

On Captain Gordon's return from Dublin (after the remain taken at that place), he expressed great satisfaction at what had been done, and said that he did not think so much could have been accomplished in so short a time.

If I could have given my undivided attention to the revision of the Weedon system, I could, doubtless, have remedied, in a great measure, the defects which existed; but pressed, as I was on all sides, I could not possibly perform more than I did.

Before I had been long at Weedon, it was currently reported that Captain Gordon was to relieve Mr. Elliott, and the official announcement was subsequently received (I think, in December 1857).

I was fully aware that Captain Gordon would have the ability, power, and opportunity to alter the then existing system, and that he would not have to encounter the difficulties which beset me as an officer in immediate subordination to Mr. Elliott.

Mr. Elliott was very jealous of any propositions made by me to alter his arrangements, which, he said, had been approved of by the authorities at Pall Mall; and it may be in the recollection of Captain Gordon and Mr. Bon-tein, that when I spoke strongly on the necessity of a large and immediate increase of assistance, Mr. Elliott said, that a far less number of persons than I had recommended would be sufficient.

Question 3.—Were you not aware that when ten assistants were sent down to Weedon from the War Department, in compliance with your demand of 3rd October 1857, for six clerks and four storeholders, Mr. Elliott misappropriated the assistance thus sent, and converted the four intended storeholders into clerks in his office?

Answer.—I was aware that Mr. Elliott had converted the four intended storeholders into temporary clerks, but he told me that he had verbally represented to the Director of Stores

the absolute necessity of this proceeding, in consequence of the pressure caused by the enrolment of the militia and 2nd battalions of the line. That on this representation the Director of Stores had allowed him to employ the whole of the ten assistants as temporary clerks until the pressure had subsided.

Question 4.—Did you, on seeing that your representation of the necessity of having storeholders was thus rendered fruitless, take any steps to renew your remonstrance as to the danger that was incurred of misappropriation of the public property at Weedon?

Answer.—I had no idea that Mr. Elliott's statement, referred to in answer No. 3, was untrue, although I am now convinced that this and many of his other statements were utterly false. I therefore believed that he had received the sanction adverted to.

I would beg leave to submit that a copy of a note addressed by me to Mr. Elliott at Morley's Hotel, either about the close of the year 1857 or early in 1858, may be obtained from Weedon, as also copies of all representations made by me, since October 1857, relative to the inadequate assistance at Weedon.

To all my representations to Mr. Elliott he informed me that the authorities at Pall Mall could not grant additional hands for want of funds, as the Weedon estimates were already exceeded.

Question 5.—Were you not aware of the irregular proceedings of Mr. Elliott in allowing a contractor (Mr. Isaac, of St. James' Street), to have an office or storehouse for his use in the yard of the public stores, and did you point out the irregularity of this proceeding to Mr. Elliott?

Answer.—Immediately on my having ascertained that Mr. Isaac, the contractor, had been allowed the use of a storeroom or office in the yard of the public premises, I represented to Mr. Elliott the irregularity of this proceeding; but Mr. Elliott informed me that Mr. Ramsay had granted Mr. Isaac the temporary use of the room for the purpose of facilitating the packing and removal of the vast numbers of rejected articles of regimental necessaries which formed part of Mr. Isaac's supplies.

Mr. Elliott also stated, that as the supplies of kits were most urgently wanted (which was actually the case), and as some of the rejected articles were rejected for very slight defects, which could easily be made good on the spot (Mr. Moore, the chief viewer concurred in this opinion), the necessary alterations were allowed to be made by Mr. Isaac's men in the room adverted to.

Question 6.—Were you not aware of the constant absences of Mr. Elliott from his station at Weedon, and did you take any steps to draw the attention of the authorities at the War Office to such absences, and to the delay of the public business that constantly resulted therefrom?

Answer.—I was fully aware of the very frequent absences of Mr. Elliott from his station at Weedon, and shortly after my joining I asked Mr. Assistant Military Storekeeper Green if Mr. Elliott had been in the habit of being so much away prior to my arrival. To this question I received a reply in the affirmative, which was confirmed by other gentlemen of the department. Shortly after this I took an opportunity of mentioning the subject to Mr. Elliott, and he then informed me that his business at Pall Mall, Mark Lane, and with contractors, required his almost daily presence in London.

During his stay in London he would frequently send telegraphic messages from St. James' Street, &c., relative to business alleged by him to have been transacted at Pall Mall, Mark Lane, or with contractors; and from these circumstances, added to the fact that by far the greater number of official letters, answers to references, &c., were signed by me, I concluded that Mr. Elliott would not venture to absent himself without the cognizance of the authorities at Pall Mall.

Question 7.—It has been stated by Chief Inspector Hoile and Assistant Military Storekeeper Munro, that you frequently expressed to them your opinion that "the system at Weedon was rotten at the core," and it is added by Mr. Hoile, that you frequently said that you should report at Pall Mall the various irregularities that were going on. Did you ever make any such report at Pall Mall, and if so, in what shape? If not, why did you not conform to the regulations which make it incumbent on every officer to acquaint the authorities of his department with any irregularities that take place therein?

Answer.—I have no doubt that I stated to Chief Inspector Hoile and to Assistant Military Storekeeper Munro, that the system at Weedon was "rotten at the core," and this opinion was given in consequence of the generally

defective working of the Weedon establishment, and the complaints from regiments relative to the bad quality of the clothing and necessaries. There seemed to be constant differences of opinion between the Tower and Weedon Inspectors, the object of each appearing to be to reverse the opinions of each other, on any questions relative to matters of inspection. In any establishment where these evils prevail, the system may not improperly be termed "rotten at the core," although this expression may not be strictly appropriate.

I beg respectfully to state that no irregularity, of which I had cognizance, was ever passed over by me, but was duly inquired into whenever brought before me.

Mr. Hoile is well aware that I showed no favouritism to any inspector, viewer, or other person at Weedon, and that any complaints met with my instant attention. Mr. Hoile, and indeed every one else who had the opportunity of judging, can testify that in my intercourse with contractors I was actuated by the same spirit, and showed strict impartiality to each.

Various reports had been made by Sergeant Brodie relative to alleged irregularities on the part of Mr. Elliott and others at Weedon, and these reports had been embodied in a statement which had been forwarded from Pall Mall to Mr. Elliott, and had been refuted by him. I believe I am correct in stating that all the inspectors forwarded a written certificate to Mr. Elliott, denying the truth of Sergeant Brodie's accusations, which certificate accompanied Mr. Elliott's replies.

I had heard it reported that bribery and intimidation were carried on at Weedon, but I never could gain any clue to bring the fact home to any person whatever.

I told Mr. Hoile and others that if I could by any means find out any person guilty of the practices adverted to, I would most assuredly report the circumstances to Pall Mall.

In all great establishments persons will be found who will circulate true or false reports, but it is not usual to pay attention to such reports, unless proper grounds exist for believing them.

I had no evidence to prove that bribery or intimidation existed at Weedon.

Question 8.—Did you avail yourself of the occasion of Captain Marvin's coming down from the War Office on a special mission of investigation, to inform him of your opinion that the system at Weedon was "rotten at the core," and that the irregularities allowed by Mr. Elliott ought to be reported to authorities at Pall Mall?

Answer.—When Captain Marvin came down on his mission of investigation to Weedon, I certainly did not state to him that I had expressed an opinion that the system at Weedon was "rotten at the core;" in fact, I cannot even now call to mind having used the expression, although I have no doubt of the truth of Messrs. Hoile and Munro's statement that I had done so. I occasionally use similar terms in expressing my disapproval of any system.

To the best of my recollection I stated to Captain Marvin that I considered Mr. Elliott to be a very clever man, but that he had erred from the commencement in trying to carry on so vast an undertaking as the clothing of the whole army with a totally insufficient number of properly trained assistants.

I pointed out the necessity of having experienced official men both as clerks and storeholders, and stated that incompetent men would do more harm than good.

I also pointed out the necessity of bringing the ledger and contract branches into immediate proximity with each other, and I recommended that Foreman Boyd should remove into the rooms occupied by the ledger branch, in order that my plans might be carried out. (Mr. Boyd's quarters separated the ledger branch from all the other offices.)

Captain Marvin (as also Captain Gordon, to whom I had made a like proposition,) quite agreed with me, and before I left Weedon I was informed that the proposition would be carried out after Mr. Elliott's departure.

I showed Captain Marvin all the office books in my department, and I gave directions that the same course should be adopted by the other branches, which was done.

I also, in Captain Marvin's presence, enjoined the gentlemen of the office to state fully in writing the amount and description of every arrear, and to conceal nothing.

This information was given by me to Captain Marvin, so that he might form a just opinion on the state of the Weedon establishment.

I do not know to what irregularities Mr. Hoile alluded to in his statement referred to, except it be to the reports to which I have alluded in my answer No. 7; and I can therefore only now state that I am not conscious of having

concealed any important particulars from Captain Marvin's knowledge.

(Signed) HENRY TATUM,
Military Storekeeper.

Malta, July 30, 1858.

APPENDIX No. 6. (Question 271.)

INSTRUCTIONS to
nominated by
Director of Stores of Her Majesty's War Office, &c.
&c. &c. to take the survey at

1. You are to join in a survey to be taken of all the military stores in charge of the senior military store officer at in which duty that officer is to participate. For the naval stores, a naval officer, and for the military stores, a combatant military officer, will be added to the committee: if it so happen that any one or more of such additional officers do not attend to form a part of the committee, the survey is to proceed without them, *but the reason of any absence is to be noted in your report to me.*

2. The Secretary of State for War having apprised the Admiralty and officer commanding at that station, you will meet the officers appointed to join you at the Military Store Office at the time ordered for its commencement.

3. Although the surveys are not intended to be minute surveys, you will nevertheless take care to satisfy yourself generally that the apparent numbers or quantities correspond in your opinion with the figures expressed in the store ledger: you will therefore have recourse to a tally, to the scales, or the measure, as often as you may think it necessary to verify the exact quantity. For instance, you will count cases or packages of arms, or of any other articles, first ascertaining the contents of one, two, or three cases taken indiscriminately from the whole, and you will estimate on these data, the whole quantity or number of the articles. With respect to loose articles you will select such as you may think proper to count, weigh, or measure for comparison.

4. When the survey shall be completed, a report is to be prepared, stating that, in the opinion of the committee, the several stores enumerated in the ledger are actually on the War Department premises at the station or otherwise, as it may be found; and a list is to be added of such stores as have been actually compared with the ledger, showing their agreement or disagreement, as the case may be. This report is to be signed by all present at the survey, and will terminate the labours of the committee.

5. You will by every means in your power endeavour to close the survey in as short a time as the nature of the duty will allow.

6. You will be particular at the first assembling of the committee to present these instructions for the perusal of every officer who is to co-operate in the survey as a member of the committee.

7. You will be further guided in the survey by the Ordnance Regulations, dated 1855, more especially as laid down in Articles 289, 364, 372, 406, and 432, and you will ascertain and state in your report whether the military store officer adheres to the regulations or not.

INSTRUCTIONS for the more immediate guidance of the
Officers appointed to conduct the Survey.

The naval and military officers—

Will satisfy themselves as to the state of the stores, and report whether they are, or are not, to the best of their belief, in good condition and fit and ready for immediate issue for service.

The gentleman who acts on behalf of the directors of stores—

After the survey shall have closed, will ascertain from the senior military store officer, whether the quantity of stores in his charge is sufficient to meet the probable wants of the service; the particular articles, if any, that may be considered surplus and available for service at other stations; as also any that may be wanted to complete the stores to their proper proportions. These particulars he will specify in a report to me, enclosing the list or lists of stores which the committee shall have examined by tally or otherwise. He will state in this report the time when the survey commenced, and when it ended; adding any observations about it which he may think fit.

He will further report, how far in his opinion the amount of stores, and the arrangements for the stowage and the security of the stores, are proper and sufficient; also whether

the stores are in good condition, and well kept or otherwise. Should any of the buildings be in a dilapidated state, and the stores likely to be injured thereby, and should he understand, by inquiry of the senior military store officer, that no steps have been taken towards effecting the necessary repairs, he will note the same on a separate paper, but it is not intended that he should offer any suggestions, either for erecting new buildings, or alterations to old ones. A form for the report is enclosed, which, with the other documents, is to be put under a cover, addressed as follows:—

On Her Majesty's Service.

To the Under Secretary of State for War,

War Office, Pall Mall,

STORES.

London,

S.W.

He is, moreover, to request the senior military store officer to take a copy of the list of stores made by the committee of survey, and to inform him by a written memorandum, that he is to send such explanations as he may have to offer respecting any discrepancies which may be shown as compared with the number on the store ledger to the War Office, Pall Mall, as soon as possible after the survey has been closed.

Director of Stores.

War Office,
Pall Mall, 18 .

(Form of Report.)

Survey at (place to be inserted here) 185

REPORT on the survey of military stores in charge of (names of storekeeper here) senior military store officer at (station here) taken in pursuance of instructions from the Director of Stores of Her Majesty's War Office, dated and containing such observations as have occurred at the station conformably to such instructions.

Survey { Commenced _____
 { Ended _____

PRESENT,

NAVAL OR MILITARY RANK. NAMES,

_____ for the Director of Stores

If commanding to be { Royal Artillery
 { or
 { Royal Engineers.

_____ Of the _____ Regiment

_____ Of Her Majesty's ship _____

_____ Senior Military Store Officer.

DIRECTIONS.

The whole of the report, with the exception of the above introduction, to be written on the left-hand moiety of each side of the paper as these directions are: and the person nominated by the Director of Stores is to sign his name at the end, and affix the date when he completes his report; and if there should not be any naval or combatant military officer, as required by the instructions, to join in the survey on the spot, it is to be noted accordingly on the line allotted for such officer's name by the above form.

The Director of Stores,
War Office,
Pall Mall, London.

APPENDIX No. 7. (Question 271.)

INSTRUCTIONS to
nominated by
Her Majesty's War Office, &c. &c., to take a remain
of stores at _____ under the order
of the Secretary of State for War, dated _____

1. Having nominated you to act on behalf of the Secretary of State for War of Her Majesty's War Office, to take a remain of all the military stores at _____ the military store officer, under order dated _____ you will on the receipt hereof proceed to confer with _____ and make such arrangements as may be necessary with _____ for commencing this duty, in order that the same may be completed as soon as possible.

2. The remain is to proceed day by day, without intermission, (except Sundays, or under very special circumstances, which are to be noted in the day book hereafter referred to); and if any short interval during the day be found necessary to be given to the labourers employed on this duty for refreshment, it is to be occupied in getting up the books, so that when the tally ceases, the account may be immediately rendered.

3. Every day's work is to be entered in books to be kept by yourself and by store officer, which are to be examined and signed daily, by all parties; and when the remain is completed, *your* day book is to be forwarded to me, addressed to the Under Secretary of State for War. A blank day book, *for your own use*, is sent herewith; and it is expected that the Military Store Office will be able to furnish books, which may serve on this occasion for

and
4. A remain ledger is to be kept for the purpose of obtaining a total of each article. It is to be posted from one of the day books, and examined at the end of the remain, *with your book and the books kept by the other persons* employed on this service, and from such ledger collected accounts are to be made out, in original and duplicate, showing the total of every article in store, and actually in charge of the military store officer, on the day the remain closes. All the parties concerned in taking this remain, are to sign these collected accounts, and the senior military store officer is to give a receipt on such accounts, acknowledging himself to have been put in possession of the several articles therein enumerated. The articles are to be alphabetically arranged in the collected accounts in the order of the printed store returns formerly rendered instead of ledgers. One account is to be left with the senior military store officer, and the other account transmitted with *your day book*, under a cover, addressed as follows:—

On Her Majesty's Service.

To the Under Secretary of State for War,
War Office, Pall Mall,

STORES.

London,
S.W.

5. As the remains henceforth to be taken are not intended to include surveys of stores, it will be sufficient in respect to any articles which appear to be in a worse condition than that in which they stand on charge, that they be laid aside, or marked for the purpose of being submitted (at the earliest opportunity after closing the remain) to such a board of survey as is required by the regulations of 19th April 1821; but nevertheless, they are to be taken in the remain as they stand on charge, and so included in the account.

6. In addition to the detailed list of stores taken on the remain, which you are to send, you are also to transmit a separate list of any of the articles included in the detailed list, which may be considered to be *obsolete*; or as regards which there is not any probability that they will be required for the service; and you will note thereon the reasons for arriving at such conclusion.

7. You will also take an account, and insert it at the end of the charge, of all the official books, fixtures, and furniture of the military store officer's department belonging to the public.

Director of Stores.

War Office,
Pall Mall, S.W.

18

INSTRUCTIONS TO

nominated by _____ of
Her Majesty's War Office, &c. &c. to take a Remain of
Stores at _____ under the Order of
the Secretary for War, dated _____

1. Having nominated you to act on behalf of the Secretary of State for War of Her Majesty's War Office, to take a remain of all the military stores at _____ in charge of the military store officer, under order dated _____ you will on the receipt hereof proceed to confer with _____ and make such arrangements as may be necessary with _____ for commencing this duty, in order that the same may be completed as soon as possible.

2. The remain is to proceed day by day, without intermission, (except Sundays, or under very special circumstances, which are to be noted in the day book hereafter referred to); and if any short interval during the day be found necessary to be given to the labourers employed on this duty for refreshment, it is to be occupied in getting up

the books, so that when the tally ceases, the account may be immediately rendered.

3. Every day's work is to be entered in books to be kept by yourself and by store officer, which are to be examined and signed daily, by all parties; and when the remain is completed, *your* day book is to be forwarded to me, addressed to the Under Secretary of State for War. A blank day book, *for your own use*, is sent herewith; and it is expected that the Military Store Office will be able to furnish books, which may serve on this occasion for

and
4. A remain ledger is to be kept for the purpose of obtaining a total of each article. It is to be posted from one of the day books, and examined at the end of the remain, *with your books and the books kept by the other persons* employed on this service, and from such ledger collected accounts are to be made out, in original and duplicate, showing the total of every article in store, and actually in charge of the military store officer on the day the remain closes. All the parties concerned in taking this remain are to sign these collected accounts, and the senior military store officer is to give a receipt on such accounts acknowledging himself to have been put in possession of the several articles therein enumerated. The articles are to be alphabetically arranged in the collected accounts in the order of the printed store returns formerly rendered instead of ledgers. One account is to be left with the senior military store officer, and the other account transmitted with *your day book*, under a cover, addressed as follows:—

On Her Majesty's Service.

To the Under Secretary of State for War,
War Office, Pall Mall,

STORES.

London,
S.W.

5. As the remains henceforth to be taken are not intended to include surveys of stores, it will be sufficient in respect to any articles which appear to be in a worse condition than that in which they stand on charge, that they be laid aside, or marked for the purpose of being submitted (at the earliest opportunity after closing the remain) to such a board of survey as is required by the regulations of 19th April 1821; but nevertheless they are to be taken in the remain as they stand on charge, and so included in the account.

6. In addition to the detailed list of stores taken on the remain, which you are to send, you are also to transmit a separate list of any of the articles included in the detailed list, which may be considered to be *obsolete*; or as regards which there is not any probability that they will be required for the service; and you will note thereon the reasons for arriving at such conclusion.

7. You will also take an account, and insert it at the end of the charge, of all the official books, fixtures, and furniture of the military store officer's department belonging to the public.

Director of Stores.

War Office,
Pall Mall, S.W. 18

APPENDIX No. 8. (*Question 568.*)

Captain MARVIN'S INSTRUCTIONS.

War Office, Pall Mall, S.W.,
February 17, 1858.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to direct you to proceed to the clothing depot at Weedon, and there to investigate the past and present state of that establishment, with reference to the manner in which the duties have been carried on, to prevent delays or arrears both in the receipt and issues of stores, &c.

The principal military storekeeper has been desired to render you every assistance in prosecuting this inquiry; and you will take such steps as you may deem best to meet the object in view, bearing in mind that his Lordship requires a full and complete report.

I am, &c.
Captain Marvin, (Signed) B. HAWES.
&c. &c.

POINTS OF INQUIRY for the guidance of Captain MARVIN; but he is not to consider himself bound to these points.

1st. Amount of stock taken over from the Tower, and if this was regularly brought upon charge.

- 2nd. Whether the receipts and issues have been regularly posted in the ledger, according to the Ordnance regulations.

3rd. Whether Mr. Elliott has complied with the Ordnance regulations in making demands to meet the requirements of the service.

4th. What amount of arrear there is in the orders for issue.

5th. What amount of articles received from contractors remain uninspected, and whether certificates have been forwarded for all those which have been inspected.
- 6th. The system of inspection as followed at Weedon, and the method of bringing the approved stores on charge.

7th. The state of the ledger.

Do. letter books.

Do. registry.

8th. The general arrangements and organization of the office and stores.

9th. What number of papers from this office are now at Weedon unacted upon, and their dates of receipt.

10th. The state of the office and store accommodation, as well as the quarters and lodging of the staff.

APPENDIX No. 9. (Question 1647.)

AN ACCOUNT of the EXPENDITURE at the CLOTHING DEPÔT at WEEDON, in each quarter, under Superintendent Elliott, from its formation, 7th December 1855, to the 15th May 1858, per accounts prepared by Mr. Elliott to 31st December 1857, and by Mr. Alexander, from 1st January to 15th May 1858, from vouchers in the Superintendent's Office.

	1855.	1856.				1857.				1858.	
	From 7th to 31st December.	March Quarter.	June Quarter.	September Quarter.	December Quarter.	March Quarter.	June Quarter.	September Quarter.	December Quarter.	March Quarter.	From 1st April to 15th May.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries - -	180 16 8	399 14 11	562 15 4	631 12 9	773 7 7	902 5 10	992 6 2	1,060 4 0	1,484 9 9	1,722 2 9	- - -
Travelling - -	36 2 9	69 0 8	30 4 3	58 6 0	51 10 6	216 9 5	115 11 1	32 2 7	181 5 0	113 6 9	102 18 9
Lodging allow- ances and contin- gencies.	0 3 5	10 6 6	53 7 2	42 7 7	35 8 0	57 2 6	110 18 2	153 10 2	237 5 11	175 2 4	109 8 4
Wages - -	99 15 0	801 17 6	1,237 7 8	1,394 18 0	1,440 18 7	1,462 19 2	1,489 19 9	1,663 8 3	2,090 19 9	2,683 7 2	1,677 9 6
Carriage of stores	0 1 8	62 19 4	613 2 6	769 15 11	712 10 7	555 12 9	1,106 13 1	489 0 1	918 0 1	0 7 0	- - -
Purchase of stores	- - -	10 16 1	2 10 4	0 7 0	56 10 0	163 0 3	18 3 2	- - -	- - -	- - -	51 12 0
Clothing - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	0 11 3
Repayments:- Services performed for the East India Company.	- - -	- - -	16 10 0	- - -	74 14 6	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Hospital expenses, &c.	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	52 19 0	4 9 11	35 0 0	- - -	- - -
	316 19 6	1,354 15 0	2,515 17 3	2,897 7 3	3,144 19 9	3,357 9 11	3,886 10 5	3,402 15 0	4,947 0 6	4,694 6 0	1,941 19 10
TOTAL - - - £32,460 0 5											

Being 2,223*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.* less than the issues of public money to Mr. Elliott.

Against this sum of - - - - - £2,223 16 1

has to be set for salary due to him to the date of his absconding - - - } 114 6 7

For lodging money to same period - - - } 7 2 6

And the proceeds of goods of his seized and realized after his departure - - } 53 16 6

Making the balance due to the public on Mr. Elliott's account - - - } - - - £175 5 7

Making the balance due to the public on Mr. Elliott's account - - - } - - - £2,048 10 6

Which would have been reduced to 408*l.* 17*s.* 2*d.* had the carriage bills, amounting to 1,639*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*, subsequently paid by the Department, been settled, as they should have been, by Mr. Elliott, out of the money imprests granted to him.

SAM. S. GARRETT,
Accountant General's Office,
War Office.

APPENDIX No. 10. (Question 1756.)

APPENDIX No. 12. (Question 1774.)

SIR,
War Department, Pall Mall,
May 5, 1856.
I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that you have been appointed foreman of saddlery at the Army Clothing Depôt, Weedon, at a salary of 7*s.* a day, and I have to request you will proceed to your duty at that station as early as possible.
I am, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE D. RAMSAY.
Mr. Brodie (appointed foreman of saddlery at Weedon).

APPENDIX No. 11. (Question 1766.)
Military Store Office, Weedon,
September 19, 1857.
SIR,
I HAVE to inform you that the Secretary of State for War has, on consideration of the correspondence respecting your conduct towards Captain Smith, been pleased to dispense with your services from this day, and to grant you a gratuity of one month's pay.
I am, &c.
(Signed) J. S. ELLIOTT,
Principal Military Storekeeper.
Mr. Alexander Brodie.

SIR,
War Department, Pall Mall,
September 27, 1856.
IN reply to your letter dated the 20th instant, forwarding an application from Alexander Brodie, foreman of saddlery, for promotion to a junior inspectorship, and at the same time a representation from him that the duties of his situation have never been clearly defined to him, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to inform you that he was appointed as foreman in the saddlery department, the duties of which office are to receive and issue stores, and to superintend, under the direction of the inspectors of saddlery, workmen employed in the saddlery department. It is no part of the duty of the foreman of saddlery to give any opinion upon any articles of cavalry equipments, unless desired by the inspectors to do so, this duty being performed by the inspectors, who are responsible to the superintendent of the depôt. As regards the application for promotion, I am to request you to inform A. Brodie that there is at present no vacancy.
I am, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE D. RAMSAY.
The Superintendent,
Army Clothing Depôt,
Weedon.

APPENDIX No. 13. (Question 3825.)

MEMORANDUM of SALES of HEBDON'S CLOTH
MEASURING AND WEIGHING MACHINE.

Price £50.

Messrs. Hunt, Barnard, and Co.	-	-	Stroud.
Messrs. Dolan and Co.	-	-	London.
Messrs. Farnan and Co.	-	-	London.
Joshua Taylor	-	-	Gomersal.
Messrs. John Pollard and Co.	-	-	Halifax.
Messrs. W. and S. Varley and Co.	-	-	Leeds.
Army Clothing Dépôt (2)	-	-	Weedon.

MEMORANDUM of SALES of HEBDON'S CLOTH TESTING
MACHINE.

Largest Size, Price £30.

Abraham Archer	-	-	Horbury.
Messrs. Dolan and Co.	-	-	London.
Messrs. Joshua Ellis and Co.	-	-	Dewsbury.
Messrs. Geo. Ellis and Co.	-	-	Dewsbury.
Messrs. Hagues, Cook, and Co.	-	-	Dewsbury.
Messrs. Hebbert and Co.	-	-	London.
Messrs. Hunt, Barnard, and Co.	-	-	Stroud.
Messrs. S. Isaac, Campbell, and Co.	-	-	London.
Messrs. J. Knowles and Co.	-	-	Gomersal.
Messrs. Jno. Law and Son	-	-	Halifax.
W. Kershaw	-	-	Gomersal.
Messrs. Jno. Pollard and Co.	-	-	Halifax.
Messrs. Jno. Purchon and Co.	-	-	Leeds.
Messrs. Nussey and Co.	-	-	Leeds.
Messrs. Niblett, Allen, and Co.	-	-	London.
Joshua Taylor	-	-	Gomersal.
Messrs. W. and S. Varley and Co.	-	-	Leeds.
Messrs. Swaine and Sons	-	-	Leeds.
Messrs. Wilkinson and Co.	-	-	Halifax.
Messrs. Yewdall and Co.	-	-	Leeds.
Messrs. Wilson and Co.	-	-	Scotland.
R. A. Woolwick	-	-	Stroud.
Army Clothing Dépôt	-	-	Weedon.

MEMORANDUM of SALES of HEBDON'S CLOTH TESTING
MACHINES.

The Small Size, Price £6 6s.

J. Spoor	-	-	Northampton.
Railway Company	-	-	Northampton.
Messrs. Walker and Hawthorne	-	-	London.
Messrs. Gilbert, Gibbons, and Co.	-	-	London.
Messrs. Farnan and Co.	-	-	London.
J. Cartel	-	-	London.
Messrs. Dolan and Co.	-	-	London.
Thomas Carr	-	-	London.
Messrs. Behrens and Co.	-	-	Bradford.
Joshua Taylor	-	-	Gomersal.
Messrs. J. Knowles and Co.	-	-	Gomersal.
Messrs. Hunt, Barnard, and Co.	-	-	Stroud.
Messrs. John Law and Son	-	-	Halifax.
Messrs. John Pollard and Co.	-	-	Halifax.
Messrs. John Purchon and Co.	-	-	Leeds.
Messrs. Poole and Co.	-	-	-
Messrs. Elworthy	-	-	Wellington.
Messrs. Hamilton (6)	-	-	New York.
W. Hill (6)	-	-	Melbourne.

SIR,

Weedon, Oct. 18, 1858.

I AM not yet able to forward you such large account sales as I promised, on account of the engineers having taken so long a time to execute our orders. The last order for thirty has only just come in; these I am now sending out; and as they become more generally known at the reduced price, I have no doubt that I shall soon be able to send you in as large returns as I led you to expect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) W. GRAHAM.

APPENDIX No. 14. (Question 6216.)

Mr. HOILE's Suggestions.

My attention has been continually drawn to the vast number of different kinds of cloth now in use for the army, which has been the result of mere accident, the difference in most cases between the same coloured cloths being very immaterial; for instance, a slight difference in *weight, quality, or shade*. If these differences were done away with, and an amalgamation effected, the business of clothing the army would be very much simplified, as would also the inspection and procuring supplies; but beyond all, what is the most important, *keeping a store to meet emergencies*.

To make myself clearly understood, there are the several corps, who each have a separate sealed pattern for each description of cloth they require, viz.,

Foot Guards.
Royal Engineers.
Infantry.
Royal Marines.
Artillery.
Cavalry.

I would have but one pattern scarlet for every staff sergeant, of whatever corps he might be, and it should be designated *Regulation Scarlet, No. 1*.

The same for all sergeants, to be called *Regulation Scarlet, No. 2*.

The same for privates of all corps that wear scarlet, to be called *Regulation Scarlet, No. 3*.

(And I would here give as my opinion that *scarlet would be a far better colour than red for the army*, and is more easily dyed. A good lac-dyed scarlet is a strong colour, and would wear well, but cochineal is too delicate, and turns black.)

The same rule should apply to all Oxford trouser cloths. No. 1 should be known as *staff*, No. 2 as *sergeants*, No. 3 as *privates*; the same as regards blues, whites, and every other colour.

As regards the facing cloths, instead of having 16 shades of green, they should be reduced to two at most, a dark and a light shade. The same shade of yellow and buff should be adopted for cavalry as for infantry, and but one description of blue, black, white, scarlet, for the facings of every corps in the service. If this was done, which it might be very easily, one of the greatest difficulties as regards clothing the army would be overcome, and, if necessary, a store of white cloth for dyeing could be kept to meet a demand for any particular colour that might be required.

I would add that similar suggestions were made by me in May last (see enclosed statement), and additional experience leads me to believe that this may be still reduced with advantage to the public service, as I now propose.

H. HOILE,
Inspector of Stores.

Submitted that in cases where the colours and qualities of Cloth assimilate, that one pattern should be adopted, with a view to decreasing the quantity of patterns and simplifying the Store and Contract Accounts.

Scarlet Cloth for Tunics of Staff Sergeants.

Foot Guards	} To be one description of cloth.
Royal Engineers	
Line and Militia	
Heavy Cavalry	

Oxford Grey Doeskin for Trousers of Staff Sergeants.

Foot Guards	} To be one description of cloth.
Royal Engineers	
Line and Militia	
Chief warders, Military prisons	
Regimental schoolmasters	

White Kerseymere for Edging of Staff.

Foot Guards	} To be one description.
Royal Engineers	
Line and Militia	

Scarlet Cloth.

Foot Guards, privates' tunics	} To be one description.
Royal Engineers, do. do.	
Line and Militia, sergeants' do.	
Heavy Cavalry, do. do.	} To be one description.
Foot Guards, sergeants' tunics	
Royal Engineers, do. do.	

White Cloth.

Royal Engineers, band tunic	} To be one description.
Line and Militia, do. do.	

Oxford Grey for Sergeants.

Foot Guards, sergeants' trousers	} To be one description.
Royal Engineers, do. do.	
Line and Militia, do. do.	
Warders of Military Prisons	
Sergeants of Enrolled Pensioners	} To be one description.
Foot Guards, privates' trousers	
Royal Engineers, do. do.	
Line and Militia, do. do.	
Enrolled Pensioners, privates	

Blue Cloth for Facings.

Foot Guards, staff sergeants	} To be one description.
Royal Engineers, do. do.	
Line and Militia (Royal Regiments)	
Staff	
Foot Guards, sergeants	} To be one description.
Royal Engineers, do.	
Foot Guards, privates	
Royal Engineers, do.	
Line and Militia, sergeants and privates of Royal Regiments	

Blue Cloth.

One description is now used, except for overalls, cavalry, which is a different pattern.	Tunics, jackets, and trousers, Royal Artillery.	No. 1. Blue Royal Artil.
	Tunics, jackets, and trousers, Military Train.	
	Tunics, jackets, and trousers, Light Cavalry.	
	Coats and trousers of chief and principal warders, Convict service, and Military prisons.	
One description is now used for these except sergeants' trousers, cavalry, which are same as the Privates.	Coats for regimental schoolmasters.	No. 2 Royal Artillery.
	Tunics, jackets, and trousers, Royal Artillery.	
	Tunics, jackets, and trousers, Military Train.	
	Tunics, jackets, and trousers, Light Cavalry.	
	Coats and trousers of warders, Convict service.	
	Coats of warders, Military prisons.	
	Coats, sergeants do. staff sergeants	
	Enrolled Pensioners.	
	Barrack sergeants.	
	Tunics and jackets, Royal Artillery.	
One description is at present in use for these.	Tunics and jackets, Military train.	No. 3. Royal Artillery.
	Tunics and jackets, Light Cavalry.	
	Coats of privates, Enrolled Pensioners.	

Blue Overall Cloth.

Artillery, Military train and Cavalry Regiments.	To be one description of cloth.
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Blue Cloak Cloth.

Cavalry and Royal Artillery, schoolmasters.	} To be of one description of cloth.
Great coats, Warders of Military prisons.	

H. HOILE,

Inspector of Stores.

May 1858.

APPENDIX No. 15. (*Question 6286.*)

STATEMENT showing how the MILITARY STORE DUTIES are conducted at WEEDON.

Weedon, October 31, 1858.

THE several duties are carried on, in every way, as at other large stations, with the exception that the storekeeper is not held responsible for the keeping up of his store, the War Office not deeming that part of the regulations applicable to the clothing of the army; yet it would be the duty of the storekeeper, when he found himself running short of any description of general store, to bring the same to the notice of the War Office, by making a timely requisition for the service required, and suggesting how the stores should be procured. The forms for these requisitions and demands are the same as those in use at the Tower and Woolwich.

"RECEIPTS OF STORES."

Stores are received in two modes, either by contract or from regiments, storekeepers, or departments, but no stores whatever can be received except with the sanction of the Secretary of State-for-War.

Under Contract.

The War Office communication gives full particulars; it gives the quantities to be delivered, the time of delivery, and for which service the stores are intended, as well as the terms of the contract; on receipt it is entered in the contract ledger, if for general stores such as cloth, boots, &c., under the name of the contractor, and if for a special service under the head of that service. A diary is kept for every day of the year, showing the stores that are due upon any particular day; and if such stores are not delivered by the day named in the contract, a report, called a Return of Defaulters, is sent to the War Office, upon which a notification is made to Weedon, that the contractor is to be fined for non-delivery. With every delivery the contractor sends an invoice, called the inspection note, which enumerates the articles forwarded; it gives the order of the contract, and is signed by the contractor; a fly-leaf is attached, which merely specifies the packages. The chief inspector receives the inspection note direct from the storekeeper, and passes it to the inspector to whose branch the particular store belongs; if the goods have been received the inspector states so at the top of the note, altering the date of it to the date of the arrival of the articles, and he then returns the document to the chief inspector, who tears off the fly-leaf, which he signs and sends to the contractor, to show that the goods have been duly received; the note itself is then handed to the contract branch, where it is entered in the journal of inspection notes, and receives in the left-hand top corner the contract registry numbers. The gentleman having charge of this particular contract ledger to which the delivery refers, next credits the contractor with the quantities, assumed to have been delivered, in the contract ledger, but he does not do so until he has ascertained that the contract is properly quoted, and that it will not be exceeded. The chief inspector again receives this inspection note, which he returns to the particular inspector, who enters the particulars, by the registry number, in his inspection journal, and proceeds to inspect the particulars, and which he records in his journal, showing the quantities approved and rejected, as well as the reasons for rejection. He signs the note, and the chief inspector, on receipt, loses no time in passing it on to the receipt branch, after having made himself acquainted with any point that may have struck him as worthy of inquiry; on the morning after the receiving branch have had the note, a gentleman with the document in his hand proceeds to the storehouse in which the articles for transfer to store are lying, (and which the inspector has in the interim removed from the inspection room into an intermediate room) and sees the goods counted and taken over by the foreman of the branch, as well as entered in his ledger, which he initials; he also witnesses the foreman's signature for the receipt of the stores on the note itself. The particulars are then entered in the daily journal, and the store ledger or daily report number is then given to the note on the right hand top corner. The store ledger is posted daily from this journal, which is daily signed by the principal military storekeeper and passed in loose sheets (afterwards bound) to the ledger-room. The inspection note is, with all others representing stores delivered under contract, sent every day to the contract branch; and after crediting the contractor with the quantities approved, the head of that branch notifies to him the result of inspection, stating the causes of rejections, if there are any, and requests him to send in a monied bill in duplicate, at his convenience, for the proportion accepted.

On the bill being received and checked a certificate for payment is prepared, the fine, if any, being noted thereon. The local and chief inspectors sign as to quality, and the principal military storekeeper to the effect that he has, in his store ledger, charged himself with the quantities. The certificate bears the daily report number of the inspection note, so that it can at any moment be compared with the store ledger referred to. The certificate is entered in the registry book of certificates, and sent with the monied bills to the Accountant-General, while the inspection note is transferred to the ledger branch, in order to check the posting in the store ledger from the receipt journal, and on being folioed becomes the voucher for the storekeeper's annual accounts.

Not under Contract.

An order to receive is sent from Pall Mall, stating the description and quantities of stores to be received, as well as from whom; this is entered in an order book to receive, duly indexed, upon which a letter is addressed to the party who has to return the stores, and a reply is usually received stating they have been sent. On arrival at Weedon the receiving foreman enters them in his carrier's book; and if all is correct and there is an order to receive, he sends them by the carrier to the storehouse for inspection; (if there is no order to receive, which used to be frequently the case, he would retain the stores and report the irregularity); the inspector would then prepare a delivering voucher, quoting the order to receive, and would show the articles as serviceable, repairable, obsolete, or unserviceable. This voucher is given as an inspection note to the chief inspector, and is acted with in exactly a similar manner as with stores under contract, as far as being entered in the daily receipt journal; after the entry into which, however, on receiving the daily report number it goes direct to the ledger branch to check the station ledger with which it is annually surrendered as a voucher. A receipt is duly sent to the consignor, who, if he has not signed for the delivery of the stores, will be called upon to do so, and at the same time a report showing the stores received and their state is sent to the director of stores. The debit side of the station store ledger is daily posted from the receipt journal in consecutive order, receipts from contractors and from regiments or departments being treated in the same manner, and no distinction being made between one and the other.

Issues of Stores.

No stores are issued except upon the direct authority of the War Office, which on receipt is passed to the Issue branch, where it is first computed, if necessary, and then entered in the sub-order books of the several foremen concerned. It is next copied in the office order book to issue, which has an index. On the foreman making the issue he posts it off in his ledger and sends the particulars on a transit note, which has a counterpart, to the issuing foreman, who has been previously made acquainted with the names of the foremen relating to each order; the transit notes show whether the order is complete or not; if the latter, they state the articles not in store. On receiving the transit notes the issuing foreman collects, weighs, and directs the stores, sending the transit notes with a collected statement to the issuing office, at which place the issue is checked, marked off in the order book to issue, and a notice sent to the issuing foreman to issue. The issue is then entered in the daily journal of issues, from which the store ledger is posted, and the issue receives a consecutive number. A report is made to the War Office that the order has been complied with, either in part or in full; if in part a report of inability is sent, specifying the articles not issued and the reasons. An invoice, called a delivery note is sent with the stores to the consignee, which is signed by the storekeeper, and it is accompanied by a receipt voucher, which the consignee is requested to sign and return, as well as send into store all empty packages. On the receipt being returned it checks the posting of the store ledger which has been made from the issue journal, and on being folioed becomes the storekeeper's credit voucher for his accounts. The recovery of these receipts causes immense correspondence, sometimes it being necessary to apply three times and constantly twice for their return, and it frequently occurs that duplicate vouchers have to be sent. On the issuing foreman receiving the order to hand the stores to the contractor for conveyance, he takes from him a receipt for the packages "in good order," and hands to him a way bill, which becomes a voucher for the contractor's account. The storekeeper's credit side of the station ledger is daily posted from the issue journal.

REGISTRY AND CORRESPONDENCE BRANCH.

In the *General Charge Book* every letter and document of importance receives a number marked in red ink; the letters and documents are then charged on to the

different branches to which they refer; if required to be sent to another branch, they are again brought to the Registry Office to be struck off the one charge and transferred to the other, which process occurs frequently during the day; by this means it can be ascertained at any moment in whose possession a paper is. The charge book commences with No. 1 on the 1st of April in each year (financial) and the numbers following consecutively until the 31st March following; the papers being kept distinct for each year. When the papers come to the registry to be put away they are placed between two boards numbered outside from 1 to 500, and 500 to 1000, and so on. All documents connected with the same subject are attached to each other, and put by, or otherwise disposed of, under one key number, such number being the lowest of the series.

A column in this charge book shows the number of the page in the registry books.

Abbreviations made use of in the above book are D.S., "Director of Stores;" P.M.S., "Principal Military Storekeeper;" I.B., "Issue Branch;" C.B., "Contract Branch;" L.B., "Ledger Branch;" P.A., "Put Away;" and "Watch."

The *Registry Books* are three in number, viz.—Regimental, Contractors', and Miscellaneous, and will show the method of registering all letters, papers, and documents. On receiving the red ink number from the general charge book, they are handed to the gentleman in charge of each registry (the page of the same being shown in the charge book as before stated); for instance, all documents connected with the 50th regiment are minuted under that particular heading in the "regimental registry," each subject being grouped under the number of the paper which commenced the correspondence, and which becomes the key number of the whole until it terminates, the sub-numbers varying consecutively according to the length of the correspondence. The great advantage of the registry books is that the state and progress of any subject can be seen at a glance on opening the page allotted to the service, without the expense of time and trouble in searching out the original papers, and referring to the letter books. Furthermore in the event of the destruction of the original papers and also letter books, a very good and clear record of every transaction appertaining to the station is there preserved.

By means of the record kept in the charge and registry books, any information required by the other branches of the establishment to enable them to carry out their duties, can be immediately afforded, and explanation given on subjects which have occurred at any former period, if faithfully and strictly kept up.

In the *Watch Book* all documents requiring replies are entered as "Watching" for a certain period therein specified, until certain necessary information is obtained from distant sources; if no reply is received by that time, a reminder is sent and noted in the watch book; on the completion of the correspondence, or the required reply being received, the entry is marked off.

The *Letter Books* contain entries of the outgoing correspondence, classified according to the respective registrars, each letter or document bearing the register number of the subject to which it replies or has reference.

On letters arriving at the office they are marked off by the principal military storekeeper to the different branches to which they refer; the whole are then sent to the Registry, where they are stamped, the register number placed on them (as before shown on describing the charge book), the subjects minuted in the respective registries, and they are then charged off (grouped with any former correspondence or papers on the same subject), to the heads of the different branches, who are held responsible for them until their return. An immense deal of reference is thus daily going on between the different branches of the establishment and the Registry Office. After being acted on the necessary information is minuted on the original letters by the branch or branches to which they appertain, and then sent to the Correspondence Office, where the letters are written to Pall Mall or any other destination; copies of the same are entered in the letter books, and the original papers sent in to the Registry to be put away or watched, as may be necessary.

Labour and Pay of Men.

The labour hours at Weedon are from half-past 7 to 5, with half an hour's interval for dinner. The ticket system is introduced as at Woolwich and the Tower, and any one coming in five minutes late loses a quarter of a day's pay.

A check book is kept, from which the men are paid, and the accounts supporting the storekeeper's charge is prepared from it.

H. W. GORDON,
Principal Military Storekeeper.

APPENDIX No. 16. (*Question 7040.*)

THE total expenditure for clothing and necessaries for the troops at home, in the colonies, and in India, and the embodied and disembodied militia, from 1st December 1855 to 14th May 1858, is 3,490,756*l.* 7*s.* 2*d.*

The expenses incurred upon the same are as follows:—

	£
Contingencies for alterations, carriage, marking, &c. - - - - -	32,775
Expenses at Weedon - - - - -	32,460
Salaries to officers and clerks at Pall Mall - - - - -	14,781
Paid to Messrs. Hayter and Howell for packing and freight - - - - -	59,675
Total - - - - -	£139,692

Equal to 4 per cent. upon the total expenditure.

A great part of the stores included in the 3,490,756*l.* were delivered at other stations than Weedon, or sent to regiments direct during the Russian war.

The total sum paid for clothing and necessaries upon certificates granted at Weedon by Mr. Elliott is 1,514,649*l.*, and the total charge incurred for departmental, contingent, and packing expenses is 105,588*l.*, being equal to 7 per cent. upon the expenditure at Weedon, above reported.

The calculation of expenses has been made up as follows:—

	£
Total expenses incurred at Weedon from its formation to 14th May 1858, for carriage, travelling, salaries, labour, &c., according to a return furnished by the Accountant-General - - - - -	32,460
Salaries to officers and clerks employed in the clothing branch at Pall Mall from 1st December 1855 to 14th May 1858, calculated from information obtained in the branch as to the numbers actually employed - - - - -	14,781
The amount paid to Messrs. Hayter and Howell for packing and freight upon the whole of the clothing packed by them since December 1855 is, according to a return made up in the Accountant-General's branch for the Committee on Contracts, 59,676 <i>l.</i> upon the total expenditure of 3,490,756 <i>l.</i>	
The proportion to be charged upon the stores paid for by certificates granted by Mr. Elliott (1,514,649 <i>l.</i>) is therefore - - - - -	25,572
The expense incurred for contingent expenses of regiments from 1st December 1855 to 14th May 1858 has been calculated as accurately as possible, but as many of the accounts from regiments abroad have not yet been received and examined, it has been necessary to take an average based upon the contingent expenses of regiments in former years; the amount is - - - - -	32,775
	£105,588

This sum is equal to 7 per cent. upon the cost of the stores delivered at Weedon, and paid for upon certificates granted by Mr. Elliott, while the general account shows that the expense is 4 per cent. only upon the total amount of money expended from the formation of the Clothing Department up to May 1858.

It must also be observed that the clothing branch at its formation took upon itself to clothe the artillery and engineers, and the provision of great coats for the army; also the clothing of the disembodied militia, which services

formerly occupied many clerks in the Ordnance Department; and, further, that the Board of General Officers has been abolished, and its duties transferred to the clothing branch, by which 1,200*l.* a year has been saved to the public.

The salaries of clerks employed on clothing duties in the War Office and the Ordnance was not less than 3,000*l.*, making 4,200*l.* as the annual expense of clerks and others employed on clothing duties under the old system, which should be deducted from the present account of the clothing branch.

GEORGE D. RAMSAY.

December 21, 1858.

APPENDIX No. 17. (*Question 7112.*)

COMPLAINTS respecting CLOTHING supplied by the COLONELS between October 1855 and July 1856.

Dates.	Regiments.	Nature of Complaint.
6 Oct. 1855 -	91st Reg. 1st Bat.	Sergeants' trousers, 9 pairs complained of.
4 Aug. " -	2nd W. India	Inferiority of clothing.
10 Aug. " -	3rd Dragoon Gds.	Cloth for overalls inferior.
8 Dec. " -	1st W. India	Extreme badness of clothing.
10 Dec. " -	13th Regiment	Caps complained of.
10 Dec. " -	54th Regiment	Caps complained of.
19 Sept. " -	25th Regiment	Drummers' jackets complained of.
22 Oct. " -	Coldstream Gds.	Clothing complained of.
9 Oct. " -	18th Regiment	Boots complained of.
10 Dec. " -	80th Regiment	Bad fit of tunics.
10 Jan. 1856 -	82nd Reg. Depôt.	Summer trousers, bad material.
15 Jan. " -	Coldstream Gds.	Bad quality of tunic cloth.
26 Jan. " -	44th Depôt	Clothing for 1856, part inferior.
26 Feb. " -	96th Regiment	Boots very inferior.
14 Mar. " -	B.G. Legion, 2nd Jager Corps	Jackets and trousers, small size, complained of.
9 June " -	Scotch Greys	Tunic buttons complained of.
12 June " -	4th Dragoon Gds.	Overalls complained of.
22 Mar. " -	Supplied under contract.	Boots rejected.
27 Mar. " -	14th L. Dragoons	Clothing inferior in quality.
31 Mar. " -	57th Regiment	Sewing inferior in tunics and trousers.
3 April " -	16th Lancers	Great coats and capes of bad quality.
12 May " -	40th Regiment	Stitching of trousers very inferior.
7 June " -	62nd Regiment	Private tunics, workmanship inferior.
7 June " -	2nd W. India Reg.	Clothing complained of.
7 June " -	13th L. Dragoons.	Sewing of clothing inferior.
9 June " -	51st Regiment	Complaint; clothing.
11 June " -	10th Hussars	Clothing, bad materials.
11 June " -	7th Regiment	Clothing complained of.
23 June " -	67th Regiment	Gold lace very inferior.
12 June " -	19th Regiment	Buttons bad, and badly sewn.
16 April " -	1st Dragoons	Clothing inferior, unfit for issue.
5 May " -	49th Rec. party	Clothing too small.
12 May " -	6th Dragoon Gds.	Trousers bad.
4 June " -	25th Regiment	Clothing complained of.
18 June " -	5th Dragoon Gds.	Overalls bad.
30 June " -	15th Depôt	Tunics and overalls very inferior.
5 July " -	79th Regiment	Cloth inferior.
5 July " -	71st Regiment	Cloth inferior.
5 July " -	42nd Regiment	Cloth inferior.
7 July " -	72nd Regiment	Clothing defective.

APPENDIX No. 18. (Question 7113.)

RETURN of CLOTHING due on the 1st April 1858.

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
1ST DN. GUARDS -	—	—	—	In Madras; no proceedings of Board yet received.
2ND DN. GUARDS -	—	—	—	By letter from officers commanding, dated 12th Sept. 1858, from Lucknow; it is reported that materials of clothing have been received, and were made up by tradesmen.
3RD DN. GUARDS -	—	—	—	In Bombay; no report yet received.
4TH DN. GUARDS -	—	Dec. 1857 - 30 Jan. 1858	Materials of clothing found equal in quality and conformable to the sealed patterns with which they have been compared. Ditto Ditto.	—
5TH DN. GUARDS -	—	14 Dec. 1857	Materials of clothing found to be in good condition, and equal in quality to sealed patterns.	—
6TH DN. GUARDS -	11 Sept.	—	—	In a letter from officers commanding, dated 13th September last, from Meerut; the clothing for 1858 is reported to have been made up, and issued to the men. No proceedings of Board yet received.
7TH DN. GUARDS -	—	—	—	In letter from officer commanding, dated 15th Sept. 1858; the clothing for the current year is reported not to have yet arrived, nor any intelligence received respecting it.
1ST DRAGOONS -	1 April	14 Jan. 1858	Not equal in quality or colour to sealed patterns.	Ordered to be taken into wear by War Office.
2ND DRAGOONS -	1 April	25 Nov. 1857 14 Feb. 1858	In strict accordance with sealed patterns. Ditto ditto.	A supplementary supply.
3RD DRAGOONS -	—	16 Nov. 1857	Materials of clothing equal to sealed patterns, and of good quality.	—
4TH DRAGOONS -	—	9 Dec. 1857 -	Materials of clothing equal to sealed patterns, and of good quality.	—
5TH DRAGOONS -	—	3A pril 1858	Equal to sealed patterns.	—
6TH DRAGOONS -	—	—	—	In Bombay; no report yet received.
7TH HUSSARS -	—	—	—	By letter, dated 17th Sept. 1858, from the commanding officer; the clothing is stated not to have been received, but information had arrived of its having been shipped from England on 25th May last.
8TH HUSSARS -	—	—	—	In Bombay; no report yet received.
9TH LANCERS -	—	17 Aug. 1858	Found to be of inferior quality, and not equal to pattern, several deficiencies noticed, (delay in not comparing clothing sooner, caused by absence, until the 14th August, of patterns, per letter from officer commanding).	By letter from officer commanding, dated 14th Sept. 1858, from Umballa, the materials of clothing were being made up, and half the regiment was already fitted.
10TH HUSSARS -	—	3 Oct. 1857	Materials of clothing equal in quality to sealed patterns.	—
11TH HUSSARS -	—	—	—	Observations of commanding officer on clothing received for:—Materials for tunics good and serviceable, except blue cloth for privates, which is of very inferior quality; recommended to be exchanged. Materials for overalls good and serviceable.
12TH LANCERS -	—	9 March 1858	Materials of clothing found equal in quality to sealed pattern.	—

* The cloth for the 11th Hussars, reported on by the commanding officer, being annual, is, of course, inferior to former supplies to the regiment, which were of biennial cloth.

RETURN of CLOTHING, &c.—continued.

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of Issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
13TH LT. DRAGOONS -	1 April -	13 Nov. 1857	Materials found to be of good quality and to correspond with sealed patterns.	_____
DITTO - -	—	26 Jan. 1858	Materials of good quality and equal to sealed patterns, but find the supply less than the quantity demanded by requisition.	_____
14TH LT. DRAGOONS -	—	—	_____	In Bombay; no report yet received.
15TH HUSSARS -	—	28 Oct. 1857	Materials of clothing found equal to sealed pattern.	_____
DITTO - -	—	2 Jan. 1858	Materials of clothing equal to sealed patterns.	Augmentation supply.
16TH LANCERS -	—	5 Feb. 1858	Trimmings found to be in conformity with sealed patterns.	_____
DITTO - -	—	27 Feb. 1858	Materials reported to be in strict conformity with sealed patterns.	_____
DITTO - -	—	17 Oct. 1857	Materials of clothing found to be agreeable with sealed patterns.	_____
17TH LANCERS -	—	—	_____	In Bengal; no report yet received.
18TH HUSSARS - -	—	22 Mar. 1858	Blue cloth for tunics, stable jackets, and overalls not considered equal to sealed patterns.	Tunic cloth ultimately exchanged, and officer commanding expressed himself satisfied.
MILITARY TRAIN, (Depôt and Battalions on Home Service.)	—	15 Feb. 1858	Clothing supplied for, found in every respect fully equal to the authorized pattern, both as regards its quality and workmanship; recommended to be forwarded to the several battalions and depôt, with a view to its being taken into wear on the 1st April 1858.	_____
MILITARY TRAIN, 2nd Battalion. (On Foreign Service.)	—	12 Jan. 1858	Clothing in all respects found equal to the sealed pattern; recommended to be forwarded to the 2nd Battalion for issue on the commencement of the financial year.	By letter from officer commanding, dated Buxar, 13th September 1858, the clothing for this corps appears not to have arrived at the head-quarters, and further that it had not reached Calcutta up to the 14th July last.
GRENADEER GUARDS, 1st Battalion.	—	22 April 1858	102 articles rejected for bad workmanship, through being damaged, &c. Clothing generally badly made up.	Col. Hudson, in a report dated 11th May, showed that no loss would arise to the public from the final rejection of any article issued to this battalion.
GRENADEER GUARDS, 2nd Battalion.	—	21 April 1858	Tunics for privates and drummers equal to sealed pattern, but inferior to last year's clothing. Trousers of not so good a quality as the sealed pattern; other articles pronounced good, and equal to sealed pattern.	Col. Hudson reports, with reference to the trousers, that the sealed patterns were cut from the same bales of cloth as the clothing. Admits it, however, to be made of cheaper cloth than that issued to the line, but thinks it will be durable.
DITTO - -	—	19 April 1858	Good and fit to be issued. (Clothing for a schoolmaster.)	_____
DITTO - -	—	14 May 1858	Good and fit for issue, and conformable to sealed pattern. (Sergeants' tunics, trousers, &c.)	_____
DITTO - -	—	17 May 1858	Fit to be issued. (Drum-major's tunic.)	_____
GRENADEER GUARDS, 3rd Battalion.	—	21 April 1858	A defect in pattern found in a large number of tunics; the back tacking being not tacked the same as the pattern coat; defective workmanship in other tunics; similar fault noticed in privates' trousers and waistcoats; remarked, that some tunics were stained.	Col. Hudson states that the whole of this clothing has been issued to the men; the defects having been rectified at a very trifling sum. He adds, also, that the public will be put to no expense by the rejection of any part of the clothing.
DITTO - -	—	23 Mar. 1858	Good and serviceable, and agree with sealed pattern in material and workmanship. (Report on boots.)	_____
COLDSTREAM GUARDS, 1st Battalion.	—	29 May 1858	Articles of good quality and equal to sealed patterns.	_____
DITTO - -	—	23 Mar. 1858	Equal in quality and workmanship, and of the same description as the sealed pattern.	A report on boots
DITTO - -	—	12 May 1858	Of opinion that they are of good quality and agree with sealed pattern.	Ditto.
COLDSTREAM GUARDS, 2nd Battalion.	—	3 June	Equal to sealed patterns.	_____
DITTO - -	—	19 Mar. 1858	Boots of equal quality to sealed patterns.	_____
SCOTCH FUSILLIER GDS., 1st Battalion.	—	- April 1858	In every respect equal to sealed patterns; but lace on cuffs of sergeants' coats broader than that on sealed pattern.	_____

RETURN OF CLOTHING, &c.—*continued.*

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of Issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
SCOTCH FUSILIER GDS., 1st Battalion.	—	March 1858	Boots found equal to the sealed pattern, and of a superior quality to any previously issued to the regiment.	—
SCOTCH FUSILIER GDS., 2nd Battalion.	—	23 April 1858	Equal to sealed patterns.	—
DITTO - -	—	24 Mar. 1858	Material and workmanship of the boots very good, and the articles well adapted for the army.	—
1ST FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	8 July 1858	Equal to the sealed patterns.	In Madras.
1ST FOOT, 2nd Batt. -	—	—	Report dated 15 April 1858, generally satisfactory.	At Hongkong.
2ND FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	—	Report dated 29 June, very satisfactory.	At Cape of Good Hope.
2ND FOOT, 2nd Batt. -	—	17 July 1858	Of good quality and equal to the sealed patterns.	At Corfu.
DITTO - -	—	16 Nov. 1858	Badly made, and part of bad quality.	—
3RD FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	—	Report received, very satisfactory.	At Calcutta.
3RD FOOT, 2nd Batt. -	—	—	No report received of Regimental Board; report of officer commanding that it has worn well.	At Malta.
4TH FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	—	No report received of Regimental Board; report of officer commanding that it has worn well.	—
4TH FOOT, 2nd Batt. -	—	22 June 1858	The whole of the tunics inferior to sealed patterns (more especially the privates' tunics), and are unfit for issue to the battalion. The trousers and badges agree with the sealed pattern, and are fit for issue.	The officer commanding has been requested to issue the clothing, and report upon it in three months.
DITTO - -	—	28 June 1858	Tunics inferior to sealed patterns, and therefore unfit for issue. Trousers equal in quality to sealed pattern.	The officer commanding informed that the sergeants' and privates' tunics might be issued; and a report made of the wear in three months.
DITTO - -	—	7 July 1858	Boots equal to sealed patterns. Trousers of old pattern, without pockets, stripe narrower than pattern; unfit for issue.	The War Office, in reply to a communication respecting these articles, notified that a sum not exceeding 1s. 3½d. for each pair of trousers would be allowed for the purpose of altering them to the present pattern.
DITTO - -	—	12 July 1858	Drummers' tunics, &c. equal to sealed patterns, and fit for issue.	—
5TH FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	—	No report received.	In letter from officer commanding, dated 11th September 1858, from Allahabad, boots are reported to have arrived, and that the remainder of the clothing had reached Calcutta.
5TH FOOT, 2nd Batt. -	—	—	Report, dated 28th July, satisfactory.	In Mauritius.
6TH FOOT, 1st Batt.	—	15 July 1858	On boots: "conformable to the pattern." There is no report on clothing received.	—
6TH FOOT, 2nd Batt. -	—	—	No report received of Regimental Board; officer commanding reports clothing good, except rank and file trousers.	At Gibraltar.
7TH FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	15 Nov. 1858	In good condition, with the exception of 65 shakos, whose peaks and tops are not of patent leather.	—
7TH FOOT, 2nd Batt. -	—	21 Nov. 1857	Articles of good quality; no sealed patterns sent for purposes of comparison.	Sealed patterns subsequently sent.
8TH FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	—	No report received.	It is stated, in letter dated 13th September 1858, from Futteh Ghur, that the greater portion of the clothing for this battalion had arrived.
8TH FOOT, 2nd Batt. -	—	24 Dec. 1857	In conformity with sealed pattern.	—
DITTO - -	—	9 Feb. 1858	In conformity with sealed pattern.	—
DITTO - -	—	22 June 1858	In conformity with sealed pattern.	—
9TH REGIMENT, 1st Battalion.	—	24 Nov. 1857	Conformable to sealed patterns.	—
DITTO - -	—	4 June 1858	Conformable to sealed patterns.	—
9TH REGIMENT, 2nd Battalion.	—	27 Jan. 1858	In every respect conformable to sealed patterns.	—
DITTO - -	—	14 July 1858	Boots equal to sealed pattern; but the whole of the trousers very inferior to pattern, the cloth being very thin, the sewing bad, and the red stripe not regulation breadth: rejected for these deficiencies, not being considered fit for issue.	The attention of the War Office having been called to the inferior trousers, make answer that a sum not exceeding 1s. 3½d. for each pair of trousers will be allowed for altering these articles to the present pattern.
DITTO - -	—	3 Aug 1858	Articles good with exception of trousers, which are pronounced to be of an inferior quality.	Proceedings of Board forwarded to War Office.

RETURN OF CLOTHING, &c.—*continued.*

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of Issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
10TH FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	3 Sept. 1858	Part of the clothing received, and so much damaged by salt water as to be unfit for issue, and sold.	—
10TH FOOT, 2nd Batt.	—	6 March 1858	Clothing found to agree with sealed patterns.	War Office requested to state the steps taken respecting these deficiencies.
DITTO -	—	29 Nov. 1858	Most of the sergeants' tunics and trousers inferior to patterns; all the drummers' tunics inferior; and privates' tunics, with few exceptions, found to be inferior. The remainder of the clothing found equal to pattern.	
11TH FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	6 March 1858	Of good quality, and fully equal to the sealed patterns.	—
11TH FOOT, 2nd Batt.	—	10 April 1858	Articles of good quality, and equal to sealed pattern.	—
12TH FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	—	No report received.	Tasmania.
12TH FOOT, 2nd Batt.	—	13 Mar. 1858	Articles of clothing of good quality, and equal to sealed pattern.	
DITTO - -	—	30 Mar. 1858	Articles of clothing equal to sealed pattern, and of good quality.	—
DITTO - -	—	24 May 1858	Agreeable to sealed pattern, but certain deficiencies in supply noticed; remarked also that no attention has been paid to size roll.	Proceedings of Board forwarded to the War Office.
13TH REGIMENT, 1st Battalion.	—	—	No report received.	Clothing for this battalion not yet arrived; no intelligence received respecting it since November 1857, when its having been sent to the Cape of Good Hope was notified per letter from officer commanding, dated 12th September 1858, from "Gor-ruckpore."
13TH REGIMENT, 2nd Battalion.	—	12 Mar. 1858	Articles of good quality, and equal to sealed patterns.	Tunics ordered to be taken into wear, the deficiencies being trifling.
DITTO - -	—	14 Oct. 1858	The material of the tunic equal in <i>quality</i> to sealed pattern, but defective in pattern and inferior in workmanship. Other articles found equal to sealed patterns, and fit for issue.	
DITTO - -	—	26 Oct. 1858	Tunics equal in <i>quality</i> to sealed pattern, but defective both in pattern and workmanship.	Issued by commanding officer, the articles complained of being urgently required.
14TH REGIMENT, 1st Battalion.	—	26 Feb. 1858	Equal to sealed patterns, and conformable to regulation, with certain exceptions; to wit, the whole of the shoulder straps badly sewn, some too short, others too much to the rear. Certain tunics and trousers found unfit for issue from different causes; the incorrectness of size labels reported.	War Office requested to remedy deficiencies enumerated in proceedings, to which application assent is accorded.
14TH REGIMENT, 2nd Battalion.	—	2 March 1858	Equal to sealed patterns in all respects.	—
DITTO - -	—	6 July 1858	Equal to sealed patterns in all respects.	—
DITTO - -	—	16 July 1858	Equal to sealed patterns in all respects.	—
DITTO - -	—	27 July 1858	Equal to sealed patterns in all respects.	—
15TH REGIMENT, 1st Battalion.	—	19 Jan. 1858	Equal to sealed pattern and of good quality.	—
DITTO - -	—	12 April 1858	Boots found to be good and equal to sealed pattern.	—
15TH REGIMENT, 2nd Battalion.	—	27 April 1858	Sergeants' tunics not equal to sealed pattern; recommended to be replaced by a fresh issue.	The War Office requested to state the steps intended to be taken respecting these tunics.
DITTO - -	—	1 June 1858	Sergeants' tunics of very inferior quality, and of the same material as those condemned by Board of Survey on 27th April last; recommended to be exchanged: drummers' tunics reported of a very inferior quality; recommended to be replaced by a fresh issue.	In reply to a communication from this department on the subject of inferior tunics issued to this battalion, the War Office returned answer, that the whole of the tunics condemned by this and the preceding Board should be issued, on the ground that the slight difference in the nap of the cloth does not warrant the rejection of the supplies.
16TH REGIMENT, 1st Battalion.	—	29 Mar. 1858	In accordance with the sealed pattern.	—
16TH REGIMENT, 2nd Battalion.	—	19 Ap. 1858 5 June 1858 18 June 1858 21 July 1858 18 Nov. 1858 14 Sept. 1858	In accordance with sealed patterns, with the exception of shakos (sergeants).	These shakos have been replaced by others, which have also been rejected. The question is still pending.
17TH FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	—	No report received of Regimental Board; officer commanding reports, except tunics, that it has worn well.	

RETURN OF CLOTHING, &c.—*continued.*

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of Issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
17TH FOOT, 2nd Batt.	—	—	Articles of clothing found to agree with the sealed pattern, and fit to issue to the troops.	—
18TH FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	—	No report received.	In Bombay.
18TH FOOT, 2nd Batt.	—	27 April 1858	Articles of clothing found to be of good quality, and equal to sealed patterns.	—
DITTO.	—	29 May 1858	Ammunition boots found to be of good quality, and equal to sealed pattern.	—
19TH FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	—	No report received.	By letter from officer commanding, dated 13th September 1858, the clothing for 1858-9 had arrived at Barrackpore on 23rd June, 1858.
19TH FOOT, 2nd Batt.	—	28 June 1858	Articles reported to be of good quality, and equal to sealed patterns. Observed that the non-commissioned officers' badges are of a yellow colour instead of being green; the omission of one pair of staff-sergeants' shoulder straps, remarked.	—
DITTO - -	—	4 Aug. 1858	Clothing equal in quality to pattern, and in good condition, with the exception of one pair of trousers, which appear to be cut and re-sewn, and therefore unfit for issue.	Deficiencies reported to War Office.
20TH FOOT, 1st Batt.	—	8 Nov. 1858	Equal in quality to the sealed patterns, and conformable in every respect to the regulations.	—
20TH FOOT, 2nd Batt.	—	4 June 1858	Clothing of good quality and equal to sealed pattern.	—
DITTO - -	—	10 June 1858	Clothing of good quality and equal to sealed pattern.	—
DITTO - -	—	30 June 1858	Clothing of good quality and equal to sealed pattern; pronounced fit for issue.	—
DITTO - -	—	19 July 1858	Articles of good quality and fit for issue.	—
21ST FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	15 May 1858	Equal to sealed patterns, with the exception of 18 shacos, which, being very much damaged, the Board consider unfit for issue; a few trifling deficiencies in the number of articles constituting the supply observed.	—
21ST FOOT, 2nd Batt. -	—	3 June 1858	Conformable to the sealed patterns.	—
22ND FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	28 April 1858	Equal to sealed patterns and in good condition.	—
22ND FOOT, 2nd Batt.	—	2 May 1858	No report received.	By inspection certificate, the clothing reported equal in quality to sealed patterns.
23RD FOOT, 1st Batt. -	—	9 Aug. 1858	Boots (the articles reported upon) pronounced fit for issue; five pairs reported deficient; packing cases all broken at period of examination by Board.	The officer commanding states, in a letter dated 13th September 1858, from Camp Nawabgunge, that it has been notified to him that the remainder of the clothing had been handed to the agents, Messrs. Spinks & Co., for transmission to the regiment.
23RD FOOT, 2nd Batt.	—	10 June 1858	Equal to sealed patterns, with the exception of the lace for staff-sergeants' tunics, which is considered of an inferior description.	The War Office requested to submit a portion of staff lace for sealing, for the use of the battalion.
24TH REGIMENT, 1st Battalion.	—	7 Aug. 1858	Boots according to the sealed pattern, and in good condition. (Report on boots.)	—
DITTO - -	—	21 Aug 1858	Clothing equal in quality to the sealed patterns, with sundry exceptions; to wit, sergeants' tunics reported to be of not so fine a cloth or so bright a coloured scarlet. 26 privates' tunics unfit to issue as "new clothing," being damaged in transit; two pairs privates' trousers damaged, cause not known; 27 privates' shacos damaged, alleged cause, carelessness in packing. 100 privates' shacos sent out with unglazed peaks and leather, pronounced unfit for issue.	By letter from officer commanding, dated 14th Sept. 1858, from Ferozepore, the clothing for the current year is reported to have just arrived from Calcutta, and to be in course of issue.
24TH REGIMENT, 2nd Battalion.	—	5 July 1858	In every respect equal to sealed pattern.	With reference to the shacos, with unglazed peaks and leather tops, the commanding officer has been informed that they are intended for trial, and report, and should be issued. The proceedings of Board forwarded to the War Office.
DITTO - -	—	July 1858 -	Equal in quality to sealed patterns.	—
DITTO - -	—	30 July 1858	Equal in quality to sealed patterns.	—
DITTO - -	—	20 July 1858	In every respect equal to sealed patterns.	—

RETURN OF CLOTHING, &c.—*continued.*

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of Issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
25TH REGIMENT -	—	10 Feb. 1858	All descriptions of tunics found equal in quality to sealed patterns; in the absence of sealed pattern pairs of trousers, no comparison able to be made in regard to the supply of that article of clothing. The non-receipt of buttons, &c. reported.	The attention of the War Office, called to the fact that the clothing for this regiment has been sent out without buttons; the absence of a sealed pattern pair of trousers also pointed out: other omissions also requested to be rectified.
DITTO - -	—	8 Mar. 1858	The trousers appear to be equal in quality to sealed patterns; but the privates' trousers have only one large watch pocket, whereas two side pockets are in the sealed patterns. The non-receipt of badges reported.	Proceedings of Board forwarded to the War Office.
DITTO - -	—	8 April 1858	(A report on boots and shacos.) Articles found equal in quality to sealed patterns; 104 ball tufts reported of a green colour, and four of a white. Absence of steaming kettles, remarked.	The officer commanding requested not to issue the ball tufts for flank companies, and the War Office desired to replace them. Steaming kettles not considered necessary.
26TH REGIMENT -	—	1 April 1858	Clothing found to be in conformity with the sealed patterns, both with regard to the quality of the materials and make of the articles. A deficiency of 27 pairs of boots observed.	Proceedings of Board forwarded to the War Office.
27TH REGIMENT -	—	24 Aug. 1858	In every respect conformable to patterns	By letter from officer commanding, dated 13th Sept. 1858, from Umballa, the clothing is reported to have been received on 13th August 1858, and has been issued to the men.
28TH REGIMENT -	—	23 Feb. 1858	Clothing found good and equal to sealed patterns in possession of regiment; sealed patterns of shacos and other articles not received; but the supply of these descriptions of clothing considered equal to the patterns of last year. The deficiency of a schoolmaster's sash, and the damage sustained by a few articles, remarked.	Proceedings of Board forwarded to the War Office.
29TH REGIMENT -	—	31 July 1858	Clothing of good quality and conformable to sealed patterns; but it is remarked that the materials for musicians' trousers and tunics are sent out in pieces, thereby entailing a loss in cutting; and that the cloth sent out in material for privates' tunics is inferior in quality to that sent made up, being of a coarser description. Omission of shoulder straps and badges for band-sergeants' tunic, and absence of one pair of boots, remarked.	The attention of the War Office was called to these deficiencies, and an answer has been received to the effect that an inquiry will be made respecting them, when a further communication will be made to this department on the subject.
30TH REGIMENT -	May 1858	—	Satisfactory report, dated 22nd February, received.	A certificate of inspection has been received from Major-General Cunyng-hame, by which it appears that the clothing supplied to this corps seems equal in quality to sealed patterns and conformable to regulation; also that, in his belief, it was delivered to the men for use on the 14th May 1858.
31ST REGIMENT -	—	—	No report received of Regimental Board; officer commanding reports that the clothing appears to have worn well.	In Bengal.
32ND REGIMENT -	—	—	No report received.	By letter from officer commanding, dated 11th September 1858, from Camp Pertabgurrh, the English clothing is reported to have been received.
33RD REGIMENT -	—	—	No report received.	In Bombay.
34TH REGIMENT -	—	—	In good condition, except ball tufts and scarlet cloth for sergeants.	—
35TH REGIMENT -	—	—	No report received.	Clothing reported to have been received by this regiment on 21st June last, per letter from commanding officer, dated 14th September 1858, from Dinapore.

USE OF CLOTHING, &c.—*continued.*

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of Issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
36TH REGIMENT	—	6 April 1858	(Report on trousers.) Found inferior in quality and workmanship to sealed pattern.	The attention of the War Office called to these defects; in reply, it is recommended that they be taken into use, and if reported by the commanding officer to wear badly, compensation to the men is promised.
36TH REGIMENT	—	27 April 1858	(Report on trousers.) Found to be not equal to the sealed pattern in material, but at the same time not sufficiently inferior to justify their rejection. The Board remark that it would appear that the contractor had endeavoured to obtain an undue profit by resorting to inferior workmanship and materials in petty details.	The attention of the War Office called to these deficiencies.
37TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	By letter from commanding officer, dated 13th September 1858, from Ghazepore, boots only had been received, but transit orders had been sent for the despatch of the remainder to the agents at Calcutta.
38TH REGIMENT	—	18 Oct. 1858	Equal to pattern and fit for issue, except 9 tunics and 18 pairs of trousers.	—
39TH REGIMENT	—	—	Report dated 24th March received. Equal to sealed pattern.	In Canada.
40TH REGIMENT	—	12 April 1858	Clothing found to be, both in size and quality, fully conformable to sealed patterns.	—
41ST REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	In Jamaica.
42ND REGIMENT	—	21 Dec. 1858	In good condition, except 19 pairs of boots and the gold lace on a tunic.	—
43RD REGIMENT	—	22 Mar. 1859	Conformable to the sealed patterns.	In Madras.
44TH REGIMENT	—	—	Report, dated 15th July 1858, generally satisfactory, but the cloth of privates' and sergeants' trousers very hard and rough.	In Madras.
45TH REGIMENT	—	—	Report, dated 18th May, received: equal to sealed pattern. Tunics made too small.	At Cape of Good Hope.
46TH REGIMENT	—	8 April 1858	In good condition, and equal to the sealed pattern.	At Kurrachee.
47TH REGIMENT	—	28 Nov. 1857	Materials of clothing found to be correct in quantity, and in accordance with sealed patterns.	—
DITTO	—	9 Feb. 1858	Articles of good quality, and in accordance with sealed patterns. One or two minor deficiencies noticed.	—
DITTO	—	19 Feb. 1858	Articles found to be of good quality, and in accordance with the sealed pattern.	—
DITTO	—	1 April 1858	Equal in quality to sealed patterns, and fit for service.	—
48TH REGIMENT	—	16 Mar. 1858	Clothing found to agree with the sealed pattern, with several exceptions; to wit, tunics observed to be badly cut, trousers not sent according to size roll, &c. Many minor deficiencies noticed.	—
DITTO	—	31 July 1858	Clothing of good quality, and similar to sealed pattern.	—
49TH REGIMENT	—	30 April 1858	Clothing found to be in good order, and strictly conformable to regulations, with the following exceptions; 13 pairs of trousers of a dark colour, and very inferior to the sealed pattern. Deficiencies of materials observed.	The attention of the War Office called to report.
50TH REGIMENT	—	14 April 1858	Clothing equal to sealed pattern, and in good condition. Remarkd the absence of a suit for the sergeant-instructor of musketry.	Proceedings forwarded to War Office.
51ST REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	In Bombay.
52ND REGIMENT	—	—	Report, dated 11th September, received. Of usual quality; several articles damaged.	By letter from officer commanding, dated 16th September 1858, from Sealkote, the clothing for this corps is reported to have arrived on the 7th of September.

RETURN OF CLOTHING, &c.—*continued.*

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of Issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
53RD REGIMENT	Between 16 & 19 July 1858.	—	No report received.	By letter from the officer commanding, dated 18th September 1858, from Bhurtpore, the clothing for the current year was duly received, and issued between 16th and 20th July last, with the exception of shacos. These articles reported to be part at Cawnpore and part at Lucknow.
54TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	Stated in letter from this corps, dated 11th September 1858, from Bellah, that the clothing was received at Calcutta on or about the 30th August last, and that the officer commanding had given instructions to have it forwarded to Allahabad.
55TH REGIMENT	Between the 1 and 15 April.	23 Feb. 1858	Clothing considered equal to sealed patterns, and fit for issue.	—
56TH REGIMENT	—	16 Nov. 1848	In good condition. Leather of 19 caps unglazed.	In Bombay.
57TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report received of Regimental Board. Officer commanding reports that it has worn well.	—
58TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	In New Zealand.
59TH REGIMENT	—	—	Report, dated August 1858, received. Clothing good. No sealed pattern tunic.	At Hong Kong.
60TH REGIMENT, 1st Battalion.	—	—	No report received.	In letter from officer commanding, dated 14th September 1858, boots reported to have been received, but no clothing.— By a letter from officer commanding, dated one day later, it appears that the notification of the clothing having been despatched from Calcutta has been received at the headquarters of the battalion.
60TH REGIMENT, 2nd Battalion.	—	—	No report received.	Clothing stated not to have been received by this battalion, owing to its having been forwarded to the Cape of Good Hope, per letter from commanding officer, dated 14th September last, from Arrah.
60TH REGIMENT, 3rd Battalion.	—	20 Sept. 1858	(Report on a portion of regimental clothing.) Found to be in good order, and equal to patterns in every respect.	—
60TH REGIMENT, 4th Battalion.	—	14 April 1858	The supply of clothing considered, for wear and appearance, as inferior to supplies in former years. Remarked, that the soldiers' tunics are made of inferior cloth, and are not fit for use. Privates' trousers objected to with reference to "dye."	The attention of the War Office called to these deficiencies.
DITTO	—	28 April 1858	(Report on a small supply of clothing.) Clothing found to be of good quality, and the usual pattern, excepting two pairs trousers, which are not in accordance with the sealed pattern, and badly sewn at the bottom.	Proceedings of Board transmitted to the War Office.
DITTO	—	1 May	Clothing of similar quality to that reported on, on the 14th April, excepting 10 pairs trousers, which are not in conformity with sealed pattern. The Board further reports the trousers to be of different shades of green.	Trousers subsequently replaced.
DITTO	—	22 Sept. 1858	Boots considered to be of similar quality to supplies issued to the army. Privates' cloth to be made of serviceable material, but the colour objected to. Sergeants' cloth passed as good.	The privates' cloth subsequently exchanged.
DITTO	—	10 Nov. 1858	Cloth reported to be badly dyed, having a yellow mixture throughout; the same fault noticed by previous Board.	The commanding officer ordered to report in three months on the wear of this cloth.
61ST REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	By letter from officer commanding, dated 13th September 1858, from Delhi, this regiment is in receipt of its clothing, which has been fitted, and in possession of the men.
62ND REGIMENT	—	—	No report of Board received. Officer commanding reports that it has worn well.	At Nova Scotia.

RETURN of CLOTHING, &c.—*continued.*

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of Issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
63RD REGIMENT	—	—	No report of Board received. Officer commanding reports that it has worn well.	At Nova Scotia.
64TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	On 11th September 1858, twenty bales of English clothing received, but no boots, per letter from commanding officer, dated 11th September, from Mynpoorie.
65TH REGIMENT	—	16 Aug. 1858	In good condition, equal to sealed patterns in every respect.	In New Zealand.
66TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report of Board received. Officer commanding reports that the clothing is good.	In Madras.
67TH REGIMENT	—	25 Mar. 1858	Clothing of good quality, and equal to the sealed patterns.	—
68TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	In Madras.
69TH REGIMENT	—	3 May 1858	In good condition, and equal to the sealed patterns.	In Madras.
70TH REGIMENT	—	10 Oct. 1858	In good condition, with the exception of several articles damaged.	—
71ST REGIMENT	—	8 Feb. 1859	(On a very few articles.) 15 articles stained, 1 cut, and the pair of boots part worn.	In Bombay.
72ND REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	In Bombay.
73RD REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	In letter from commanding officer, dated 10th September 1858, from Benares, no clothing had yet been received; but a bill of lading, announcing the shipment of the clothing from London to Algoa Bay, had arrived.
74TH REGIMENT	—	14 July	Clothing reported to be of good quality and equal to the sealed patterns, excepting one rank and file tunic and two waistcoats found damaged in the bales, and pronounced unfit for issue. These articles recommended to be sold by auction.	—
75TH REGIMENT	—	—	Report, dated 27th August, received, favourable; a few articles damaged.	Clothing for the present year reported to have arrived on the 24th August last, by letter from officer commanding, dated 14th September 1858, from Meerut.
76TH REGIMENT	—	8 Jan. 1858	Clothing found to be conformable with patterns, with the exception of the sergeants' tunics, which are pronounced inferior to pattern, and of a lighter dye, the edges of the cloth also showing more white than the edges of the pattern. Articles received all in good condition.	The General commanding in chief having considered the tunics referred to by the Board to be quite inferior in quality and dye to the sealed pattern, the War Office were asked concerning the steps that would be taken respecting these articles, to which a reply has been received, assenting to their being exchanged.
DITTO	—	1 May 1858	Tunics and trousers reported to differ in quality to the sealed patterns; the tunics very slightly, and the trousers in a greater degree, the cloth in each instance not appearing of quite such good substance as the sealed patterns.	The War Office in reply to a communication on the subject of these tunics and trousers, have represented that the commanding officer deemed their inferiority to be so slight that he issued them to the men.
DITTO	—	13 May 1858	Articles of clothing appear to be of good quality, and fully equal to sealed pattern.	—
77TH REGIMENT	—	18 Oct. 1858	Of good quality, and in every respect equal to the sealed patterns.	—
78TH REGIMENT	—	2 Nov. 1858	In accordance with the sealed pattern. Several articles damaged.	—
DITTO	—	9 Dec. 1858	In accordance with the sealed pattern.	—
79TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	By a statement received from this corps, dated 11th September 1858, from Cawnpore, a large portion of the clothing arrived at the head-quarters from the 19th to the 26th August last, and that the remainder is supposed to be en route for Cawnpore.

RETURN of CLOTHING, &c.—*continued.*

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of Issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
80TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	Clothing reported not to have arrived. Notification of its having been despatched from London for Algoa Bay, only received. Per letter from commanding officer, dated 12th September 1858, from Cawnpore.
81ST REGIMENT	—	30 Sept. 1858	According to the sealed patterns. The leather of 102 caps is unglazed. 36 pairs of boots damaged.	—
82ND REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	Eleven cases of ammunition boots received; other descriptions of clothing in course of being forwarded. By letter from officer commanding, dated 13th September last, from Shahjehanpore.
83RD REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	In Bombay.
84TH REGIMENT	—	17 Aug. 1858	Equal in quality to the sealed patterns. Many of the cuffs and facings are sewn with black thread.	—
85TH REGIMENT	—	—	Clothing found equal in quality to sealed patterns, and received by the regiment in good condition on the 10th March 1858.	—
DITTO	—	28 June 1858	Clothing reported to be equal to sealed patterns.	—
86TH REGIMENT	—	28 Jan. 1858	Equal in every respect to the sealed patterns. Defects in the making of some articles.	In Bombay.
87TH REGIMENT	—	4 May 1858	Clothing considered of good quality and conformable to sealed patterns.	Clothing received on 24th of April last. Letter from officer commanding, dated 14th September 1858, from Jullundur.
88TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	"Regimental clothing has been received from England, and is now being fitted to the men." Letter from commanding officer, dated 11th September 1858, from old Cantonments near Lucknow.
89TH REGIMENT	—	—	Report, dated 30th June 1858, satisfactory	In Bombay.
90TH REGIMENT	—	29 July 1858	(Report on a supply of boots.) Found equal to the sealed pattern in materials and workmanship; two pairs reported deficient.	By letter from commanding officer, dated 12th September 1858, from Cantonments Newab Gunge, the English clothing had not been received, but transit orders for 47 bales, containing the clothing alluded to, are reported to have been supplied to the agents at Calcutta.
91ST REGIMENT	—	13 April 1858	Clothing found conformable to sealed patterns.	—
92ND REGIMENT	—	10 Dec. 1858	The whole is in conformity to the sealed patterns.	In Bombay.
93RD REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	Clothing not received, with the exception of 10 cases of boots. Transit orders for 11 bales of clothing have been handed to regimental agents at Calcutta. From letter from officer commanding, dated 13th September 1858, from Bareilly.
94TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report received.	Clothing not yet received; but a notification of its having left Kurrachee en route for Mooltan has arrived. By letter from commanding officer, dated 17th September 1858, from Rawul Pindec.
95TH REGIMENT	—	—	No report of Board received. Officer commanding reports that it appears to be good.	In Bombay.

RETURN of CLOTHING, &c.—*continued.*

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of Issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
96TH REGIMENT -	—	1 March 1858	The clothing pronounced conformable in quality and condition to the sealed patterns, with the following exceptions; to wit, the breasts of a great number of the tunics are cut too large, defects in button-holes observed; buttons badly put on; boots made of good leather, but workmanship bad; neither tunics or trousers supplied according to regimental size roll. Fifty shaco tufts badly sewn, and unfit for use.	Proceedings of Board forwarded to the War Office, by which department an allowance was permitted to remedy the defective button-holes.
97TH REGIMENT -	—	—	No report received.	By letter from the officer commanding, dated 11th September 1858, from Lucknow, boots only received, the remainder of the clothing being still at Calcutta; with reference to which, it is added, that the regimental agents have had handed to them orders for the transit of 7 cases.
98TH REGIMENT -	—	—	No report received.	Per letter from officer commanding, dated 15th Sept. 1858, from Campbellpoor, the non-arrival of the clothing for the current year is reported. It is mentioned, however, to have reached Kurrachee in July last, and is now supposed to be on its way up country via Mooltan.
99TH REGIMENT -	—	—	No report received.	In Bengal.
100TH REGIMENT -	—	—	No report received.	No proceedings of Board have yet been received, but the clothing supplied to the regiment has been stated to have been of good quality.
RIFLE BRIGADE, 1st Battalion.	—	1 April 1858	Clothing found equal in quality to the sealed patterns, and conformable in every respect to regulation.	—
RIFLE BRIGADE, 2nd Battalion.	—	29 Jan. 1859	Tunics generally too high in back, and cloth very rotten, and of worst description, &c.	—
RIFLE BRIGADE, 3rd Battalion.	—	—	No report received.	The officer commanding states in a letter, dated 13th September last, from Lucknow, that the clothing for this battalion had arrived on the day of his writing.
RIFLE BRIGADE, 4th Battalion.	—	26 Nov. 1857	Equal in quality to the sealed patterns, and fit for issue to the battalion.	—
RIFLE BRIGADE, 4th Battalion.	—	5 May 1858	Sergeants' tunics equal to sealed pattern, and all other articles of clothing pronounced equal to sealed pattern.	—
1ST WEST INDIA REGIMENT.	—	6 Oct. 1858	Articles of clothing found to be in good order, and correct.	—
2ND WEST INDIA REGIMENT.	—	—	Conformable to the sealed patterns; but the Board remarks on the want of cap pockets in Zouave clothing.	—
3RD WEST INDIA REGIMENT.	—	1 Oct. 1858	With the exception of numerous deficiencies, the supply of clothing found to be equal in quality and quantity to the sealed patterns.	The attention of the War Office drawn to these defects, &c.
CEYLON RIFLE REGIMENT.	—	—	No report received of Board. Commanding officer's report generally good. Shell jackets bad; shacos too large.	—
CAPE MOUNTED RIFLEMEN.	—	—	No report received.	The clothing for the period 1857-9, not having been shipped till October of last year, it has been arranged that it shall be made to last until 31st March 1860.
ROYAL CANADIAN RIFLE REGIMENT.	—	20 Nov. 1858	Of good quality, and agrees with the sealed patterns.	—
ST. HELENA REGIMENT.	—	—	Report, dated 6th July, received, favourable -	By a certificate of inspection, the cloth trousers and the portion of jackets which have been supplied to this corps appear to be equal to sealed patterns, and were delivered to the men on 24th April last. The War Office having been informed respecting the non-arrival of the remainder of the clothing, report that the whole of the clothing was shipped by 2nd July 1858.

RETURN OF CLOTHING, &c.—*continued.*

REGIMENT.	1858. Period of Issue to the Men.	Date of Proceedings of Regimental Board of Inspection and Abstract of Remarks of Board.		REMARKS.
		Date of Proceedings.	Abstract of Remarks of Board.	
ROYAL NEWFOUND- LAND COMPANIES.	—	19 Jan. 1858	In conformity with the sealed patterns, and in good condition.	—
GOLD COAST ARTIL- LERY CORPS.	—	—	No report received.	—
ROYAL MALTA FEN- CIBLE REGIMENT.	—	—	The facing cloth, shoulder straps, and thread not received on 17th July last, in conse- quence of which the clothing could not be completed.	Report made to War Office, reply received, stating that these deficiencies should be made good.

G. H. WETHERALL,
Adjutant-General.

APPENDIX No. 19. (*Question 7898.*)

PAPERS put in by Sir A. TULLOCH.

Messrs. Bryan, Price, and Co.,
Dacre Street, Westminster.

Accoutrements of Black Leather.

Office of Ordnance,
October 6, 1843.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter, dated the 5th ultimo, 114/107, directing the provision of clothing, accoutrements, &c. for the service of the out-pensioners of Chelsea Hospital, about to be organized as local companies;

I have the honor, by command of the Board of Ordnance, to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary-at-War, that proposals for the supply of this clothing, &c. have been received, and that the Board have accepted the offers of the following persons, their tenders being the lowest, and the conditions of delivery for the several articles to be supplied, the most advantageous for the service, viz.:—

Clothing - - - J. B. Pearce and Co.
Accoutrements - - - Bryan, Price, and Co.
Caps - - - Ditto.
Havresacks. - - - W. Piggott.

Copies of whose tenders are here transmitted.

The Deputy Secretary-at-War,
&c. &c. &c.

J. B. Pearce and Co., 8, Craigs' Court,
Charing Cross.

For Staff Serjeants.

200 Frock coats, blue cloth, with scarlet facings.
200 Pairs epaulettes, with brass crescent.
200 Pairs trousers, Oxford grey cloth.

For Serjeants and Privates.

9,800 Frock coats, blue cloth, with scarlet facings.
9,800 Pairs epaulettes, with plain brass crescents.
9,800 Pair trousers, Oxford grey cloth.

A portion of the above will be required in each of the following states, viz.:—1st, made up complete; 2ndly, basted together, but not sewed; 3rdly, in materials.

The contractor to tender for each, and to deliver such as shall hereafter be demanded, and in such fitting sizes as may be required.

The contractors to state the shortest time in which they will deliver 3,900 suits of clothing, or the necessary materials for that number, and at what rate per month they will undertake to supply the remainder.

[*This was circulated to all the chief contractors in London, and the result was as noted below.*]

The following was the earliest period at which the contractors would agree to deliver these supplies:—

Clothing made up:
3,000 suits in 4 months, and after that 700 suits weekly.

Clothing, if basted:
1,000 suits in 8 weeks, and after that 1,000 suits per week, till the whole order be completed.

In materials:
3,000 suits in 2 months.

[*This extended the period to four months and a half before the supply could be had, which is much beyond what I stated in my minute.—A. T.*]

For Staff Serjeants.

200 Sword waist belts, with gilt plate.
200 Sword knots.

For Serjeants.

Pouches.
Pouch belts.
Waist belts.
Gun slings.
Brass plates for waist belts.

For Privates.

Pouches.
Pouch belts.
Bayonet waist belts.
Gun slings, and brass plates for bayonet waist belts.

The contractors to state the shortest time in which they will deliver 3,000 sets of accoutrements, and at what rate per month they will undertake to supply the remainder.

[*This was circulated to all the chief contractors in London, and the result was as noted below.*]

The following was the earliest period at which the contractors would agree to deliver these supplies:—

3,000 sets in six weeks, and the remainder at the rate of 700 per week afterwards.

[*This extended the period to four months before the supply could be had, which is much beyond what I stated in my minute.—A. T.*]

Bryan, Price, and Co.,
Dacre Street, Westminster.

For Staff Serjeants.

200 Forage caps, black cloth, with brass stars and scarlet bands.

For Serjeants and Privates.

9,800 Forage caps, black cloth, with brass stars and scarlet bands.

The contractors to state the shortest time in which they will deliver 3,000 caps, and at what rate per month they will undertake to supply the remainder.

[*This was circulated to all the chief contractors in London, and the result was as noted below.*]

The following was the earliest period at which the contractors would agree to deliver these supplies:—

3,000 in eight weeks, and the remainder at the rate of 800 per week afterwards.

CONTRACTORS' PRICES for ARTICLES of CLOTHING and EQUIPMENT supplied on the ORGANIZATION of the ENROLLED FORCE of PENSIONERS in 1843.

As an illustration of the profits derived by contractors from colonels of regiments, it will be found on referring to the scale of prices, that the rate at which the pensioners' trousers (which were of the same quality precisely as the line) were contracted to be delivered to me was 6s. 3d., at the same time that the colonels were paying their clothiers 8s. 6d.; this first drew my attention to the subject of clothing.

A. TULLOCH.

For Staff Serjeants, complete.

	£	s.	d.
Frock coats made up, complete	1	3	0 each.
Pairs, epaulettes	0	1	1 per pair.
Pairs of trousers	0	13	0 each pair.

For Serjeants and Privates.

Frock coats made up, complete	0	17	4 each.
Pairs of epaulettes	0	1	1 per pair.
Pairs of trousers	0	6	3 "

For Staff Serjeants, basted.

Frock coats, cut out and basted together, but not sewed	1	0	6 each.
Pairs of trousers ditto ditto	0	12	3 per pair.
Pairs, epaulettes	0	1	1 "

For Serjeants and Privates.

Frock coats, cut out and basted together, but not sewed	0	15	4 each.
Pairs of trousers ditto ditto	0	5	10 per pair.
Pairs of epaulettes, complete	0	1	1 "

For Staff Serjeants, in materials.

Cloth, blue, wool dyed	0	7	5 per yard.
Do. scarlet, in grain	0	9	3 "
Do. Oxford grey	0	8	2 "
Linen for linings } black	0	0	8½ "
and pockets } brown	0	0	6½ "
Worsted cord, scarlet	0	0	6 per doz. yards.
Hooks and eyes, brass	0	0	2 per dozen.
Buttons, brass coat	0	0	11½ "
Ditto ditto breast	0	0	5½ "
Ditto black iron, 4 hole	0	0	0½ "
Scarlet cloth stripes for trousers	0	0	8½ per pair.
Buckram	0	0	8 per yard.
Osnaburgh or canvas	0	0	4½ "

For Serjeants and Privates, in material.

Cloth, blue, wool dyed	0	5	10 per yard.
Do. scarlet	0	8	5 "
Do. Oxford grey	0	3	11 "
Linen for linings } black	0	0	8½ "
and pockets } brown	0	0	6½ "
Cord, scarlet worsted	0	0	6 per doz. yards.
Hooks and eyes	0	0	2 per dozen.
Buttons, brass coat	0	0	3½ "
Ditto breast	0	0	1½ "
Ditto black iron, 4 hole	0	0	0½ "
Scarlet cloth stripes for trousers	0	0	7½ per pair.
Buckram	0	0	8 per yard.
Osnaburgh or canvas	0	0	4½ "

Accoutrements of Black Leather.

For Staff Serjeants.

Sword waist belts, with gilt plate	0	4	0 each.
Sword knots	0	0	9 "

For Serjeants.

Pouches	0	2	8½ each.
Pouch belts	0	1	1 "
Waist belts, with frog for sword bayonet	0	1	8 "
Gun slings	0	0	8½ "
Brass plates for waist belts	0	0	4 "

For Privates.

Pouches	0	2	7 each.
Pouch belts	0	1	0½ "
Bayonet waist belts	0	1	6 "
Gun slings	0	0	8½ "
Brass plates for bayonet waist belts	0	0	4 "

For Staff Serjeants.

Forage caps, black cloth with brass stars, and scarlet cloth bands	0	2	2½ each.
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For Serjeants and Privates.

Forage caps, black cloth with brass stars, and scarlet lace bands	0	1	11½ each.
For the same caps without bands, staff serjeants, serjeants, and privates	0	1	11 "
Havresacks	0	0	5½ 16 "

APPENDIX No. 20. (Question 7906.)

PAPERS relating to Messrs. ISAAC.

War Office, Pall Mall, S.W.,

June 30, 1858.

SIRS,

You are required to take notice that I hereby determine the contract bearing date the 1st day of May 1858, for supply of army regulation boots, at the end or expiration of three months following this month in which the notice is given.

I am, &c.

Messrs. Isaac, Campbell, & Co., (Signed) J. PEEL.
71, St. James's Street.

War Office, Pall Mall,

June 30, 1858.

SIRS,

I AM directed by Secretary Major-General Peel to transmit a notice to you (enclosed) terminating your contract of the 1st May 1858, for the supply of army regulation boots.

General Peel desires me to observe to you one of the terms of the contract is that "it be declared void should the contractor pay any gratuity or reward to any person in the employment of the War Office," and that in reference thereto his attention has been called to the fact that on the 15th day of May last your Mr. Samuel Isaac paid to Mr. J. S. Elliott the sum of five hundred pounds.

General Peel is aware that the transaction is stated to have been a loan, but if so, it was (as it appears from your Mr. Isaac's statement) made under such easy circumstances to Mr. Elliott, that the Secretary-for-War can only consider it in the nature of a gift or gratuity, and which, as you are aware, every officer in the establishment is precluded from accepting. General Peel, therefore, cannot consent to your continuing any longer one of Her Majesty's contractors for this department.

I am, &c.

Messrs. Isaac, Campbell, & Co., (Signed) B. HAWES.
71, St. James's Street.

21, St. James's Street, W.,

July 20, 1858.

SIR,

ON the 30th ultimo you gave us notice, under your own hand, of the termination of our contract for army regulation boots, and your under-secretary, in inclosing us that notice, stated that he did so by your direction, and that you desired him to explain the circumstances under which you had decided that our firm should no longer be contractors for the War Department.

We believe that if the reasons which led to that decision can be shown to be untenable, and the penal infliction to which we have been subjected to be therefore unjust, that you will frankly repair the injustice of which we complain, and gladly restore us to our previous position; and under a firm conviction that we can effect this change in your mind, we respectfully solicit your impartial consideration of the few facts to which we invite your attention.

We are perfectly aware that by a clause in our contract, the payment by us of any gratuity or reward to any person in the employment of the War Office would have involved the forfeiture of our contract; and our Mr. Samuel Isaac was perfectly aware of this fact on the 15th of May last, when he paid into the Northampton bank a cheque upon Messrs. Herries, Farquhar, and Co., for 500*l.* to the credit of Mr. Elliott.

That amount had been solicited as a loan by Mr. Elliott, on the preceding day, until the ensuing Tuesday, when, as he stated, he should be in London to receive a considerable sum of money from the Department.

For this accommodation our principal took no formal acknowledgment, nor did he dream of charging interest upon the amount. To have asked the former, would have implied doubt of the honesty of Mr. Elliott; to have stipulated for the latter, would have been a meanness.

On the 17th of May our Mr. Samuel Isaac wrote to Mr. Elliott from Northampton in these terms, "the 500*l.* I promised to pay into the bank Saturday has been carried out, and as I shall not be home before Tuesday next, will

"you kindly repay the same to our cashier, Mr. Collis, or hand him a cheque for the amount." The manifolded copy of that letter is in our letter book; and, in the absence of the original, we beg to tender you the best secondary evidence in our power. This letter book had been pagged by machinery, and contains many letters, both of an earlier and later date than the one in question. We offer to produce it in proof that we have from the first treated this transaction as a loan, a fact which we desire to have tested, because you have held that, from the easy circumstances under which the money was advanced, it could only be considered as a gift or gratuity, and because you have therefore felt called upon to strike our firm off the list of army contractors.

Under the "manifold" process every letter forwarded is the very twice of the letter retained upon the tissue leaf of our letter book, the precise *facsimile*, to the dotting of an i and the crossing of a t. Among the correspondence subsequent to the 17th of May there will be some to gentlemen of known truthfulness, and whose production of the original will certainly assist in enabling you to arrive at the conclusion, that our letter to Mr. Elliott is not an afterthought but an unquestionable fact.

Assuming the proof to this point satisfactory to your mind, we would then respectfully refer you to the internal evidence of the letter itself as proof that we did not consider the payment a gift, in which case it was not a gift, nor could you, Sir, however easy the circumstances under which the money was advanced, so consider it.

And here we might rest our claim and close our case, but we deem it our duty to remind you that upon the 15th of May Mr. Elliott was in charge of the Dublin stores, Captain Gordon having actually taken over the remain at Weedon as his successor. We had therefore no occasion to purchase future favours from Mr. Elliott; and with regard to any claim that officer might be supposed to have upon our firm for previous services, it is in evidence and can be proved to the full conviction of any unprejudiced mind, that we have been far heavier sufferers than any other contracting house, by the oppressive irregularities of the system as administered at Weedon, by your late principal military storekeeper of that establishment.

It will not have escaped your notice, Sir, that from the amount so advanced to Mr. Elliott, 250*l.* was applied by him on that 17th of May, in payment of the weekly expenses of the Government establishment at Weedon, a fact in proof of that officer's want of funds at the date of our loan, and in support of the probability of his having solicited that loan on the 14th of May, as stated in the evidence of our Mr. Samuel Isaac; if then it be probable that he solicited pecuniary assistance, surely the transaction was more likely to have been by way of loan than gift, since, in the latter case, the initiative might reasonably have been expected to have been taken by the party making the gift, and that the gift itself would have been made when reciprocity of service might have been better calculated upon, than after the removal of your officer from the position in which alone he could have repaid the obligation.

Nor was there in the conduct of our principal any apparent desire for concealment, evasion, or subterfuge. The transaction stands upon record in the books of two banking establishments, a circumstance which we respectfully submit to be evidence, not only to the *bona fides* of a man having no occasion to seek concealment, but also to the payment of the money, so that any written acknowledgment of its receipt was unnecessary either in a prudential or legal point of view. And, besides this, it is in evidence that the cheque was forwarded to the bank in a note from Mr. Elliott given by him on the 14th of May, when the loan was solicited and promised, directing the Northampton bankers to place the amount of the accompanying cheque to his credit. We have no doubt that paper could be readily procured.

Under these circumstances we confidently submit that your penal visitation upon our firm has been consequent upon a forced construction of the terms of the clause in the contract; that it is obviously against the weight of evidence, and that your decision and judgment, however justifiable in the absence of this explanation, will not be upheld by you in the face of the facts which we have herein anxiously and, we hope, temperately submitted for your favourable consideration.

Humbly praying your review and reversal of your decision of the 30th ultimo, and our reinstatement on the list of contractors for your department of the public service, we beg to subscribe ourselves,

Yours, &c.

(Signed) S. ISAAC, CAMPBELL, & Co.

The Right Hon. General Peel,
&c. &c. &c.

Contracts $\frac{7101}{78}$

War Office, Pall Mall, S.W.,
August 10, 1858.

GENTLEMEN,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you that your application, dated 20th July last, to be reinstated upon the list of this department to be applied to for tenders for the supply of army clothing, &c., has been fully considered, and Major-General Peel has decided that, at present, your request shall not be entertained.

I have, however, to observe that it is open to you at a future period to renew your application, should you be desirous of doing so.

I am, &c.

Messrs. Isaac & Co.,
21, St. James's Street.

(Signed) R. GWYN,
for D. C.

7101
78

SIR, 21, St. James's Street, Aug. 19, 1858.

IN acknowledging your favour of the 10th instant, we beg to express our grateful thanks for the considerate intimation (if we do not misinterpret the terms of your communication) that you will be disposed at a future period to entertain our application for re-instatement as contractors for the supply of clothing to the army.

However aggrieved we may have felt by the erasure of our firm from that list, because conscious that we have faithfully and creditably acquitted ourselves of our obligations to your department, we are content to wait that future, which will restore us to our former position, not by undeserved favour, but as the result of your honest conviction, that we have not been guilty of any act disintitling us to the honor of your continued confidence.

We have, &c.

(Signed) S. ISAAC, CAMPBELL, & Co.
The Right Hon. General Peel,
&c. &c. &c.

7101
78

Military Warehouse, 21, St. James's Street,
London, October 16, 1858.

SIR,

ON the 30th June last we received from Sir Benjamin Hawes an intimation that our firm should no longer be contractors for your department.

On the 20th July we prayed your review and reversal of such decision.

On the 10th August we were informed that you could not "at present entertain our request," but that it was "open to us at a future period to renew our application."

We venture now, most respectfully to submit for your favourable consideration, that the uniform tenor of the evidence taken by the Royal Commissioners in the interval has established the fidelity with which we have, under trying circumstances, fulfilled our contract obligations, and that we have done so at a heavy pecuniary sacrifice.

We learn that your department is now about to invite tenders for a three years' supply of army clothing, and we humbly ask that we may be permitted to forward tenders in competition for that supply.

In availing ourselves of your permission again to advance a request for reinstatement in the list of contractors, we beg to inform you that on the 17th May, our Mr. Samuel Isaac wrote Mr. Elliott from Northampton requesting him to repay the 500*l.* in his absence to our cashier. Copy annexed, marked A., the duplicate original of which is in our letter book, and at your service.

That on the 6th August he addressed a letter through our New York correspondent to Mr. Elliott, of which a copy is annexed marked B, and in reply to which he received a letter dated the 30th August, also annexed and marked C.

In soliciting your perusal of this correspondence, we are aware that the evidence of Mr. Elliott cannot be adduced as that of an untainted witness, but it is the best and only corroboration of our partner's testimony within our power, and we trust that in the absence of any evidence that the loan of 500*l.* was in the shape of a gift or gratuity, it will be received by you at its value, however qualified by the fatuity of its author.

Our Mr. Samuel Isaac has been for some weeks on the continent under medical advice; but we make this application with special reference to the urgency of present circum-

stances, and in the hope that we may no longer be considered unworthy of the renewal of your official confidence.

We have, &c.

(Signed) S. ISAAC, CAMPBELL, & Co.

The Right Hon. General Peel,
&c. &c. &c.

A.

DEAR SIR,

Northampton, May 17, 1858.

THE 500*l.* I promised to pay into the bank Saturday, has been carried out. As I shall not be home before Tuesday next, will you kindly repay the same to our cashier, Mr. Collis, or hand him a cheque for the amount. On the other side I hand you a list of supplies delivered, passed, and under inspection. Shall feel much obliged if you would instruct Mr. Dwyer and the other gentlemen to get on with our accounts, many of them being upwards of twelve months at Weedon, and having had our Mr. Winter down at the depôt several times for the purpose of going into the stock: must beg your early consideration, so that all may be cleared before you leave for Dublin.

I thank you for going into the matter of the hose; Capt. Gordon's stock-taking assisted us much. I doubt not, if done as suggested by me some time since, taking the issues and the stock in hand, you would find our accounts agree, provided your clerks or storekeeper have a correct entry of all goods sent out of your stores. We are prepared to prove the delivery of every article we have forwarded. Great confusion has arisen from the many thousands of articles taken off as excess of 12,000 kitts, and not being transferred to account. The button-brasses and shaving-brushes prove that. Waiting the favour of your reply,

I am, &c.

J. S. Elliott, Esq., Weedon. (Signed) S. ISAAC.

B.

DEAR SIR,

August 6, 1858.

I MUST say when I heard you had absconded I could not believe it; if you had stood your ground like a man I really do not believe you would have been injured; the sum you were deficient when explained to the department might have been honorably met, your character and position saved.

As it is you have placed yourself in a position to be suspected of all sorts of villany; I can only say it has been a source of dreadful annoyance to me lending you 500*l.* which you really, under your then existing difficulties, should not have borrowed of me.

All our claims have been suspended, our name erased from the list of contractors, and all for what? for lending you 500*l.* You are fully aware you never favoured my house in any one particular. It was with difficulty, owing to your absence from your duties, that we could obtain the sums due. Even when you left, many thousand pounds had been at Weedon uncertified 12 months; through your absence and Mr. Green's inability to get through the work. You will see the position in which you have placed me, you are bound to repair it, first, by returning the cash lent you; secondly, by such an honourable course of proceeding as you deem fit, to send us a letter shewing that upon no occasion were we in any way favoured; that you never passed a certificate for us, not having the goods in your possession. It would occupy a quire of paper and a month's labour to send you half what has been said and done owing to your absconding, suffice it to say we are the only parties injured; upon our house the authorities have vented their indignation. You know what is due to us and our position. I cannot for one moment suppose you lost to all the feelings of a man of honour, and I am therefore certain you will, as far as you can, act justly to me.

If you remain in New York I will send the blue book out, in which case you can safely repudiate many of the statements made. There is no question you have been very much to blame; I am unable to understand your tactics. You appointed to meet me at Weedon on the Saturday, for the purpose of going into public accounts, knowing at same time you were leaving the country that day; professing as you did, this was not the treatment I expected. Mr. Hart will call upon you with this letter, you will be good enough to hand him the 500*l.*, as also any letter you have for me.

I shall be glad to hear your explanation, and doubt not you will see the necessity of at once using your utmost exertion to take from our name all imputation of having in any way, directly or indirectly, offered you a bribe, or having asked you to do for us more than you had done for others

in the usual course of your official duties. Trusting this will meet you in health, and not doubting you will get over your difficulties,

I am, &c.

(Signed) S. ISAAC.

C.

DEAR SIR,

New York, August 30, 1858.

HAVING read in the papers a statement referring to the loan of 500*l.* made by you to me, and to various public dealings with you as a contractor, which statement, if unexplained, might give to these transactions a character not in accordance with the facts, I think it right, both in justice to myself and to you, to say that, as to the 500*l.* having been given as a bribe or for any favour shown to you in the discharge of my public duties, the assertion is a cowardly and calumnious falsehood which no man, however high his position, would dare to advance were I in England. The passing certificates for stores not delivered must, to any man conversant with the practice of the service, be an obvious impossibility. The certificate, previous to receiving my signature, must of necessity have received those of the inspectors who examined the stores, both as to quantity and quality, and upon the faith of those signatures mine would have been attached, and without those, notwithstanding my signature, the accountant-general would not allow the claim for payment.

In no way and on no occasion have I favoured or offered facilities to your firm which were not extended equally to all other contractors. Among them are many men of high honour and character, to them I may confidently appeal as to whether I have not upon all occasions endeavoured, to the utmost of the meagre assistance sparingly afforded me, to ensure them promptitude of payment and a fair inspection of their supplies.

That I ever allowed you or any other contractor to suffer by my neglect of duty or absence from Weedon I utterly and emphatically deny. No man ever made himself more a slave to the public service than I did; had I been less zealous I might have been less maligned by those who deem it honourable to cover their own defects at the expense of an absent and oppressed man, who, had he descended to what they would attribute to him during the past twenty years of his service, possessed ample opportunity of becoming as wealthy and adulated as he is now poor and unfriended.

I regret my entire inability at present to repay you the 500*l.*, but shall esteem it a first lien upon whatever balance is due to me from the Government, arising out of a claim which I am now prosecuting, exceeding that advanced against me by the War Department, and which, however at present opposed, I believe to be irresistible both in law and equity.

I may add, that I am ready at any moment to declare on oath that the loan of 500*l.* was the first and only private monetary transaction of any description between us, which at the time of borrowing I was fully persuaded it would have been in my power to replace out of money that I then had a prospect of raising.

I remain, &c.

S. Isaac, Esq., &c. (Signed) J. S. ELLIOTT.

No. 7101.

105.

GENTLEMEN, War Office, October 30, 1858.

IN reply to your letter of the 16th instant, I am directed by Secretary Major-General Peel to inform you that your request to be reinstated on the list of contractors for this department cannot be entertained at present, as the Royal Commissioners for inquiring into the proceedings at Weedon have not yet made their report.

I am, &c.

Messrs. Isaac and Co., (Signed) THOMAS HOWELL,
21, St. James's Street, S. W.

7101

105

SIR,

21, St. James's Street, Nov. 5, 1858.

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of a communication, under date 30th ultimo, in reply to our letter of the 16th ultimo, and informing us that our request to be reinstated on the list of contractors for the War Department could not be entertained at present, "as the Royal Commissioners for inquiring into the proceedings at Weedon have not yet made their report."

Thankfully accepting your communication as an order of reference upon which we are quite willing to stake the issue, we beg respectfully to intimate our intention to submit ourselves to personal examination and the whole case for full investigation by the Royal Commissioners upon as early a date as it may be convenient to them to entertain our application.

We have, &c.
(Signed) ISAAC, CAMPBELL, & Co.

APPENDIX No. 21. (Question 7963.)

SUGGESTIONS FOR AN IMPROVED SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS FOR ARMY CLOTHING, ACCOUTREMENTS, AND NECESSARIES, with the OBJECT of securing a GOOD ARTICLE to the SOLDIER, and a FAIR REMUNERATION and EQUITABLE TREATMENT to the CONTRACTOR.

21, St. James' Street, London,
December 9, 1858.

1. That there be an office list of recognized contractors, and which list shall be accessible to any person of ascertained trade capacity and pecuniary responsibility.

2. That the department shall procure and seal a sample of the quality of the material to be used, and of the precise pattern of the article to be made.

3. That the price to be given for the clothing required be fixed by the department.

4. That the recognized contractors upon the office list be invited to send in two sets of specimens in conformity with the sealed pattern, and the specification of the department at the price fixed, and by a day stated.

5. That the competing specimens be inspected and decided upon by a competent and practical tradesman appointed by the Secretary for War.

6. That the competitors whose specimens are found to be equal in all respects to the sealed pattern of the department shall constitute a list from which officers in command of regiments may select their clothiers.

7. That each contractor furnish his supplies equal in all respects to his approved specimens, one set of which shall be retained by the War Department, the other being handed to the contractor.

8. The contractors to deliver their supplies into the Government store for inspection by two officers not under the grade of a colonel, and appointed respectively by the Commander-in-chief and the Secretary of State for War.

9. That payment of 90 per cent. be made one month after delivery into store and approval by the military inspectors.

10. That payment of the remaining 10 per cent. be made within one month after the report of the inspecting general of the district that the clothing has been approved by him from its actual wear by the soldier.

11. That the wear and tear of the supplies to regiments abroad be ascertained by that of their respective depôts in the United Kingdom.

12. That in the event of any dispute arising from rejections, the contractor to have the right of appeal through the Secretary for War to a general officer, other than the official military inspectors.

13. That supplies reported by the inspecting general of the district to have been found after three months' fair wear to be decidedly unfit for the soldier's use, be replaced or compensation made by the contractor, at the option of the Commander-in-chief.

14. That the contractor have a similar right of appeal to the adjutant-general against the decision of the district inspecting general, and that failing in such appeal, he be irrevocably excluded from the office list of the War Department.

15. That each contracting firm provide sureties of 3,000*l.* each, and enter into their own recognizance in a like sum of 3,000*l.* for the due discharge of the liabilities to the War Department.

S. ISAAC,
for S. ISAAC, CAMPBELL, & Co.

To the Hon. the Commissioners
upon Military Clothing Contracts,
&c. &c. &c.

APPENDIX No. 22.

MEMORANDUM as to ARMY CLOTHING, by
SIR D. MACDOUGALL.

My experience in the command of companies and of regiments leads me to be firm in the conviction, that such a system as the following would insure the effectual protection of the interest of the public as well as that of the soldier, in all connected with the clothing of the troops.

1. Two Inspectors of Clothing.

Two inspectors of army clothing should be amply sufficient, if they were carefully selected, with reference to their experience and competency, from amongst those who have served in the actual command of a troop or company for two years, and in the command of a regiment for three years.

2. Duties of the Inspectors of Clothing. (See likewise No. 4.)

The duties of the inspectors of clothing should be (under the instructions received for their guidance from the War Minister), to decide, with competent advice, on the quality of the cloth, boots, shoes, and of every other article connected with the clothing and the accoutrements of the army.

When the inspectors have fixed the quality of all the articles, they should then (instead of calling on contractors to tender) determine, with the sanction of the War Minister, *the fair and properly remunerating* sum to be allowed for each suit of clothing; which they might easily and correctly ascertain, after having carefully consulted with six or more first-class trading houses of well-known respectability, and with some regimental quartermasters, quartermaster-serjeants, and regimental master tailors, and master shoemakers.

Under the direction of the inspectors, sealed patterns should be prepared for every corps.

3. Duties of Colonels of Regiments.

The fixed pay of a colonel of a regiment should be, as at present, *totally unconnected with the clothing*; but the duty should be imposed on him (in fact, the only duty he would have to perform) of selecting a proper clothier for his regiment (to be approved of by the War Minister), and of personally inspecting the clothing of the corps, aided by persons thoroughly competent to advise him as to quality and make; and he should be required to send in to the adjutant-general, for the information of the Commander-in-chief, a certificate that he, on a careful inspection, had found the clothing fully equal to, and in exact accordance with, the sealed patterns.

It should, likewise, be the duty of a colonel, to require the clothier to give ample security, to be approved of by the War Minister, that all articles supplied by him were equal, if not superior in quality and make, to the sealed pattern, and that they are received at the regiment at the period fixed for their issue to the corps.

In the event of a colonel being incapacitated, from any cause, for the performance of the above all-important duty, a substitute, efficient in all respects, should be provided by him for the discharge of it.

4. Inspection by the Inspectors of Clothing.

After the clothing of a regiment has been inspected and approved of by the colonel, and certified by him accordingly, in the manner above laid down, the inspectors of clothing should then carefully examine it, with the assistance of as many regimental quartermasters, quartermaster-serjeants, and regimental master tailors and shoemakers, as could be conveniently assembled, together with some thoroughly experienced civilian tradesmen.

The inspectors should then transmit a report to the adjutant-general of their having acted as above laid down, together with the results of their inspections.

5. Regimental Inspection.

When the clothing arrives at a regiment, it should then be minutely inspected and carefully compared with the sealed patterns by a board, consisting of the commanding officer and the next four senior officers (in presence of officers commanding companies and their colour serjeants), and assisted by the quartermaster, the quartermaster-serjeant, the tailors and shoemakers of the corps, and one or two civilian tradesmen of respectability.*

* In cavalry corps, persons thoroughly capable of giving correct opinions regarding all horse appointments should be in attendance.

6. *The Interest of the Public and of the Soldier protected.*

Under the above proposed system there would be three such scrutinizing inspections made by a number of officers high in position, as well as by many persons attending the boards, and greatly personally interested in preventing fraud (viz., the colonel, the inspectors of clothing, and the regimental board), that the interest of the public and of the soldier could not fail to be effectually protected.

7. *Regiments Abroad.*

When a corps is abroad, the regimental inspections of clothing should be made by officers of its depôt, being ordered to London for that purpose, accompanied by one or more intelligent regimental tailors and shoemakers; and the board should likewise have the assistance of some regimental quartermasters, quartermaster-serjeants, and regimental master tailors and shoemakers of corps, in or near London, being ordered to attend; as well as some civilian tradesmen. In the event of there being no field officer with the depôt, an experienced field officer in London should be appointed to preside, with other officers to assist if necessary.

The above inspection, if satisfactory, should be sufficient to entitle the clothier to receive payment from the Government, (perhaps with one third of the money to be retained until the clothing had been six months in wear,) but the colonels should be held responsible that their clothiers give ample security to make good any rejections which may be made by the regimental board, on the arrival of the clothing at the head quarters of the corps; the rejections of the board being required to be confirmed by the decision of another board, ordered by the general in command of the station, composed of as many commanding officers of other regiments as could be conveniently assembled, accompanied by their quartermasters, quartermaster-serjeants, and their regimental master tailors and shoemakers.

8. *Advantage of Regimental Tailors and Shoemakers attending Inspection Boards.*

When in command of a regiment, I invariably found the attendance of the tailors and shoemakers of the corps to be of most invaluable service in enabling the regimental board to go through a really efficient inspection; and they were the means of completely protecting not only their own individual interests, but likewise those of their brother soldiers.

On one occasion through their aid, a board, of which I was president, rejected nearly the whole of the clothing that was sent to my corps; a decision that was fully confirmed by another board that was afterwards ordered to assemble, composed of all the commanding officers of all regiments in the neighbourhood, at which all their quartermasters, quartermaster-serjeants, master tailors, and shoemakers were ordered to attend, together with some civilian tradesmen.

9. *Board of Appeal.*

Should a clothier object to the rejection of any of the articles furnished by him, he ought in justice to be allowed an appeal to a board constituted as above, so as to insure a fair decision; but in the event of any serious culpability being proved against any one providing articles for the troops, no colonel should be allowed afterwards to employ him.

10. *Package and Carriage.*

The clothiers should be held responsible for the package, carriage, and freight, and an allowance should be granted them accordingly.

11. *Expense of Supervision and Inspections.*

The expense attending the supervision and inspections above suggested, should not exceed 2,000*l.* per annum, as there are few clothing, shoemaking, or hatmaking houses of high standing that would accept any remuneration for the opinions given by them to the inspectors of clothing, or to the regimental boards; while the regimental quartermasters, quartermaster-serjeants, tailors, and shoemakers would only be in performance of their military duties in being employed in attending the boards as suggested.

12. *Expense of Storage totally unnecessary.*

The several inspections of clothing should take place on the premises of the clothier, as well as the packing; and, therefore, no necessity should exist for the most unnecessary expense of storage, and all the evils attending it.

It would be most unfair to assume that bribery and corruption were practised, unless such were proved to have been the case; but this I must say, that a system more calculated to encourage and promote them could not be established than that which existed at Weedon.

13. *Reserve of Cloth, &c., to meet Cases of Emergency.*

To guard against the contingency of additional troops being suddenly required to be raised, in cases of emergency, colonels of regiments should hold their clothiers bound constantly to keep on hand a stock of cloth in reserve, sufficient for the clothing of a number of men equal to one-third of the establishment of their corps, as well as a certain proportion of shoes and accoutrements.

14. *Boots and Shoes of best Quality and Construction indispensable.*

As the efficiency of an army in the field essentially depends on its being able to make long marches, not only the quality of the leather and the workmanship, but likewise the construction of the boots and shoes should be carefully attended to, and thoroughly scrutinized at inspections; as, unless the soldiers' feet be properly protected, an army before an enemy in the field would be a useless inert mass, even although every other article required to insure its efficiency were provided.

15. *Wages of Persons employed in making up Army Clothing.*

From what I have heard, I fear that cruelly insufficient wages have been paid to men and women employed by some contractors in making up soldiers' clothing; colonels of regiments should, therefore, ascertain that ample wages are given to the operatives, particularly as it is proposed that fair remunerative prices should be allowed for every article to be furnished by the clothiers.

D. MACDOUGALL.

112, Eaton Square,
October 1858.

APPENDIX No. 23. (Question 7135.)

Military Store Office, Woolwich,
September 24, 1858.RETURN showing the NUMBER of ARTICLES received from WEEDON since the 1st December 1855, as per Order,
22nd September 1858, $\frac{4464}{7}$.

Nature of Article.	No.	Issued at other Stations.	Still in Store at Woolwich.	Nature of Article.	No.	Issued at other Stations.	Still in Store at Woolwich.
Badges { Land Transport Corps - - - - -	2,955	Still in Store at Woolwich.		Covers { Horse, - horse-hair - - - - -	17		
Prison - - - - -	145			lined - - - - -	31,506		
Bags { Clothes - - - - -	2,258			Cotton cap - - - - -	5		
Kit - - - - -	541			Coatees - - - - -	1		
Balls, brass - - - - -	299			Comforter - - - - -	97 $\frac{7}{18}$		
Bandages - - - - -	8,539			Clasps, stock, gross - - - - -	228		
Bands, chaco - - - - -	39			Cords for busbies - - - - -	129		
Belts - { Cholera - - - - -	10			Combs { Curry - - - - -	4,837		
Waist - - - - -	21			Hair - - - - -	119		
Blucher - - - - -	722			Dishes, tin - - - - -	2,261		
Boots, pairs { Thigh - - - - -	3,137			Calico, brown - - - - -	880		
Thigh - - - - -	441			Cotton { Brown - - - - -	5,450		
Fitted with spurs - - - - -	25,578			Grey - - - - -	750		
Winter, knee - - - - -	1,711			Merino, white - - - - -	640		
Bootings, leather, pairs - - - - -	48			Serge - - - - -	333		
Bottles, jet - - - - -	66			Epaulettes, pairs, Norfolk militia - - - - -	16		
Boxes { Brass ball - - - - -	168			Large - - - - -	40		
Shaving - - - - -	9,386			Small - - - - -	297		
Braces, pairs { Brass - - - - -	4,005			Flasks, tin - - - - -	10,561		
Button - - - - -	506			Forks, table - - - - -	170		
Cloth - - - - -	637			With hoods, serge, blue - - - - -	56		
Hair - - - - -	957			Flannel - - - - -	59		
Hand - - - - -	1			Gaiters, pairs - - - - -	458		
Hard - - - - -	800			" Highlanders - - - - -	2,964		
Brushes { Horse - - - - -	128			Gauntlets, leather - - - - -	1,054		
Ornament - - - - -	192			Guards, sabre - - - - -	18,354		
Paint - - - - -	1			Lamb's { White - - - - -	800		
Scrubbing - - - - -	1			wool { Coloured - - - - -	148		
Shaving - - - - -	651			Leather - - - - -	24,618		
Shoe - - - - -	1,475			Worsted { White - - - - -	236		
Whitewash - - - - -	1		1	Black - - - - -	25		
Buckles, belt - - - - -	57	Issued to Tower for sale	57	Haversacks { Rifle - - - - -	3	Still in Store at Woolwich.	
Buttons, gross { Worsted - - - - -	42		42	White - - - - -	4		
4-holed - - - - -	12		12	Heads, broom - - - - -	250		
Busbies - - - - -	707		707	Hides (obsolete) - - - - -	22		
Capes { Cloth - - - - -	27		27	Holdalls - - - - -	1,887		
Waterproof - - - - -	3,802		3,802	Housewives - - - - -	470		
Blue cloth, cavalry - - - - -	464		464	Hoods, great coat - - - - -	10		
Cossacks of the Sultan - - - - -	486		486	Hooks, reaping - - - - -	18		
Enrolled pensioners - - - - -	57		57	Jackets { Serjeants' scarlet - - - - -	400		
Various - - - - -	183		183	Hip, con-valescent. Privates' red - - - - -	1,451		
Caps { Fur - - - - -	138	Issued to Tower for sale	138	Pea, blue - - - - -	6,892		
Knee - - - - -	147		147	Turkish Contingent - - - - -	42		
Lancers, 16th, complete - - - - -	66		66	Worsted - - - - -	91		
Night, scarlet - - - - -	298		298	Hats, felt, Land Transport Corps - - - - -	4,607		
Cloth - - - - -	1,708		1,708	Jerseys, woollen - - - - -	1,584		
Do., fur lined - - - - -	146		146	Knapsacks - - - - -	186		
Do., not fur lined - - - - -	850		850	Knives { Table - - - - -	10,512		
Do., fur trimmed - - - - -	22		22	Clasp - - - - -	318		
Do., watch - - - - -	8		8	Knots { Shoulder - - - - -	500		
Flushing - - - - -	932		932	Sword - - - - -	17		
Great - - - - -	231		231	Leathers, spur, pairs - - - - -	238 $\frac{1}{2}$		
Do., blue grey, Cossacks of the Sultan - - - - -	225	Issued to Shoe-buryness	225	Leggings, waterproof - - - - -	197		
Gregoes - - - - -	2,251		2,251	Lifting (for boots) - - - - -	250		
Over, privates - - - - -	87		87	Locks, iron { Cupboard - - - - -	1		
Pea, blue - - - - -	1,314		1,266	Pad - - - - -	14		
Red, militia - - - - -	9,826		9,826	Stock - - - - -	6		
Rifle do. - - - - -	230		230	Mitts, pairs { Grey woollen - - - - -	14,555		
Scarlet, serjeants - - - - -	1,300		1,300	Leather - - - - -	4,599		
Sheepskin - - - - -	50		50	Muffettees, red worsted, pairs - - - - -	780		
Enrolled pensioners - - - - -	72		72	Neckerchiefs, black - - - - -	67		
Coats, sheepskin, felt, and fur lined - - - - -	15	Still in Store at Woolwich.	15	British German Legion - - - - -	42		
Cloaks with hoods - - - - -	90			Blue, strapped, Land Transport Corps - - - - -	2,304		
British Italian Legion - - - - -	1,389			Green, not strapped - - - - -	100		
Cossacks of the Sultan - - - - -	244			Grey - - - - -	40		
Militia - - - - -	35			Turkish Contingent - - - - -	134		
" artillery - - - - -	155			Peaks, chako - - - - -	2,957		
Rifles - - - - -	471			Pannakins, tin - - - - -	46		
Various - - - - -	2,291			Pockets, cap - - - - -	28		
Chacos { 11th regiment - - - - -	46			Plates { Belt - - - - -	20		
Staff serjeants - - - - -	3			Tin - - - - -	20		
Privates - - - - -	5			Horsehair, white - - - - -	240		
68th regt. - - - - -	32			Plumes { Highlanders' - - - - -	46		
69th " - - - - -	780			Various - - - - -	273		
41st " - - - - -	454			Pots, hook - - - - -	2,416		
85th " - - - - -	60						
Chevrons - - - - -	2,645						

Nature of Article.				Nature of Article.			
No.		Issued to other Stations.	Still in Store at Woolwich.	No.		Issued to other Stations.	Still in Store at Woolwich.
Rugs { Horse - - - -	136	-	136	Crupper - - - -	1		
{ Breast pieces - - -	14	-	14	Girths, Web, blue - - -	4		
{ Rollers - - - -	57	-	57	Holsters - - - -	2		
Razors - - - -	3,746	-	3,746	Irons, stirrup - - - -	2		
Sabretashes - - - -	118	-	118	Leathers, do. - - - -	2		
Sashes, silk - - - -	2	-	2	Pannels, pairs - - - -	1		
Shabrackets - - - -	1,154	-	1,154	Reins, chain - - - -	1		
Sheets, waterproof - - -	396	-	396	Saddles - - - -	1		
Scissors, pairs - - - -	187	-	187	Sheepskin - - - -	1		
{ Blue flannel - - -	375	-	375	{ Valise - - - -	3		
Shirts { Calico brown - - -	1,700	1,700	-	{ Cloak { and Wallet	2		
{ Cotton { Grey - - -	8,600	8,439	161	{ Centre - - -	1		
{ White - - -	251	250	1	{ Coupling - - -	1		
{ Merino - - - -	205	-	205	{ Holster - - - -	2		
Slings, rifle - - - -	5	-	5	{ Retaining - - -	2		
{ Cotton, brown - - -	13,335	-	13,335	Surcingle - - - -	1		
{ Half hose, grey - -	3,456	3,348	108	{ Corn, 2-bushel - -	3		
{ Lambs' wool, grey -	103,235	1,081	102,154	Bags { Saddle, canvas - -	577		
{ Woollen { Blue - - -	2,100	1,800	300	{ Nose - - - -	80		
{ Grey - - - -	91,331	48,431	42,900	Belts, pouch - - - -	86		
{ Do. knitted - -	3,300	3,296	4	{ Bridle - - - -	3,738		
{ Blue - - - -	81,092	1,092	80,000	Bits { Bridoon - - - -	3,602		
{ Grey - - - -	26,911	16,812	10,099	{ Headcollar - - -	46		
{ Woollen { Do. knitted -	2,100	996	1,104	{ Headstall - - -	971		
{ White - - - -	45½	-	45½	Billets, sabretashes -	17		
{ Turkish - - -	288	-	288	Blankets, saddle - - -	329		
Soles, leather - - - -	619	-	619	Breastplates - - - -	1,618		
Sponges - - - -	2,111	-	2,111	Do. Tops - - - -	26		
Spoons - - - -	2,020	-	2,020	Buckets { Carbine - - -	1,661		
Spurs, pairs - - - -	1,025½	-	1,025	{ Lance, pairs - - -	28		
Stocks { Leather - - - -	14,781	-	14,781	Chains { Collar - - - -	312		
{ Stuff - - - -	2,281	-	2,282	{ Curb - - - -	123		
Stockings Pairs { Woollen - - - -	26,747	800	25,947	{ With straps - - -	1		
{ Men's { Grey - - - -	11,390	-	11,390	Cases, Shoe, pairs - - -	804½		
{ Do. rough - - -	450	-	450	{ Headstall - - -	29		
{ Do. knitted - -	1,500	-	1,500	Collars { Head - - - -	1,828		
{ White { Worsteds - - -	300	-	300	{ Stall rope - - -	5		
{ Lamb's Wool - -	600	-	600	Chapes and Dees, pairs -	188½		
{ Women's unbleached Cotton	2,251	-	2,251	Covers, Saddle, leather -	2,892		
Straps { Chin { Chaco - - - -	158	-	2,251	Cloths, Pilch (in pieces) -	3,753		
{ Forage Cap - - -	942	-	158	Churns, pairs - - - -	5		
{ Great Coat - - - -	242	-	942	Cords, Forage - - - -	324		
{ Mess Tins - - - -	268	-	242	Cruppers - - - -	686		
{ Overall - - - -	3,997	-	268	Headstalls - - - -	69		
{ Shoulder - - - -	9,609	-	3,997	{ Do. Bridoon - - -	376		
Strappings, Boot, pairs -	1,448	-	9,609	Helmets - - - -	153		
Sticks, Button - - - -	175	-	1,448	Holsters, pairs - - - -	91½		
Swivels, Pouch Belt - -	30	-	175	Hooks, curb - - - -	31		
Tins { Blacking - - - -	832	-	30	Irons, picketing - - -	956		
{ Mess, Cavalry - - -	22	-	832	Nets, Hay - - - -	109		
{ Oil - - - -	1	-	22	Numnahs - - - -	99		
Thimbles - - - -	132	-	1	Pieces Lace - - - -	22		
Thongs, leather (bundles) -	2,455	-	132	Pilches, Leather - - -	1,099		
Tips, Heel Iron, pairs -	1,100	-	2,455	{ Twisted hide - - -	8		
Sickles - - - -	64	-	1,100	{ Bit - - - -	1,245		
Towels - - - -	6,801	-	64	{ Bridoon - - - -	2,101		
Trowsers { Privates', not strapped, Land	-	-	6,801	Reins { Chain - - - -	292		
{ Transport Corps - -	1,600	-	-	{ Collar - - - -	575		
{ Serjeants', strapped -	72	48	1,552	{ Hemp, collar - - -	445		
{ Privates', do. - - -	28	-	72	{ Retaining - - - -	26		
{ Various - - - -	1,047	-	28	Sacks, corn - - - -	425		
Tufts, various colors - -	7,872	-	10,47	Saddles - - - -	582		
Tunics, various - - - -	737	-	-	{ Girths - - - -	713		
Valises { Blue cloth - - - -	252	-	-	{ Flaps, pairs - - -	978		
{ Leather - - - -	57	-	-	{ Pannels, pairs - -	647½		
Vests { Chamois - - - -	1,088	-	-	{ Seats - - - -	754		
{ Corduroy - - - -	18	-	-	{ Tabs - - - -	1,687		
Welts - - - -	400	-	-	{ Trees - - - -	1,228		
Weltings, bundl - - - -	24	-	-	Sheepskins - - - -	340		
Wings, pairs - - - -	161	-	-	{ Carbine { Bucket - - -	665		
SUNDRIES.				{ Stay - - - -	721		
Calico, White, yards - -	1,386½	-	-	{ Cloak and wallet, pairs -	504		
Cloth { Blue, yards - - -	48½	-	-	{ Cloak, sets - - -	98		
{ Various colours, yards -	302	-	-	{ Cruppers, pairs - -	370		
Cotton, coloured, yards -	64½	-	-	{ Cloak { Centre - - -	1,070		
Fringe, Drummers', pieces -	1	-	-	{ Long pairs - - -	74		
Yellow Cord, pieces - - -	31	-	-	Straps { Baggage, sets - - -	942		
Piping, pieces - - - -	14	-	-	{ Holster, pairs - - -	51		
Overall Lace, yards - - -	336	-	-	{ Churn, sets - - -	2½		
Worsted do., pieces - - -	391	-	-	{ Pilch, pairs - - -	315		
Pieces of Overall Lace - -	14	-	-	{ Retaining - - - -	1,596		
Mixed Padding, yards - -	15	-	-	{ Shoe case, pairs - -	739		
Serge, Blue, yards - - -	353½	-	-	{ In scraps:—cwts. qrs. lbs.	2: 1: 14		
SADDLERY.				Stirrup { Irons - - - -	1,142½		
Officers' Appointments, R.A.	-	-	-	{ Leather - - - -	1,105		
Breast plate martingale -	1	-	-	Surcingle - - - -	950		
Bridle, complete, with whip	1	-	-	Walleys { Canvas, pairs - - -	1,693		
Collar headstall - - - -	1	-	-	{ Leather, do. - - -	510		
				{ Holster - - - -	1,260		

Still in Store at Woolwich.

APPENDIX No. 24.

RETURN OF STORES RECEIVED AT THE TOWER from WEEDON BETWEEN 1st DECEMBER 1855 AND
22nd SEPTEMBER 1858.

APPENDIX No. 24. (Question 7138.) - - - -

CLOTHING - - - -

RETURN of STORES received at the TOWER from WEEDON

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Aigui- lletes for Field Marshals.	Aprons.	Badges, colour.	Bags, clothes.	Beaver- teen, sample.	Belts, cholera.
				s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
RECEIVED - - - - -									
1858, Sept. 11	9,105	Weedon -	-	2	...	...	...	...	...
" July 24	7,940	" -	-	...	4	...	...	1	...
" Aug. 3	8,064	" -	-	...	24	...	...	...	...
" July 29	7,919	" -	-	...	...	1	...	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,217	" -	-	...	...	...	37	...	...
" " "	9,208	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " "	9,214	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	1
" Aug. 20	8,443	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	11,559
1856, Oct. 7	7,138	" -	Sale	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Nov. 27	8,536	" -	"	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, April 2	41	" -	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	40	" -	"	...	...	...	...	...	...
" May 6	666	" -	"	...	...	...	...	...	...
" June 10	1,490	" -	"	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Oct. 30	462	" -	"	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Aug. 20	8,443	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1856, May 22	2,684	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 22	7,253	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, Mar. 30	11,771	" -	China	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Nov. 12	713	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,215	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,207	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" July 29	7,919	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, Sept. 18	3,530	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, " "	9,216	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 11	9,104	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, Oct. 6	3,856	" -	Bermuda	...	...	...	...	...	...
" April 2	42	" -	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	42	" -	"	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 13	224	" -	"	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	226	" -	"	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, July 24	-	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,213	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, April 13	225	" -	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 11	9,105	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 25	9,479	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	7,253	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,109	" -	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received				2	28	1	37	1	11,561
ISSUED - - - - -									
1856, Dec. 3	-	Sale at the Tower	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Oct. 23	-	" "	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, April 23	372	Hong Kong	Military Store	...	...	...	...	...	...
" May 5	559	" -	" "	...	...	...	...	...	...
" June 27	1,429	" -	" "	...	...	...	...	...	...
" April 17	559	" -	" "	...	...	...	...	...	...
" May 5	559	" -	" "	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 9	559	" -	" "	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	559	" -	" "	...	...	...	...	...	...
1856, Oct. 9	1,084	Bermuda	Convict Establishment	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, April 25	-	Hong Kong	Military Store	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	-	" -	" "
" May 1	-	" -	" "	...	...	...	...	...	...
Issued				...	...	...	...	...	...

APPENDIX No. 24. (Question 7138.)

CLOTHING.

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858.

Boots.				Braces, pairs.	Braid, pieces.	Buck- ram, pieces.	Busbies, cavalry.	Buttons.	Calico, sample.	Calico, yards.	Cape, water- proof.	Caps, forage.	Caps, sheep- skin.
Ankle.	Convicts.	Knee.	Wellington.										
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.

RECEIVED.

								gr. doz. od.					
...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	...	...	1,682	...	...	...	1,848 6 0	...	...	...	2,002	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
10,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	3,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11,980	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
618	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17,058	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2,104	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	1 10 8	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	1,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 10 R.	...
...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...
...	...	...	...	...	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	60	...	...	...	...	10 9 8	...	...	50	120	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17 0 8	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 8 0	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 10 4	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16 10 4	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,480
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
...	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	179	...
...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...
51,176	2,104	3,008	60	2,768	200	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	1,928 7 8	2	...	52	2,341 10 R.	1,480

ISSUED.

								gr. doz. od.					
10,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5,580	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6,420	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	2,300	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	60	1,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 9 8	...	...	50	120	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67 5 4	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	780
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	700
33,500	...	2,800	60	1,000	...	...	...	78 3 0	...	...	50	120	1,480

CLOTHING.—Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.		Service.	Canvas.		Capes, cloth.	Caps.		Cloaks.
				Samples.	Yards.		Bearskin.	Night.	
				s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
RECEIVED - - - - -									
1858, July 24	7,751	Weedon - - - - -	- - - - -	1	...	...	...	6	...
" Sept. 18	9,216	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	378	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,211	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	4	...	...
" " 11	9,111	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	4	...	...	...
1857, Feb. 12	10,672	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	23
1856, Oct. 7	7,135	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	11
1858, Sept. 18	9,217	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	6
" " 25	10,227	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	7,253	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, April 13	225	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 23	525	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,213	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,217	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1856, Feb.	22,562	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 20	23,219	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	25,007	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, " 12	10,670	" - - - - -	Montreal - - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1856, Oct. 8	6,592	" - - - - -	Hobart Town - - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Nov. 29	8,591	" - - - - -	Cape Town - - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, April 4	59	" - - - - -	Army Works Corps - - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 13	227	" - - - - -	Hong Kong - - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" July 11	2,150	" - - - - -	" - - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, June 8	6,446	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 15	9,168	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,107	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1856, July 24	5,190	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 11	9,103	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, Mar. 30	11,771	" - - - - -	China - - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" April 7	130	" - - - - -	Hong Kong - - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" June 10	1,490	" - - - - -	" - - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 22	10,712	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, Oct. 6	3,856	" - - - - -	Bermuda - - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, May 24	5,918	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	28
" April 14	4,729	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 11	9,100	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,100	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,100	" - - - - -	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received - - - - -				1	378	4	4	6	68
ISSUED - - - - -									
1856, April 23	Invoice No. - - -	Hong Kong - - -	Military Store - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	- - -	" - - -	" " - - -
" Aug. 1	- - -	" - - -	" " - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, Feb. 12	- - -	Cape Town - - -	" " - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	- - -	Montreal - - -	" " - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" April 24	- - -	Hong Kong - - -	" " - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 25	- - -	" - - -	" " - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 28	- - -	" - - -	" " - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" June 27	- - -	" - - -	" " - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" July 1	- - -	" - - -	" " - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Bermuda - - -	Military Prison - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
Issued - - - - -				...	...	...	...	...	...

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858.—continued.

Cloth, samples.	Cord, black, worsted, yards.	Coats.			Chevrons, worsted.	Cotton.					Com-forters.	Collars, Lace, Coat.	Covers, Busby.
		Military Prison, for Warders.	Great	Watch.		Black, yards.	White, yards.	Samples.		Rules.			
								Darning.	Striped.				
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
- - - - - RECEIVED.													
...	1	1	...	...	...	...
...	4	937	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
...
...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ 54 740 scarlet. }
	130	...	...	168	...	...	142

...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	122	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	{ 1 1 }	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	162	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1,690	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	832	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	4,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	534	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	6,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	416	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	250	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
...	1,000	...	...
...	6,000	...	...
...	1,500	...	...
...	1
...	...	{ 6 82 }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	{ 200 100 }	...	...	...
...
{ 5,161½ yards light grey. }
...
...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1 R.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5,167¾	794	94	16,145 1R	274	261	4	1,067	1	1	468	8,500	1	143

- - - - - ISSUED.

...	...	...	2,975	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	3,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	416	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	1,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	4,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,000	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,000	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,000	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,000	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	500	...	...
...
...	...	88	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...	...	...
...	...	88	11,891	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	8,500	...	...

CLOTHING.—Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.		Service.	Dowlas, yards.	Drawers, pairs, woollen.	Drill, white, yards.	Flannel, sample.	Frocks.	Gaunt-lets, leather.
				s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
RECEIVED									
1858, Sept. 18	9,216	Weedon	-	54½	...	23	...	...	...
1857, June 10	1,490	"	Hong Kong	...	24	...	...	...	...
" April 8	140	"	"	...	12,000	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,215	"	-	...	1	...	...	...	3
" " 20	9,217	"	-	...	1,204	...	...	...	...
" July 24	7,751	"	-	...	...	2	...	...	...
1857, April 23	525	"	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	6,000	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,213	"	-	...	...	...	...	2	...
" " 11	9,103	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, April 13	225	"	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Oct. 6	3,856	"	Bermuda	...	...	...	...	...	...
" April 4	58	"	Hong Kong	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 7	130	"	"	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,205	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,213	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" July 29	8,282	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	1
" Sept. 18	9,209	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 20	9,217	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,105	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,100	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,111	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	7,253	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,214	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	10,712	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received				54½	13,229	23	2	6,002	4
ISSUED									
1857, April 24	Invoice No. 372	Hong Kong	Military Stores	...	6,000	...	...	6,000	...
" " 28	"	"	"	...	6,000	...	...	...	...
" " 25	"	"	"	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 28	"	"	"	...	...	...	...	...	...
" June 27	1,429	"	"	...	24	...	...	...	...
" Dec. 3	1,084	Bermuda	Convict Prison	...	...	...	...	...	...
" May 11	559	Hong Kong	Military Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...
Issued				...	12,024	...	...	6,000	...
Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.		Service.	Kilts, High-landers.	Lace, Pattern.	Lace, Silver, yards.	Lace, Worst, of sorts, yards.	Leggings, water-proof.	Lines, Gold Cord Busby.
				s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
RECEIVED									
1858, Sept. 22	10,712	Weedon	-	1	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,100	"	-	...	...	...	...	1	...
" " 18	9,216	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, May 7	822	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,213	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,205	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,103	"	-	...	2	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,105	"	-	...	2	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,104	"	-	...	5	...	...	...	...
1856, Aug. 1	5,382	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" May 22	2,685	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, Sept. 17	3,492	"	Gibraltar	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Oct. 30	462	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 11	9,109	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" July 29	8,282	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 20	9,217	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" May 26	5,983	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 22	7,253	"	-	...	...	...	843	...	...
" " "	"	"	-	...	...	...	1,060	...	...
" " "	10,712	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" May 13	5,516	"	-	...	...	533	...	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,215	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " "	9,209	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" June 17	6,680	"	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received				1	9	534	1,903	1	1
ISSUED									
1857, Sept. 30	Invoice No. ...	Gibraltar	Military Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...
Issued				...	...	...	...	...	...

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

Girdles, dress.	Glen- garries.	Gloves, pairs, woollen.	Grenades for forage caps.	Handker- chiefs.	Hats, straw.	Holdalls, linen.	Hoods.	Hooks and eyes.	House- wives.	Jerseys.	Jackets,		Knots, shoulder.
											Shell.	Warders.	
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
RECEIVED.													
...	gr. doz. od.	...	{ 1,974 2,894 }	...	...	...
...	...	1,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,976	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
...	...	12,000	...	200	150	...	...	...	...	12,000	...	80	...
...	8,000	...	...
...	2	...	...
...	1	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	7	1	...
...	482	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...
...	19	...	...	...	...	52	...	186 2 0	...	...	...	...	5
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...
1	1	13,520	2	200	152	60	3	186 2 0	4,868	14,976	8,494	81	7
ISSUED.													
...
...	...	5,200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	6,800	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,000	...	...	...
...	...	1,500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,976	...	...	...
...	200	150	...	...	...	...	12,000	...	80	...
...
...	...	13,500	...	200	150	...	...	...	...	26,976	...	80	...
RECEIVED.													
Loops for Cocked Hats.	Mitts, pairs.		Ornaments, brass cap.	Overalls, pairs.	Peaks, forage cap.	Pockets, cap.	Plates, chaco.	Plumes, chaco.	Robes, buffalo.	Scarfs.	Shoes, pairs.	Slippers.	Shalloon, yards.
	Leather Palms.	Woollen, white.											
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
RECEIVED.													
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	53	...	...	...	...	...	...	231
...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1
...
...	7,923	...	...	...	...
...	894	...	...
...	800	...	...
...	61	...	...
...	31	...	...
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0½	1	...
...	4,326	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,775	91	...
...	17,544	...	477	...	40	5	...	...	...	15,491	...
...	8,735R.	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
...
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...
1	4,326	2 { 8,735R. 17,545 }	7	477	66	40	7	7,923	2	5,561½	15,583	231	...
ISSUED.													
...	800	...	...
...	800	...	...

CLOTHING.—Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Serge, yards.	Shirts.		Slings, Great Coat, sets.	Socks, Woollen, pairs.	Stocks, Leather.	
					Cotton.	Flannel.				
					s.	s.				s.
RECEIVED										
1858, Sept. 11	9,105	Weedon	-	-	...	2	...	6	...	
" " 18	9,208	"	-	-	...	2	...	...	...
" Aug. 20	8,443	"	-	-	...	15	1,373	...	...
" " "	8,443	"	-	-	...	36,503	...	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,215	"	-	-	...	6	...	...	...
" " "	9,207	"	-	-	...	1	...	...	...
" July 29	7,919	"	-	-	...	1	1	...	1	
" Sept. 20	9,217	"	-	-	...	621	950	...	...
" " 22	7,253	"	-	-	...	60	...	...	...
1857, " 18	3,530	"	-	Convicts -	300	...	...	...	...
1858, April 16	159	"	-	Hong Kong	1,500	...	...	...	...
1857, Oct. 6	3,856	"	-	Bermuda	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,216	"	-	-	...	...	{ 460 } 1,799	2,163	...
" " 22	9,480	"	-	-	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,479	"	-	-	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,103	"	-	-	...	...	...	...	...
1857, April 6	3,936	"	-	Hong Kong	...	...	...	3,936	...
1858, " 8	140	"	-	"	...	...	...	30,000	...
" " 17	369	"	-	"	...	...	...	64	...
" June 10	1,490	"	-	"	...	...	...	3,000	...
" Sept. 18	9,214	"	-	-	...	...	...	{ 2 } 1	...
" " "	9,205	"	-	-	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	5,730w.	"	-	-	...	...	370	...	...
" " 11	9,111	"	-	-	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	10,712	"	-	-	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	7,253	"	-	-	...	...	20	60	...
" " "	7,253	"	-	-	...	...	...	...	...
1856, July 10	4,687	"	-	-	...	...	...	...	...
1858 " 24	7,751	"	-	-	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 11	9,102	"	-	-	...	...	1,517	Straps, Great Coat.	...
" " "	9,100	"	-	-	...	...	...	...	...
Received				-	1,800	37,211	2,324	4,172	39,226	1
ISSUED										
	Invoice No.									
1857, Dec. 3	1,084	Bermuda	-	Convict Establishment	300	...	...	...	...
" Nov. "	413	Hong Kong	-	Military Store	1,500	...	...	...	...
" May 11	559	"	-	" "	...	...	...	936	...
" " "	559	"	-	" "	...	...	...	3 000	...
" " "	559	"	-	" "	...	...	...	64	...
" July 6	1,429	"	-	" "	...	...	...	3,000	...
Issued				-	1,800	37,000	...
RECEIVED										
	Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Clasps, Stock.		Drawers, Cotton, pairs.			
					s.		s.			
	1858, Sept. 20	9,217	Weedon	-	-	...	63			
	" July 29	7,919	"	-	-	...	1			
	1857, Oct. 6	3,856	"	-	Bermuda	...	...	
	1858, April 14	4,729	"	-	-	...	...	
	" Sept. 11	9,105	"	-	-	...	...	
	" " 18	9,215	"	-	-	...	...	
	" " "	9,214	"	-	-	...	...	
	" " "	9,208	"	-	-	...	...	
	" " "	9,209	"	-	-	...	...	
	" " 22	7,253	"	-	-	235	217 R.	...		
	" Aug. 20	8,443	"	-	-	...	...	
	1857, Sept. 15	3,412	"	-	Gibraltar	...	...	
	1856, July 24	5,190	"	"	-	...	...	
	1857, Nov. 12	713	"	-	-	...	...	
	" April 13	225	"	-	-	...	...	
	1858, Sept. 11	9,103	"	-	-	...	...	
	" " "	9,105	"	-	-	...	...	
Received				-	-	217 R.	235	64		
ISSUED										
	1857, Sept. 1	Invoice No. 2,478	Gibraltar	-	Military Stores	-	...	...
Issued				-	-	-	...	...

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

Stockings, Woollen, pairs.	Straps, Chin, forage,	Suits, Enrolled Pen- sioners.	Thread, lbs.	Thread, sample.	Trowsers Cloth, pairs.	Tufts, Ball, Black Linen.	Trews, Tartan, pairs.	Tunics, of sorts.	Waistcoats.		Vel- veteen, yards.	Worsted.	
									Cloth.	Flannel.		Grey, sample.	lbs.
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
RECEIVED.													
2
...	1	...	...	...	...
...	1,588	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
...	406	...	...	...	1,495	1,034	...	...	848
...
...
1,400	10	...	238	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	27	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
...
3,000
...
...
...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...
...	5	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	20	...	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4,402	80	29	10	2	683	25	1	5	1,501	2,622	10	1	848
ISSUED.													
1,400	10	...	238	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
...
3,000
...
4,400	10	...	238	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
RECEIVED.													
Neck Ties.	Sashes.	Sockets, Plume, Brass.	Socks, Cotton, pairs.	Sticks, Button.	Tartan, yards.	Trowsers, Sum- mer, pairs.	Wings, Staff- Serjeants.						
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.						
...	{					
...	397					
...	50					
...	1					
...	900					
...	967½	...	...				
...	1	...	...	...			
...	6	...	...	...			
...	1	...	...	...			
...	1	...	...	...			
...	1	...	...	...			
...	...	565 12 R.	...	21	...	...	...			
8,351						
...	1,600	...	...	...	...		
...	100	...	...	...	...		
...						
...						
...						
...						
...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
8,351	16	12 R. 565	1,700	31	967½	6,748	1						
ISSUED.													
...						
...	1,600	...	...	...	...		

SADDLERY

Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.		Service.	Bags, nose, canvas.	Bits, bridoon, and of sorts.	Bridles.	Buckets, carbine.	Buckets, lance.	Cases, horse-shoe.
				s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
RECEIVED									
1858, Sept. 11	9,112	Weedon	- - - - -	...	1	...	...	1	1
" Aug. 13	8,356	"	- - - - -	200	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 11	9,102	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	1	...	...
" " 18	9,215	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,103	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,208	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,111	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,210	"	- - - - -	...	...	9	...	1	...
" " 22	7,253	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, Jan. 16	9,934	"	B. G. Legn. Cape	...	30	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 22	10,712	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received				200	31	9	1	2	1
ISSUED									
1857, Mar. 13	Invoice No.	Cape of Good Hope	B. G. Legion	...	30	...	...	...	...
	6,304			...	30	...	...	...	...
Issued				...	30	...	...	...	...

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.		Service.	Pack saddles.	Reins, bridoon.	Ropes, forage.	Saddlery, sets.
				S.	S.	S.	S.
RECEIVED							
1857, Jan. 16	9,934	Weedon	B. G. Legn. Cape	...	30	...	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,212	"	"	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,102	"	"	...	...	1	...
" Aug. 13	8,356	"	"	7	...	...	...
" Sept. 11	9,110	"	"	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,112	"	"	...	1	...	...
" " 18	9,210	"	"	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,205	"	"	...	...	...	...
" " 22	10,712	"	"	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,102	"	"	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,100	"	"	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,103	"	"	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,213	"	"	...	...	...	...
Received				7	31	1	...
ISSUED							
1857, Mar. 13	Invoice No.	Cape of Good Hope	B. G. Legion	...	30	...	...
	6,304			...	30	...	...
Issued				...	30	...	...

SADDLERY.

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

Chains, curb.	Cloths, saddle.	Collars, headstall.	Cradles, horse.	Curbs, bit.	Cruppers.	Head- stalls.	Hooks, curb.	Irons, stirrup.	Leathers, water- decked.	Numnahs.	Pickers, iron, for horse.	Pilch, cavalry.	Reins, bit.
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.

RECEIVED.

1	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
...	2	1 Rope	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
...	...	8	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	8
...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	11	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 1 R.	...
1	2	1 R. 9	4	1	2	31	1	2	2	1	12	1 1 R.	9

ISSUED.

...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Saddles, complete.	Shabraques.	Shoes, horse.	Spurs, pairs.	Straps.			Surcingle.	Valises.	Wallets, pairs.	Wallet and holster.	Girths.
				Baggage cloak.	Carbine bucket.	Lance.					
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.

RECEIVED.

...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
...
...	...	24	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
5	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	2	...	4
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	1	...
...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	2	24	8	19	1	1	2	17	3	1	4

ISSUED.

...
...

CAMP EQUIPAGE

Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Bags.			Bedding sets.	Blacking.				
				Camp kettle.	Pin tent.	Of sorts.		Shoe, tins or boxes.	Pouch tins.			
				s.	s.	s.		s.	s.			
RECEIVED												
1858, Aug. 2	8,059	Weedon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
" " 13	8,356	"	-	-	-	-	-	25	3	-	12	
" Sept. 22	9,216	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	
" Aug. 24	8,614	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
" " 28	8,714	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
" " 13	8,356	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
" Sept. 11	9,105	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
" " 18	9,215	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	
" " 22	7,253	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	-	
" " 18	9,208	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,061	
" " "	9,214	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
" " "	9,209	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
" " "	9,217	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1857, Mar. 30	11,771	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1858, Sept. 22	7,253	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Received				-	-	-	225	5	27	12	1,068	731

RECEIVED

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Chain.	Colours, camp.			Cords, forage, sets.	Frames, book.
					Covers.	Flags.	Staves.		
					s.	s.	s.		
1858, Aug. 13	8,356	Weedon	-	-	-	-	-	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,216	"	-	-	-	-	-	...	...
" " "	"	"	-	-	-	-	-
" " "	9,211	"	-	-	-	-	-	...	...
" " "	9,214	"	-	-	-	-	-	...	...
" " "	9,208	"	-	-	-	-	-	...	...
" " "	9,215	"	-	-	-	-	-	...	...
" " "	9,210	"	-	-	-	-	-	...	3
" " 22	7,253	"	-	-	-	-	-	...	...
" Aug. 13	8,356	"	-	-	-	-	-	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,213	"	-	-	-	-	-	...	...
Received				1	12	8	12	200	3

RECEIVED

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Razor case.	Sacks, corn, Cavalry.	Screws, on.	Shelf, for marquee.	Sheets, waterproof.
				s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
1858, Aug. 13	8,356	Weedon	-	-	-	-	-	...
" Sept. 18	9,216	"	-	-	-	-	-	...
" " 11	9,105	"	-	-	-	-	-	...
" " 18	9,215	"	-	-	-	-	-	...
" " 22	7,253	"	-	-	-	-	-	...
" " 18	9,214	"	-	-	-	-	-	...
" " "	9,209	"	-	-	-	-	-	...
" " "	9,208	"	-	-	-	-	-	...
" " 11	9,100	"	-	-	-	-	-	4
" " 22	10,712	"	-	-	-	-	-	...
Received				21	39 R. 161	319	1	4

AND MISCELLANEOUS.

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858.—continued.

Bottles.	Bottoms, canvas.	Brushes.							Buckets, leather.	Canteens, wood.	Caps, tent.	Clay pipe, lbs.	Combs.
		Brass.	Buttons.	Cloth.	Horse.	Shaving.	Shoe.	Of sorts.					
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.

RECEIVED.

...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8 R. 6	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
951	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68	...	...	...
...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2
...	...	...	6	1	1	{ 6 1 }	{ 4 5 }	...	...	...	...	...	6
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	...	...	...	...	200	30
...	...	1	1	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	286	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
952	3	1	7	2	2	529	90	3	8 R. 6	472	1	200	41

RECEIVED.

Blue, lbs.	Haver- sacks.	Kettles, camp.	Knives and forks.	Letters, brass, valise.	Mallets, tent.	Orna- ments, brass, tent.	Paste.		Panniers, Medicine.	Pillows.	Pins, tent.	Plates, stencil.	Poles, tent.
							Boxes of.	Brass, lbs.					
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
3½	...	192	...	...	8	...	...	...	2	3	512	...	{ 6 hospital bearers.
...	255	...	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	78	...	2
...	55	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...
...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	43	{ 15,837 366 R. }	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2
...	2
3½	255	192	51	366 R. 15,837	12	2	11	...	2	3	645	9	12

RECEIVED.

Slings, hospital bearer.	Soap.	Sponge, oz.	Spoons, barrack.	Strings, bugle.	Table, marquee.	Tents, marquee.	Towels, hand.	Valises, marquee.	Webbing tents, yards.	Bugles.	Straps, canteen.
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
6	cwt. gr. lbs.	...	...	...	1	1	...	1 R.	8	...	{ 811 5 R.
...	...	...	...	...	...	{ 1 2 }	...	1	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	3	6	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...
...	15 2 22	137½	...	...	...	...	67	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	2¼	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
6	15 2 22	142¾	9	...	1	4	80	1 R. 1	8	...	5 R. 811

TOOLS AND ACCOUTREMENTS

Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Axes, felling.	Belts.		Buckles.		Caps, felling axe.
				s.	Pouch.	Waist.	Breast Straps.	Knapsack straps.	
					s.	s.	s.	s.		s.
RECEIVED									
1856, Sept. 5	6,261	Weedon	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Nov. 22	8,322	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Aug. 28	8,714	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 13	8,356	"	- - - - -	2	...	...	...	...	6 R
" Sept. 22	10,712	"	- - - - -	...	1	1	...	...	2
" " 11	9,102	"	- - - - -	1	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,216	"	- - - - -	...	123 3 }	3	...	...	...
" " 22	9,563	"	- - - - -	...		...	...	...	...
1856, Oct. 8	7,172	"	- - - - -	...	21	33	...	...	...
1857, May 7	822	"	- - - - -	...	...	16	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 22	7,253	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	18	...
" " "	"	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	51	204	...
" " 11	9,105	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received - - - - -				3	148	53	51	222	6R 2
RECEIVED									
Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Saber-taches.	Slings.				
					s.	Carbine.	Musket.	Saber-tache.	Sword.
						s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
1857, June 5	1,411	Weedon	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 22	9,563	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,105	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	1	...	
1856, Oct. 8	7,172	"	- - - - -	371	...	...	228	52	
1858, Sept. 22	9,216	"	- - - - -	...	113	21	113	...	
" " "	7,253	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	10,712	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,105a	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	1	...	
1857, May 7	822	"	- - - - -	...	...	4	...	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,125	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...
Received - - - - -				371	113	25	343	52	

TOOLS AND ACCOUTREMENTS.

tween 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

Covers, mess tin.	Frogs.	Handles, felling axe.	Hooks, brass belts.	Keeper's brass knap-sack.	Knap-sacks.	Knap-sack frame, sets.	Knots, sword.	Sockets, union.	Loops.		Numerals.	Pouches.	Runners, brass, cavalry pouch belts.
									Brass for pouch straps.	Cavalry waist belts.			
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.

RECEIVED.

...	...	...	...	...	4,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	629	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	1	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6R	...
863	3	...	...	...	...	...	77	3	...	...	...	...	...
610	...	...	...	...	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68	...	...	...	...	7	...
...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...	{ 2 2	...
...	...	...	355	30	20	...	...	{ 44 9R }	...	108	{ 14,172 179R }	...	201
...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,484	19	2	984	30	4,862	20	145	9R-63	11	108	{ 179R 14,172 }	6R 12	201

RECEIVED.

Straps.					Tins, mess.	Billets and buckles, sabertache.	Filibegs.
Buff pouch.	Knapsack.	Mess tin.	French pattern.	Of sorts.			
s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.
...	1,098	...	...	...	...
...	8	461	...	...	772	...	...
...	1	...	...
...	194	...
...	...	516 316 267R }	...	...	...	...	...
...	28	...	...
...	2	...	...
...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...
85
...	1
85	8	267R 1,305	1,098	...	803	194	1

CLOTHING

Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Aprons, Brown Leather.	Bags, Clothes.	Balls, Brass.	Belts, Cholera.	Bonnets, High-landers.	Boots, Ankle.
				u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.
RECEIVED									
1857, June 12	1,560	Weedon	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 11	9,109	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	1½
" Aug. 20	8,443	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	420	...	2,881
" "	"	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	164
" Sept. 22	7,253	"	- - - - -	...	...	4,458	...	...	191
1857, June 5	1,401	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 11	9,105	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	1	...	1
" " 22	10,712	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,205	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Feb. 5	2,686	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" April 9	4,317	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 11	9,100	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,216	"	- - - - -	...	158	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,212	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,103	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,104	"	- - - - -	...	...	5	...	...	...
" " 18	9,208	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,110	"	- - - - -	1	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,213	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,211	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	3	...
" " "	"	"	- - - - -
" " "	9,215	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,205	"	- - - - -	...	2	...	...	...	...
1857, Sept. 17	3,487	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	250
1858, " 22	10,712	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received				1	160	4,463	421	3	3,488½
Issued				...	...	...	...	...	250
Remain				1	160	4,463	421	3	3,238½
ISSUED -									
1858, May 10	Invoice No. 5,942	Sale at the Tower	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Feb. 18	3,312	" "	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	250
1857, Aug. 3	...	" "	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
Issued				...	...	...	...	...	250

CLOTHING.

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

Boots, Knee.	Boxes, Tin.	Bugles, Silver.	Busbies.	Buttons, Gross.	Capes.			Caps, Forage, and of Sorts.	Caps, Knee.	Chacos.	Chains, Chaco.	Chevrons.	
					Grey Cloth.	Oilskin.	Water- proof.					Gold.	Silver.
u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.

RECEIVED.

10	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
...	...	...	...	89.11.4	...	...	...	607	...	...	11	32	17
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	{ 1 5 }	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,555	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,165	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	4	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	5	...	32	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
...
...
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	...	...	2	89.11.16	2	16	...	7,382	5	84	11	32	17
10	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	6,720	...	49	...	...	...
13	...	...	2	89.11.16	2	1	...	662	5	35	11	32	17

ISSUED.

...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,165	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,555	...	...	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	49	...	...	...
10	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	6,720	...	49	...	...	...

CLOTHING.—Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Clasps	Cloaks.	Cloth,	Colour	Coats.	
				Stock.		yards.	Badges.	Great.	Of sorts.
				u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.
RECEIVED									
1857, April 20	445	Weedon	-	-	-	20,110	...	...	...
" Jan. 31	10,323	"	-	-	-	79 ³ / ₈	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,212	"	-	-	-	1	...	...	6
" " 11	9,106	"	-	-	-	298 ¹ / ₂	...	...	...
" " "	9,101	"	-	-	-	153 ³ / ₄	...	...	...
" " "	9,107	"	-	-	-	4	...	...	14
" " 18	9,215	"	-	-	-	1	1 ¹ / ₂	...	{ 4 4 1 }
1856, Oct. 7	7,135	"	-	-	-	106	...	...	...
1857, June 12	1,566	"	-	-	-	130	...	...	...
1858, Aug. 13	8,356	"	-	-	-	1	...	3	...
" Sept. 11	9,108	"	-	-	-	1	...	16	...
" Sept. "	9,107	"	-	-	-	1	...	...	...
1857, June 12	1,560	"	-	-	-	...	...	{ 120 30 }	...
" " 8	1,467	"	-	-	-	...	...	64	...
" July 1	1,686	"	-	-	-	...	...	45	...
" " 11	1,879	"	-	-	-	...	...	41	...
" " 13	2,179	"	-	-	-	...	...	67	...
" " 25	2,377	"	-	-	-	...	...	45	...
" " "	2,378	"	-	-	-	...	...	234	...
" Nov. 17	841	"	-	-	-	...	...	37	...
1858, Sept. 11	9,105	"	-	-	-	...	...	1	...
1857, June 2	1,327	"	-	-	-	...	...	...	85
1858, April 9	4,317	"	-	-	-	809	...	...	276
" June 8	6,458	"	-	-	-	...	...	...	752
" Sept. 11	9,102	"	-	-	-	...	...	...	2
" " 18	9,216	"	-	-	-	1	...	...	5
" " "	9,205	"	-	-	-	...	...	4	{ 4 3 }
" " "	9,214	"	-	-	-	...	...	...	1
" " 11	9,100	"	-	-	-	...	...	10	3
" Feb. 5	2,686	"	-	-	-	1,010	...	...	1,786
" Aug. 28	8,714	"	-	-	-	152	...	...	...
" Sept. 11	9,104	"	-	-	-	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,213	"	-	-	-	1	1 ¹ / ₄	...	4
" " 11	9,111	"	-	-	-	...	...	4	2
" " 18	9,208a	"	-	-	-	1	...	...	...
" " 22	10,712	"	-	-	-	...	...	...	...
" " "	7,253	"	-	-	-	70	5	47	...
" " 18	9,211	"	-	-	-	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,215	"	-	-	-	...	...	...	...
" April 9	4,317	"	-	-	-	...	...	...	7,321
" Sept. 18	9,205	"	-	-	-	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,209	"	-	-	-	...	6	...	...
Received				70	2,214	20,653 ³ / ₈	53	724	10,275
Issued				...	2,207	20,189 ³ / ₈	...	683	9,468
Remain				70	7	464	53	41	807
ISSUED									
1858, May 10	5,942	Sale at the Tower	-	-	-	809	...	...	276
" " "	-	" "	-	-	-	...	...	...	7,321
1857, Oct. 29	-	" "	-	-	-	...	...	45	...
1858, Feb. 18	3,312	" "	-	-	-	1,010	...	...	1,786
" " "	-	" "	-	-	-	...	...	37	...
" Aug. "	7,769	" "	-	-	-	152	...	...	...
1857, Aug. 3	-	" "	-	-	-	130	...	64	85
" " "	-	" "	-	-	-	...	...	45	...
" " "	-	" "	-	-	-	...	...	150	...
1856, Oct. 23	-	" "	-	-	-	106	...	...	...
1857, Oct. 29	-	" "	-	-	-	...	...	41	...
" " "	-	" "	-	-	-	...	...	234	...
" " "	-	" "	-	-	-	...	...	67	...
" June "	-	" "	-	-	-	...	20,110	...	...
" April 6	-	" "	-	-	-	...	79 ³ / ₈	...	...
Issued				...	2,207	20,189 ³ / ₈	...	683	9,468

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

Collars.		Combs.	Cord Gold yards.	Covers, cap.	Dresses, cotton and cloth.	—	Crowns.		Drawers, pairs.	Epaulettes.		Eyes for stocks.	Fringe Wing, yards.
Coat.	Lace.						Gold.	Silver.		Worsted.	Gold.		
u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.		u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.

RECEIVED.

[illegible]

ISSUED.

[illegible]

CLOTHING.—Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Frocks, Summer.	Gaiters, pairs.	Girdles, Serjeants, green.	Gloves, pairs.	Gregos.	Collar Skirt, Grenades.
				u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.
RECEIVED									
1858, Mar. 18	3,729	Weedon	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" April 9	4,317	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	2,006	...
" Aug. 28	8,714	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 2	8,059	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,216	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,212	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,103	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,108	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,107	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,205	"	- - - - -	2	...	...	1	...	...
" " "	9,214	"	- - - - -	1	...	2	...	...	...
" " "	9,208	"	- - - - -	...	1	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,111	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,100	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	10,712	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,215	"	- - - - -	2	2	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,200	"	- - - - -	...	1	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,105a	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,105	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,104	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,213	"	- - - - -	3	...	1	...	...	...
" " "	9,213	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	7,253	"	- - - - -	...	...	698	...	...	...
" " 18	9,211	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,209	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	7,253	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	1/2	...	...
1857, June 12	1,560	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 11	9,102	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	8,443	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,216	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,216	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received				8	4	701	1 1/2	2,006	...
Issued				...	...	...	...	2,006	...
Remain				8	4	701	1 1/2	...	...
ISSUED									
1858, May 10	5,942	Sale at the Tower	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	2,006	...
" " "	5,942	" "	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Aug. 18	7,769	" "	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	7,769	" "	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, Aug. 3	7,769	" "	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...
Issued				...	...	...	...	2,006	...

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—*continued.*

Forage Cap, Gren- ades.	Guern- seys.	Guns, silver.	Hand- kerchiefs, cotton.	Hats, cocked.	Helmets.	Holdalls.	Hoods.	Hooks and Eyes, gross.	House- wives.	Jackets.		Kits.	Knots, shoulder.
										Sheep- skin.	Of sorts.		
u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.

RECEIVED.

								<i>gr. doz. od.</i>					
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,956	400	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	51	...	...
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...
...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	2
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	{ 2 2 8 }	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		1	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
...	...	14	...	...	...	...	...	3 1 11	...	...	...	...	101
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
...
...
3	...	14	1	2	8	4	2	3 1 11	22	1,960	672	1	128
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,958	546	...	...
3	...	14	1	2	8	4	2	3 1 11	22	2	126	1	128

ISSUED.

...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,956	400	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,958	546	...	...

CLOTHING.—Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Lace, yards.		Leggins, water-proof.	Lines, gold cord busby.	Linings, trousers.	Mitts, Pairs.		
				Gold.	Silver.						
				u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.		
RECEIVED											
1858, Sept. 11	9,107	Weedon	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
" " 18	9,215	"	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		
" July 29	7,919	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1857, " 25	2,193	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1858, Sept. 11	9,105	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1857, July 1	1,866	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1858, Aug. 28	8,714	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
" Sept. 18	9,212	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
" " "	9,205	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
" " "	9,214	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	2		
" " "	9,208	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
" " 11	9,100	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
" " 18	9,216	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
" " 11	9,103	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
" " "	9,104	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
" " 18	9,213	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
" " 11	9,100	"	-	-	-	1	3	-	-		
" " 22	7,253	"	-	-	-	74	25	69	19		
" Aug. 20	8,443	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
" Sept. 18	9,209	"	-	-	-	11½	-	-	-		
" " 11	9,105	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
" " 22	10,712	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Received				-	-	74	37½	3	1	69	25
Issued				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Remain				-	-	74	37½	3	1	69	25
ISSUED											
1858, Aug. 18	Invoice No. 7,769	Sale at the Tower	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
1857 " 3	...	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
" Oct. 29	...	"	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
Issued				-	-	-	-	-	-		

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

Neck-ties.	Overalls, pairs.	Orna-ments, wing.	Peaks, forage cap.	Plates, chaco.	Plumes.	Pockets, watch.	Razors.	Rings, plume, brass.	Socks.	Sashes.	Scales, lancers.	Scarfs.	Seal-skins.
u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.
RECEIVED.													
...	1	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	{ 1 1 1 }	...	...	1	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...
1	{ 4 2 }	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	...	175	198	99	25	2	225	...	...	...	...	...
3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	68	1	175	217	126	25	3	225	4	21	7	4	1
...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...
4	17	1	175	217	126	25	3	225	4	5	7	4	1
ISSUED.													
...	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...
...	51	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...

CLOTHING—Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Shirts.		Shoes, pairs.	Sleeves.	Slippers, pairs.	Stocks.
				Flannel.	Cotton.				
				u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.

RECEIVED - - - - -												
1858, Sept. 11	9,109	Weedon	-	-	-	-	...	...	18	...	1	...
" "	"	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	1½	...	...	...
" Aug. 20	8,443	"	-	-	-	-	293	163	½	...	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,209	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	2	...	...	...
" " 22	7,253	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	4	...	...	...
" "	10,712	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	1	...	...	...
" May 26	5,983	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	9	...
1857, June 5	1,401	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 4	3,211	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 19	3,551	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Aug. 28	8,714	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,216	"	-	-	-	-	...	1	...	2	...	...
" " "	9,212	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,103	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,107	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " 18	9,214	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " "	9,208	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " 11	9,111	"	-	-	-	-	1	...	...	...	...	1
" " "	9,100	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,215	"	-	-	-	-	1	...	...	...	...	6
1857, " 11	3,338	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Dec. 5	1,267	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Aug. 28	8,714	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 11	9,108	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,213	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	1	...	...
" " "	9,205	"	-	-	-	-	...	1	...	...	...	1
" April 9	4,317	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 11	9,104	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	10,712	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	7,253	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	{ 33 }
" " 18	9,211	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	2	...	...	4 }
" " "	9,215	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received							295	165	29	3	10	48
Issued							...	...	...	...	...	...
Remain							295	165	29	3	10	48

ISSUED - - - - -

Date.	Invoice No.	—	Service.						
1857, Oct. 29	...	Sale at the Tower	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" "	...	" "	-
1858, Feb. 18	3,312	" "	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" May 10	5,942	" "	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Aug. 18	7,769	" "	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, Aug. 3	...	" "	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Oct. 29	...	" "	-	...	...	...	...	...	...
Issued				...	...	...	...	...	...

etween 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

Stock-ings, pairs.	Tassels and cords, busbies.	Trousers, pairs.	Tufts, chaco.	Tunics.	Waist-coats.	Sockets, plumes, brass.	Wings.		Bands, cap.	Braces, pairs.	Sticks, button wood.	Stripes, trousers, pairs.
							Gold.	Worsted.				
u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.

- - - - - RECEIVED.												
...
...
...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
...
...
...
...
...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	134	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	...	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	735	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	209	...	61	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	5	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	9	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	13	...	6	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	...	4	...	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	14	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	...	{ 3 } 24	...	...	{ 1 } 2	...	...	1	...	1	1	...
...	...	...	...	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	1,040	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	{ 2 } 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	22	...	{ 1 } 4	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
...	...	2	...	{ 2 } 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
...	...	...	...	...	151	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
...	7	...	227	...	...	68	8	6	{ 30 } 1	...	...	25
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	7	1,180	227	1,288	182	68	8	16	31	2	3	25
...	...	872	...	1,182	151	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	7	308	227	105	31	68	8	16	31	2	3	25

- - - - - ISSUED.												
...	...	1	...	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	134	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	151	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	735	...	1,040	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	91	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	872	...	1,182	151	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

SADDLERY

Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Blankets, horse.	Breech-ings.	Bridles.	Caps, knee, horse.	Cloths, saddle.	Collar, rein.
				u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.
RECEIVED - - - -									
1856, Nov. 10	8,046	Weedon - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 11	9,108	" - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1857, June 12	1,560	" - - - -	...	...	14	...	...	...	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,205	" - - - -	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
" Aug. 13	8,356	" - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 11	9,102	" - - - -	...	2	...	...	...	...	1
" " 18	9,210	" - - - -	...	...	3	...	...	...	1
" " "	9,216	" - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,212	" - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,109	" - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,213	" - - - -	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,208	" - - - -	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,111	" - - - -	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,100	" - - - -	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
" " 18	9,211	" - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,215	" - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	10,712	" - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	7,253	" - - - -	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Received - - - -				9	2	17	2	2	2
Issued - - - -				...	...	14	...	...	...
Remain - - - -				9	2	3	2	2	2
ISSUED - - - -									
1857, Aug. 3	- -	Sale at the Tower - - - -	...	...	14	...	...	...	...
1856, Dec. 3	- -	" " - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Issued - - - -				...	...	14	...	...	...

		Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.
RECEIVED - - - -					
		1857, June 12	1,566	Weedon - - - -	- - - -
		1858, Sept. 18	9,216	" - - - -	- - - -
		" " "	9,205	" - - - -	- - - -
		" " "	9,210	" - - - -	- - - -
		" " "	9,211	" - - - -	- - - -
		" " 11	9,100	" - - - -	- - - -
		" " 18	9,208	" - - - -	- - - -
		" " 22	7,253	" - - - -	- - - -
		" " 11	9,102	" - - - -	- - - -
		" " 18	9,212	" - - - -	- - - -
					Received - - - -
					Issued - - - -
					Remain - - - -
ISSUED - - - -					
		1857, Aug. 3	- -	Sale at the Tower - - - -	- - - -
				Issued - - - -	- - - -

SADDLERY.

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

Collar, rope, raw hide.	Holsters.	Horse cloth, quarter.	Hous- ings, patterns.	Lassos.	Martin- gales.	Num- nahs.	Pack- saddles.	Ropes, collar.	Saddles, complete.	Shab- raques.	Sheep- skins.	Spurs, pairs.	Surcingles and straps.
u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.

RECEIVED.

...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	236	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	{ 1
...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	7	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...
...
...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	2	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
...
1	2	1	3	1	7	6	2	1	15	...	246	9	6
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	236	...	...
1	2	1	3	1	7	6	2	1	2	...	10	9	6

ISSUED.

...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	236	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	236	...	...	...

Saddlery, sets of.	Traces, rope, pairs.	Valises.	Wallets.	Water- decks.	Combs, curry.	Breast- plates.
u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.

RECEIVED.

40	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	...	6	1	...	1	...
...	...	...	1	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	...	8	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1
...	...	...	...	...	...	3
40	1	16	2	1	1	4
40	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	16	2	1	1	4

ISSUED.

40	...	...	...	...	...	...
40	...	...	...	...	...	...

CAMP EQUIPAGE AND MISCELLANEOUS

Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Bags, corn.	Baskets.	Blacking tins.	Bottles.	Brushes of sorts.	Buckets, leather, cavalry.	Bugles.
				u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.
RECEIVED										
1858, Aug. 2	8,059	Weedon	- - - - -	...	1	...	...	...	22	...
" " 24	8,614	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 28	8,714	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 13	8,356	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	1	...	26	3
" Sept. 18	9,216	"	- - - - -	...	...	1,012	9	...	...	...
" " 11	9,102	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	"	"	- - - - -
" July 24	7,750	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,215	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	1	{ 1 13 1 1 }	...	...
" " 11	9,105	"	- - - - -	...	...	1	...	{ 1 1 1 }	...	...
" " 18	9,214	"	- - - - -	...	...	1	...	{ 1 1 1 }	...	...
" " 11	9,109	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 18	9,213	"	- - - - -	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,205	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	1	8	...	...
" " "	9,209	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
" " 22	7,253	"	- - - - -	1	...	...	15	47	...	...
" " 18	9,211	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
" " "	9,210	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 22	7,253	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	"	"	- - - - -
" " "	10,712	"	- - - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received				3	1	1,014	28	74	48	3
Issued				...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Remain				3	1	1,014	28	74	48	3
ISSUED										
1858, Aug. 18	Invoice No.									
	5,942	Sale at the Tower	- - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Issued				...	...	...	...	...	...	...

- - - CAMP EQUIPAGE AND MISCELLANEOUS.

etween 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

Anteens, wood.	Canvas, old.	Colours, camp.	Covers, water- proof.	Dies, chaco plate.	Frames, book.	Haver- sacks.	Kettles.	Knives and forks.	Lasts.	Lead, old.	Mar- quees.	Paste, brass, tins.	Hooks, iron.
u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.
RECEIVED.													
...	cwts. grs. lbs. 69 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	cwts. grs. lbs. ...	...	...	...
89	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
243	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
763	...	4	...	...	...	427	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	430	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	Tents.	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	2,544	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
...	16 1 10	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	5 3 5	...	...	...
...
...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	Brass.
1,095	85 1 10	4	2	1	1	2,985	1	5	3	5 3 5	3	430	22
...	69 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,095	16 1 10	4	2	1	1	2,985	...	5	3	5 3 5	3	430	22
ISSUED.													
...	cwts. grs. lbs. 69 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	69 0 0	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

CAMP EQUIPAGE AND MISCELLANEOUS.—Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Letters, brass, valises.	Pins, tent, large.	Rope, old, lb.	Ropes, picket.	Tent, sheets.	Soles, pair.	Sponge, pieces.
				u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.

RECEIVED

1858, Aug. 13	8,356	Weedon	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
" June 17	4,167	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Sept. 18	9,216	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	178
" " "	9,214	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " "	9,208	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
" " "	9,212	"	-	-	-	-	...	27	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,105	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,205	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " 11	9,109	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
" " 22	7,253	"	-	-	-	-	520	...	...	...	...	...	15
" " 11	9,100	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
" " 22	7,253	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
" " 18	9,215	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,209	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,205	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" " "	9,215	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Feb. 5	2,686	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	140	...	...	...	...
" Aug. 2	8,059	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	1,008	...	...	...	...
1856, Nov. 19	8,162	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1858, Aug. 13	8,356	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" April 9	4,317	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	840	...	...	...	...
		Received	-	-	-	-	520	27	1,988	1	1	1	208
		Issued	-	-	-	-	...	...	1,988	...	...	...	...
		Remain	-	-	-	-	520	27	...	1	1	1	208

ISSUED

	Invoice No.												
1858, May 10	5,942	Tower	-	-	-	-	...	...	840	...	...	...	...
" Feb. 18	3,312	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	140	...	...	...	...
" Aug. "	7,769	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	1,008	...	...	...	...
1856, Dec. 3	...	"	-	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Issued	-	-	-	-	...	...	1,988	...	...	...	...

tween 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

Strings, bugle.	Towels, linen.	Trum- pets and slings.	Turn- screw and worm.	Valises, marquee.	Covers, leather, pioneers' tools.	Flags and case, lance.	Nu- merals.	Poles, picket.	Iron, wood, lbs.	Spoons.	Orna- ments, cap.	Sacks.	Spades.	Bill- hooks.
u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	s.	s.	u.
RECEIVED.														
2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	138	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	476	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
...
...
...	1	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...
...
...	20	...	...	...	...
...
...	4	...	624	...	...	...	1,354	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...
...
...	11
...	50	...	...
...	8	...
...
2	2	1	1	1	4	1	624	138	476	22	1,354	50	8	11
...	138	...	...	...	50	...	...
2	2	1	1	1	4	1	624	...	476	22	1,354	...	8	11

ISSUED.

...
...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	138	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	138	...	...	...	50	...	...

TOOLS AND ACCOUTREMENTS

Return of Stores received at the Tower from Weedon

Date.	Daily Report No. or Inspection Report No.	—	Service.	Runners, brass; Cavalry pouch belts.	Keepers, knap-sack.	Scab-bards, bayonets.	Swivels, carbine.	Axes.	Belts, of sorts.	Billets.	Car-bines.	Cases, re-volver.	
				u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	
RECEIVED - - - - -													
1858, May 18	5,640	Weedon	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ April 9	4,317	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ June 17	6,681	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ 8	6,458	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ July 24	7,750	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ Sept. 18	9,216	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	3	80	...	...
„ „ 11	9,105	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ „	9,105	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	5	...	...	...
„ „ 22	9,563	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ Aug. 13	8,356	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	8	10	...	...	...
„ „ „	-	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	7	3	...	...	...
„ Sept. 22	10,712	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
„ Aug. 2	8,059	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	13	...	...	...
„ Sept. 11	9,103	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	{ 2 5 }	...	...	...
„ „ „	9,102	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	{ 3 1 }	...	2	3
„ July 24	7,750	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
1856, Oct. 8	7,172	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	123	...	...
1858, Sept. 18	9,205	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ 11	9,108	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ 22	9,563	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ „	7,253	„ -	-	-	-	15	31	7	...	...	...	...
„ „ 18	9,212	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ „	9,212	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ „	9,211	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
„ „ „	9,216	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
„ „ „	9,215	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ Aug. 13	8,356	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ 28	8,714	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ Sept. 11	9,107	„ -	-	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Received -				-	15	31	7	3	15	49	205	2	5
Issued -				-	...	...	...	...	...	123	...	...
Remain -				-	15	31	7	3	15	49	82	2	5
ISSUED - - - - -													
1858, Aug. 18	5,942	Sale at the Tower	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1856, Oct. 23	-	„ „	-	-	...	...	...	...	...	123	...	...
Issued -				-	...	...	...	...	...	123	...	...

TOOLS AND ACCOUTREMENTS.

between 1st December 1855 and 22nd September 1858—continued.

overs, mess. tin.	Dirk, High- landers.	Frogs, sliding.	Knap- sacks.	Knots, sword.	Lances	Socks.	Pouches.	Saber- taches.	Saws.	Scissors, pairs.	Slings, of sorts.	Stocks, gun.	Straps, of sorts.	Swords and Scab- bards.	Tins, mess.
u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.	u.
RECEIVED.															
...	4,800	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,800
...
...	9,819	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,410
250	499	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	{ 499 19 }	...	1,770	...	1,770
...	825	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,185	...	7,405	...	3,370
...	...	3	104	1	...	...	{ 12 189 }	...	...	207	{ 9,894 121 }	...	434	...	...
...	22	...	...	...	3	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	208	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,552
...	10	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	17	...	...
...
...	1	5	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
...	1	2	3	{ 3 1 }	...	...	39	1	{ 34 3 }	1	...
870	1	...	...	...	...	...	2,531	...	...
410	123	...	...	123	...	1,410	...	...
...	1	...	...	2	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
...	95	...	...
...	20	...	10	...	...
...	1,540	...	...	...	...
...	19	...	...	...	...
...
...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
267
...	{ 85 Buckles for slings }		...	...	...
...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
806	1	3	16,280	4	1	2	219	134	3	208	13,548	1	13,712	1	9,903
...	123	...	...	622	...	1,770	...	...
806	1	3	16,280	4	1	2	219	11	3	208	12,926	1	11,942	1	9,903
ISSUED.															
...	499	...	1,770	...	...
...	123	...	...	123	...	...	...	...
...	123	...	...	622	...	1,770	...	...

Military Store Office, Tower,
16th October 1858.

R. EATON,
Principal Military Storekeeper.

APPENDIX No. 25. (*Question 6286.*)

MEMORANDUM prepared by Mr. MOORE, as to
Mr. ELLIOTT'S System of BOOK-KEEPING.

Military Store Office, Weedon,

SIR, September 25, 1858.

DURING the last four months, since 14th May, that I have had the charge, under your direction, of the issue branch, of the receipt branch, and of the arrear branch of this dépôt, it has necessarily been part of my duty, and especially in giving information as regards the last-named branch, to make myself acquainted with the system pursued at this station previous to your taking charge.

From the knowledge which I have gained of the data that exist, I consider that I should be entirely wanting in my duty to the public service if I did not state my own conviction that there is no insuperable difficulty in the way of arriving at the credits and debits, in favour of and against the late storekeeper, from the opening of the dépôt till the hour of his quitting it.

I beg, therefore, respectfully to submit, for the consideration of the Director of stores and clothing, the following statement of facts. And first, as regards the receipt of supplies from contractors.

From the opening of the dépôt up to the 14th May 1858, the date upon which the late storekeeper's liability ceased, a book, called the "Register Book of Inspection Notes," has been kept, in which has been duly entered up, in daily consecutive order, the particulars of all inspection notes or invoices of stores supplied by contractors, under the following heads:—"Description of Articles," "Supplied," "Approved," "Rejected."

On receipt in the office of an inspection note from a contractor, containing the quantity and description of the supply stated to have been made to the dépôt, the first step taken was to enter those particulars in detail in the "Register Book of Inspection Notes" under the first and second heads. The note was then forwarded to the inspector, to whom belonged the examination of the particular class of stores named therein.

The first duty of the inspector, on receiving the inspection note into his hands, was to enter it in detail in his inspection book. This book was headed as follows:—"Description of Articles," "Supplied," "Approved," "Rejected."

Under the first and second headings the inspector entered (stating also the date and register number of the inspection note) the particulars from the inspection note, and when the stores named in that note came in their turn to be inspected, the result was stated under the third and fourth headings, "Approved," "Rejected." The note was then returned to the office, and the result of the inspection entered in the "Register Book of Inspection Notes," under the headings "Approved" or "Rejected," as the case might be. In some instances the third and fourth columns of the "Register Book of Inspection Notes" have not been filled up, owing to the want of clerical assistance in the office, but they can be completed at any time from the books of the inspectors and the contract ledgers.

I find that inspection books have been kept from the date of joining duty, in the following inspection rooms, by the inspectors:—

- The boot inspection room.
- The two cloth inspection rooms.
- The garniture inspection room.
- The saddlery inspection room.
- The made-up clothing inspection room.

The inspectors and foremen in charge of these rooms state that they have kept correct and truthful accounts of all stores delivered by contractors, and that they have no reason to doubt their accuracy. These statements are confirmed by the inspector of stores, Mr. Hoile.

In the necessities and miscellaneous inspection room, the records during Mr. Gray's charge I find were kept in an irregular manner, and require arrangement according to dates, and comparison with other records of the office, to arrive at a correct state of the proceedings which took place in his room. Since the appointment of Mr. Moore to Mr. Gray's branch, the receipts and issues are duly recorded.

From the foregoing it will appear that, from the opening of the dépôt to the date of the late storekeeper's departure, there is a consecutive statement of the supplies received from contractors, and of the portions of those supplies that (under the head "Approved") should be charged against the storekeeper.*

Upon the correctness of that charge there are four independent checks:—

- 1st. The corresponding entry under the head "Approved" in the inspector's book.
- 2nd. The inspector's written certificate of approval upon the face of the inspection note.
- 3rd. The credit given to the contractor in the contract ledger; and,
- 4th. The certificate of the storekeeper for payment, by which he acknowledges that he is satisfied the stores have been received. These latter documents could be procured from the office of the accountant-general.*

I find the packer has kept an account of all the cloth received † into the dépôt from the 15th March 1856. This affords a complete check upon the cloth inspectors; for instance, the number of yards of drummers' red cloth which passed through the packing room from 15th March 1856 to 14th May 1858 should agree (with certain exceptions) with the number of yards of the same description of cloth stated to have passed inspection by the inspectors, and the same of other cloths.

Return Stores from Regiments and Contractors.

Mr. Cooper had the receipt of stores for some weeks previous to Mr. Elliott taking charge of the station, and he states there can be no difficulty in ascertaining the stores received by him.

As regards stores received from the Tower, Woolwich, and other Government establishments, returns of these could be obtained and compared with the records of the office.

In all cases of stores having been returned by regiments, the Director of stores, as a general rule, authorized by letter the receipt of such stores into the dépôt, and the officer commanding usually notified the return of such stores by letter.

Having had to originate and conduct the registry from March 1856 till February 1858, I am aware that the documents received have been duly registered, and can be so traced that, if the letters are not produced, such minutes have been taken of them as may be sufficient for the purposes required; at all events I should say copies could be obtained if necessary. I am aware that by the rule laid down by the late storekeeper, as soon as an order from the War Office to receive stores, or a notification from the officer or other party of having sent stores to the dépôt, had been registered, it was sent to the chief inspector of clothing if it related to made-up clothing, to the inspector of boots, to the inspector of saddlery, or to the inspector of necessities, as the case might be. The inspectors in their turn were instructed to report the receipt upon the face of these documents and return them to the registry, that receipt vouchers might be made out and transmitted to the parties who sent in the stores. In transmitting these vouchers to the parties in question, letters were written with them; these letters, which made reference to the original communications forwarding the stores to the dépôt, have been registered and can be easily traced, so that by means of the registry all the lists of stores returned which reached the office can be traced.† As an instance, see pages of register book $\frac{8}{100}$, 83, 87, 93, 99, 100, 101, 104, 106, 110. I would therefore suggest a comparison of the letters issued from and received into the office, from the 8th December 1855 till the 14th May 1858. By this comparison I feel persuaded that all stores returned can be traced, and should any difficulty arise in tracing returned clothing, I presume the regimental clothing rolls could be referred to.

Besides the information which can be obtained from the registry, I find that those in charge of the following rooms have entered in their books of account the stores returned to them respectively, § viz.:—

- The boot room.
- The saddlery room.
- The made-up clothing room.
- The garniture room.
- The receiving foreman's room.

The inspectors and foremen state that they have kept correct and truthful accounts of all stores returned to them, from the date of their taking charge to the present day, and these statements are confirmed by the inspector of stores.

In the necessities and miscellaneous room I find the entry of large quantities of returned stores in Mr. Gray's handwriting, but as he is not now connected with the dépôt his books would require to be examined and compared with the other records of this office to check their accuracy.

* These are not independent checks.—Q. B. J. and Co.

† In bales, and not in yards, except occasionally.—Q. B. J. and Co.

‡ The registry is not so complete as is here assumed, nor have the materials turned up for making it complete.—Q. B. J. and Co.

§ This is only partially done.—Q. B. J. and Co.

* The plan exists for this, but the facts have not been entered according to it.—Q. B. J. and Co.

Since the 18th December 1856 to the present time a regular receipt book of all bales and casks and cases received into the depôt, whether returned stores or contractors' supply, has been kept.* This book would of course be of considerable assistance in tracing returned stores. References could also, in cases of difficulty, be made to the receipt books of the Canal Company, and the carriers, Messrs. Pickford and Co. It is only through these two sources that any supplies could have reached this depôt, and these firms, in cases of difficulty, doubtless could trace the consignees. The bills of these firms for returned stores could also be produced and referred to, but I feel convinced that in almost every instance the return stores could be traced through the registry. Again, Mr. Dwyer, while acting as receiving and issuing clerk, kept a registry of letters relating to returned stores, and Mr. Munro, from October last up to 14th May last, kept a receipt book of returned stores.†

From the particulars already referred to, I would propose that a daily receipt sheet of all stores be prepared from the first date of Mr. Elliott's taking charge till the date of his liability to account ceased, on the 14th May last, that is, about 30 months, and in the following manner:—

A receipt sheet should be headed for every day in each month, exclusive of Sundays, and kept in monthly groups. These daily sheets should be filled up from the contractors' "Registry Book of Inspection Notes," according to the dates on which the stores were passed by the inspectors, the same as regards the returned stores; and by pursuing this process till the 14th May 1858, having gone through the existing records of the depôt, I feel persuaded very little, if any, of the receipts into the depôt during Mr. Elliott's superintendence could have escaped being recorded in the daily sheets, extending from December 1855 to 14th May 1858.

As regards the stores issued from the depôt from its opening up to the 14th May last, the date of Mr. Elliott's giving over charge, there is, in my humble opinion, no insurmountable difficulty in the way of arriving at a regular statement thereof, and for the following reasons:—

Up to August 1856 Mr. Baker, who is now at the station, had acted as issuing clerk. He received from the storekeeper the order from the War Office, and prepared for issue as directed in that order, and when the stores were selected and reported by the issuing foreman ready for transmission, as far as the receipts from the contractors afforded, he drew out a list upon a "delivery form" of the stores thus selected, and sent that list to the office, that vouchers might be made out therefrom and forwarded to the party to whom the stores were consigned.

At this time the pressure was not so great as at a subsequent period, and the issues were therefore day by day regularly posted in the regimental ledgers. I have had 200 of these lists compared with the postings in the regimental ledgers, and they agree in every particular.‡ These ledgers are forthcoming.

All vouchers for stores issued passed through the registry. The registry therefore will show the day on which an issue was made to any service. Having the date of the issue, there can be no difficulty in referring to the corresponding entries in the regimental ledger, as well as to the lists already referred to.

From these and other data, such as the original order to issue from the War Office, receipts of the carriers for the stores given to them for transmission, the receipts of the parties to whom the stores had been consigned, almost all of which have been returned, the various returns in the office, the registry, in which the vouchers were recorded on being despatched from the office as well as when returned, signed by the officers commanding, and others, the issues of this period could be arrived at. This is the opinion of Mr. Baker, who has had the issues during this period as well as Mr. Angell.

On the 22nd August 1856 an issue journal was established, under certain printed headings. A form, called "Issue Note," was provided, upon which, when an order was received from the War Office, the particulars, after the necessary calculations were gone through, were copied into the "Issue Note" and sent to the issuing foreman, who sent instructions to those in charge of rooms to prepare the stores named in the order for issue.

As soon as the stores were ready for issue, the parties in

charge of rooms reported the same to the issuing foreman, who sent one of his assistants round to note the portions of the orders prepared, and to see the stores on the carriers' trolly.

This assistant (who, although employed as a labourer, is a respectable young man of considerable ability, and very correct in the performance of any duties with which he has been intrusted) kept a memorandum book, in which he entered in pencil the portions of the order issued. He returned to the foreman's office, and if the issue was made in part, he, as a general rule, copied the portions issued on the back of the "Issue Note," which the foreman signed as correct, and then sent the "Issue Note" to the office, that vouchers might be made out for the stores named on the back thereof. If the issue had been made in full, the foreman certified the "Issue Note" accordingly, and it was in like manner sent to the office for vouchers to be made out.* The foreman's assistant next entered in the issue journal, from his pencil memorandum book, the same particulars as stated in the order already sent to the office. This issue journal is forthcoming in daily consecutive order from the 22nd August 1856 to the 14th May last. The pencil memoranda books are also available.

I find that during periods of pressure the issue journal was from time to time not entered up daily, but, as opportunity afforded, it was completed.

I have caused the issue journal to be compared with those pencil memoranda books from 18th August 1857 to the 4th November 1857, a period during which the issue journal had not been written up till some months afterwards, and I find in that time the books only disagree in twelve instances, and even in these in very trifling particulars.

The issue notes, upon the back of each of which is noted the stores issued, and signed by the issuing foreman or issue clerk, are forthcoming except in a few instances, and in these few the issues can be traced through other channels. These are the records from which the vouchers forwarded to officers and others for stores supplied have been made out, so that, if the vouchers be true, those which form the basis are also true.

I find, from November 1856 to 14th May 1858, the issues were controlled and directed by gentlemen from the office deputed for that special duty, under whose superintendence those books and records were kept. I find that up to November 1857 all vouchers for stores issued passed through the registry, so that the date and number of every issue up to November last can be therefore traced, and with this data there is little difficulty in arriving at the stores issued on that number.

From 21st August 1856 till 31st May 1857 a journal had been kept in the office showing the different issues that took place on any given order till that order had been completed.

I find that each of those in charge of the following rooms kept book accounts of the issues made by them respectively, and which they state are correct. Their statements are confirmed by the chief inspector:—

The saddlery room.
The issuing foreman's room.
The boot room.
The garniture room.
The made-up clothing room.
The necessaries and miscellaneous room.

The book accounts and issue papers kept by Mr. Gray while in charge of the necessaries and miscellaneous store, also the accounts kept in the cloth issuing room, and issue papers connected therewith, would require arrangement.

I find that there is a carriers' book, in which are entered in daily consecutive order, from 22nd August 1856 to the present day, the number of bales, cases, and casks sent from this depôt; that these bales, cases, and casks agree with those stated on the issue journal, where the contents are given, so that, in point of fact, the receipt of the firm of Messrs. Pickford and Co., in a book provided for that purpose, has been obtained and can be produced for every ounce of stores which left the depôt since August 1856.

From the foregoing particulars the issues that took place daily could be prepared in the same way as suggested for the receipts, and from both series of receipt and issue sheets, from December 1855 to the 14th May 1858, the ledger could be posted.

With the aforesaid data at hand, it is my humble opinion that there cannot be any insurmountable difficulty in arriving at the issue of the stores from the depôt during Mr. Elliott's superintendence. I am far from thinking that there is not difficulty, and very considerable difficulty,† in arranging all the documents according to dates, and of

* This book has been kept, but not carefully; dates very irregular.—Q. B. J. and Co.

† Sometimes these books contain entries of the same thing twice over, but under a different date and reference, which are very misleading. From all sources of information, whether indicated here or not, a complete receipt account has been attempted.—Q. B. J. and Co.

‡ Not regularly. The regimental ledgers being made from these lists, would to their extent necessarily agree if the work was correctly done.—Q. B. J. and Co.

* This store issue journal has been very useful in our investigations.—Q. B. J. and Co.

† This difficulty has been very considerable, and by the utmost diligence and care not perfectly surmounted.—Q. B. J. and Co.

comparing the letters written and received from the opening of the dépôt to the 14th May last, as well as checking the receipts and issues by the different subsidiary books in the hands of those who have been in charge of store rooms in the dépôt up to the 14th May last; but I am of opinion that such can be done, and lead to a satisfactory result. I venture to think that, had the data which I have touched upon been submitted to a professional accountant, he would agree with me that they afford the means of arriving at a credit and debit, for and against the late storekeeper, which, if not entirely correct, would approach as near as possible to the true state of the accounts.

An investigation of the nature suggested would afford an opportunity of opening an account with each contractor, and of charging them with the quantity of cloth issued, or of clothing for alteration sent to them, and of ascertaining whether the whole of such issues have been duly accounted for. It would also afford the means of stating regimentally the issues to each service during Mr. Elliott's charge, and thereby facilitate the preparation of returns and information called for almost daily.

The foregoing has reference entirely to the Weedon dépôt, as I presume that the Mark Lane branch, with the details of which I have had no opportunity of being acquainted, possesses the means of rendering a true account of the receipts and issues connected therewith.

I hope I may be excused the trouble I have given by this long statement. I felt that, being of opinion that a basis upon which the accounts of the dépôt, from its opening to the date of the late storekeeper's departure, existed, it was my duty to submit that information, as far as I possessed it, to the authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES MOORE,
First Class Military Store Clerk.

Captain Gordon, C.B.,
Principal Military Storekeeper,
&c. &c.

APPENDIX No. 26.

QUILTER and Co.'s REPORT as to the SYSTEM of BOOK-KEEPING at WEEDON.

57, Coleman Street, London,
31st December 1858.

GENTLEMEN,

Having, in pursuance of your instructions, examined the books kept at the Weedon dépôt during Mr. Elliott's superintendence, and also those at present in use, with the view of ascertaining the respective merits and defects of the two systems, we now submit the following Report of the result of such investigation.

Before describing the accounts it may be useful to note the following circumstances:—

By Royal Warrant, dated 21st June 1855, the Board of General Officers was abolished, and its duties transferred to the Director-General of Army Clothing; about the same time the barracks at Weedon were converted into a clothing dépôt, but no clothing or stores were received at Weedon until early in the following November, when the deliveries there appear to have commenced as well from the Tower as from contractors, which, together with all subsequent deliveries, were taken charge of by Mr. C. H. Cooper, Assistant Military Store-keeper, until the 7th December 1855, when Mr. J. S. Elliott commenced his duties at Weedon as principal military store-keeper, he taking charge of the stock then on hand at the dépôt, that portion which consisted of deliveries from the Tower being verified by a detailed return, bearing date 16th January 1856, while the particulars of that portion which had been received from contractors were furnished by the inspection notes which accompanied the delivery of the goods into the dépôt.

No books were kept until after the 7th December 1855, the only records of the stores received at the dépôt previously thereto being the bills of delivery furnished from the storekeeper's office at the Tower in respect of goods sent from that department, and the above-mentioned inspection notes.

No issues took place until after the 7th December 1855.

It does not appear from the records of the office whether any instructions were given to Mr. Elliott regarding the system of account to be observed, but whether such instructions were or were not given, no regular plan of account was brought into operation until after the 22nd August 1856, when various improvements were introduced, and something like a uniform and connected method of book-keeping began to prevail.

The bookkeeping which obtained during the interval between 7th December 1855 and 22nd August 1856 was of a very rough and imperfect description; there was no regular classification of the facts indicated by the original vouchers, nor were there exhibited any of the results which belong to efficient bookkeeping. The books which we find to have been used during this period were the following—

1. Minute book of letters received.
2. Letter books containing copies of letters written from the department.
3. General charge books, intended to shew the disposal of all registered documents.

The foregoing books relate entirely to the registration of papers and correspondence, and are not, strictly speaking, books of account.

4. Indexes to contracts.
5. Register of inspection notes, accompanying stores received from contractors.
6. Contractors' ledgers, containing entries of goods ordered, and goods supplied under the head of each contract.
7. List of certificates granted to contractors for goods supplied in virtue of their contracts.
8. Copies of certified invoices of goods supplied not under contract.

The foregoing (4 to 8) are books relative to the dealings with contractors, and tradesmen in connexion with the receipt of stores at the dépôt.

9. Register of receipt of stores from Woolwich, the Tower, and other government sources.
10. Regimental ledgers. These books contain accounts opened, with the titles of different regiments, for the purpose of recording the particulars of clothing ordered to be issued to the several regiments, and of the actual issues made in fulfillment of such orders.

Besides the books described above, a rough document was framed, having the character of a stores ledger, that is, containing accounts opened for some of the different description of stores, with entries purporting to shew the respective receipts and issues under distinctive heads, but it was never duly entered up, and as a book of results is perfectly useless.

In addition to all the foregoing, certain other books were kept by the inspectors and viewers in their respective store rooms; these were in various forms, and the entries made in them consisted of little more than memoranda relating to the inspection of various kinds of clothing and stores; there was also a foreman's book of issues, and one for special issues of cloth, both of which were likewise kept in the store rooms.

Although these books existed, and entries more or less continuous were made in them, not one was kept efficiently and completely, and there was, properly speaking, no systematic book-keeping; the consequence being a state of arrear and confusion, which in a greater or less degree continued to characterise the accounts of the department down to the time when Captain Gordon took charge of it in May 1858, and notwithstanding the improvements which Mr. Elliott himself introduced in August 1856.

Some idea may be formed of the degree of inconvenience, if not of danger, to which the public interests were exposed through the absence of the check afforded by an efficient system of accounts, when the magnitude of the business of the department during the period in question is considered; thus, the purchases from contractors and tradesmen comprised:—

About 420,000 yards of cloth,
" 100,000 great coats,
" 100,000 frocks,
" 60,000 cap covers,
" 150,000 pairs of boots and shoes,
" 80,000 garments (various),
" 170,000 tunics and trousers for the militia,

exclusive of large quantities of warm clothing and miscellaneous stores, which were in constant course of receipt from the Tower, Woolwich, Foreign Legions, troops returned from the Crimea; also surplus clothing from disembodied militia regiments, and "necessaries" from regimental stores.

The issues of clothing and stores to all branches of the military service during this period were on a scale of corresponding magnitude, and included a large amount of materials and clothing entrusted to contractors for conversion and alteration.

We now proceed to set forth the course of business and system of accounts, which obtained from and after the 22nd August 1856, and which continued in operation during the remainder of Mr. Elliott's superintendence.

The business of the department came gradually to be divided into branches, and at length assumed the following classification :

1. Registry Branch.
2. Contract Branch.
3. Receipt and Issue Branch.
4. Store Ledger Branch.

1. REGISTRY BRANCH.

Under this head are included the conduct of the correspondence; its registration, both in respect of letters inward and outward, and the registration of papers and documents generally. The plan adopted to carry out these objects by means of minute books, registers and indexes appears to have been sufficient, and the work of the branch has been fairly kept up and not allowed to fall into any considerable arrears.

2. CONTRACT BRANCH.

Under this head is comprised the whole course of dealing with contractors and tradesmen (other than contractors), in respect of supplies furnished by them, from the receipt of the goods at the depôt to the granting of the certificates on which payment proceeds.

The contracts are entered into by the authorities in London who advise the principal military storekeeper at Weedon, of the particulars of the contract and furnish him with the sealed patterns; the information extracted from the contract itself or other document received from the War Office is preserved in guard books with indexes thereto, the original contracts being always returned to the War Office. These particulars constitute the guide of the storekeeper in his reception of goods supplied by contractors.

When goods are forwarded to Weedon, the contractor accompanies them by a voucher termed an "inspection note," (the form of which is furnished to him in blank), which sets forth the particulars of the goods sent, and is provided with three columns headed respectively "supplied," "approved," "rejected;" the "supplied" column being the only one filled in by the contractor, the other two being left vacant to abide the result of inspection; the contents of the "inspection note" are entered in a register, it receives a serial registration number to facilitate future reference and identification, and is then placed in the hands of the proper inspector for completion after examination of the goods to which it relates. The result of the inspection is recorded by the inspector in a book kept by him in the store room, and also on the face of the note itself by his filling in the columns headed "approved" and "rejected;" the document is then forwarded to the registry branch, from which a communication is made to the contractor notifying the result of the inspection, and requesting him to transmit a monied invoice for the quantities approved, and to remove those rejected: this done, the inspection note is returned to the contract branch as the voucher on which to base the entry of the result of the inspection in the register of inspection notes, and to carry to the credit of the contractor the quantity "approved." The credits thus given to the contractor constitute the *data* on which the certificate is passed by the storekeeper for payment to be made to the contractor; such certificate being also the voucher for the charge assumed by the storekeeper in respect of the articles included in it. The certificate accompanied by the contractor's account (in duplicate) is transmitted to the War Office in London, where the contractor receives the cash, payment to which it entitles him.

In the case of articles supplied by tradesmen not under contract, the general rule is to certify on the invoice accompanying the goods their quantity, quality, and the fact of their receipt into store, the prices charged being determined by the War Office, accounts with the tradesmen being opened in the contractor's ledger, and a copy of the certified invoice retained.

In some instances stores purchased of contractors and tradesmen were delivered direct by them to the regiments for whom they were intended, without being passed through the depôt at Weedon; such goods being taken on charge and entered in the contractor's ledger on the authority of the receipts of the officers of the respective regiments; by this mode of proceeding, which was however exceptional, the goods escaped the ordeal of inspection at Weedon.

3. RECEIPT AND ISSUE BRANCH.

The business under this head consists of taking account of articles brought into store other than those received from contractors and tradesmen, and of all issues out of store.

The stores sent from the Tower, Woolwich, or other Government departments are in common with all others

received at Weedon only on the authority of the Director-General; the articles from the Tower and Woolwich are accompanied by delivery bills of particulars according to a printed form, and are subjected to examination on receipt; those from regiments are accompanied by a letter or some other document of no set form, giving the particulars of the packages forwarded, and are also subjected to examination on receipt.

The issues from Weedon proceed exclusively on the authority of the Director-General of Army Clothing, whose instructions are communicated to the storekeeper at Weedon by a letter signifying the respected descriptions, quantities, and destinations of the several issues so directed to be made; proceeding on this letter, a clerk in the Issue Department directs written orders to the several foremen of the respective store rooms in which the different articles ordered to be issued are kept; of these orders counterparts are retained by the clerk issuing them, and on their execution, the particulars are entered in the issue journal in order of date, and also in the regimental ledger under the head of the regiment.

Every issue is accompanied by two vouchers, consisting of a delivery note and a receipt note, the former being retained by the regiment, and the latter signed by the officer commanding, being returned to Weedon and forming the storekeeper's voucher for the issue.

4. STORE LEDGER BRANCH.

The business of this branch is to collect together in one record, designated the "store ledger," on the one hand, all *receipts* of clothing and stores from every source, and on the other, all *issues* of clothing and stores, with the view of exhibiting in debtor and creditor form, under the head of each article, as "boots," "caps," "tunics," "trousers," &c., the periodical receipts and issues, and the balance or stock remaining on hand from time to time. The number of articles, inclusive of their respective subdivisions, in relation of each of which the above information is or should be afforded by the "stores ledger" is about eighteen hundred.

The *debit* or receipt side of the "stores ledger" is formed from the pay certificates passed to contractors in respect of "approved" articles, and from the bills of delivery and other documents which accompany stores received respectively from the Tower, from Woolwich, and from regiments: the particulars of such documents in reference to,—

1. Line clothing,
2. Militia clothing, and
3. Militia necessaries,

are first abstracted under the requisite heads into a subsidiary book appropriated to each of those objects and designated a "debit voucher," the contents of this latter document being posted in monthly totals into the "stores ledger;" in respect of all other receipts, the stores ledger is made up direct from the same sources of information as (in the cases above-mentioned) are used in the preparation of the "debit voucher."

The *credit* or issue side of the store ledger is based upon the issue notes (previously described), in the cases of

1. Line clothing,
2. Militia clothing,
3. Boots, and
4. Clothing for enrolled pensioners,

such issue notes are first abstracted into a subsidiary book, and thence posted to the credit of the several accounts in the stores ledger in monthly totals; in all other cases the accounts in the stores ledger are credited direct from the issue notes themselves.

Every species of clothing and stores is ranged under one or other of the following descriptions, for each of which a separate store is maintained, namely:—

- Cloth,
- Boots,
- Clothing,
- Necessaries,
- Garniture and buttons,
- Saddlery.

A detailed schedule of the different books which have from time to time been in use in the various branches of the establishment, numbering altogether about three hundred, would constitute a voluminous addition to this Report, but would not be so clear a medium of information as a more general descriptive statement; we, therefore, subjoin the following classified summary of the books of account which have been kept subsequently to the 22nd August 1856, distinguishing those which were introduced

by Captain Gordon soon after he took charge of the department in May 1858:—

SUMMARY OF BOOKS.

A.—*In use during Mr. Elliott's Superintendence, as from 22nd August 1856.*

1. Inspection note register, comprising the particulars of all inspection notes received with goods from contractors, and the results of inspections.
2. Contractors' ledgers, for entry of particulars of contracts, their execution, and of certificates granted to contractors.
3. Register of certificates granted to contractors.
4. Register of invoices certified, being for supplies purchased not under contract.
5. Diary, shewing the due dates of deliveries under contracts.
6. Register of vouchers, for stores received at Weedon from other Government sources.
7. Register of packages received.
8. Issue journal, for entry of all stores issued, with the dates of issues.
9. Carrier's receipt book for packages delivered.
10. Regimental ledgers, for entry of particulars of orders received for issue of supplies to regiments, and their execution; these books were very large, and formed upon an elaborate plan; they were not maintained, and were superseded by,—
11. Index book of orders, containing substantially the like information as had been formerly entered in No. 10.
12. Order books of issue, containing instructions to the storeholders for the issue of stores.
13. Store ledger, fully described under the head of store ledger branch.
14. Inspection book, containing daily reports of inspection.
15. Foreman's book of issues, being a record of goods packed and sent out in pursuance of orders to issue. (12.)
16. Issue books; daily record of issues; one kept in each store room.

B. *Introduced by Captain Gordon, as from 14th May 1858.*

17. Daily journals of receipts; an account of all "approved" goods received into store derived from the inspection notes, and posted into the stores ledger of the debit or received side, of which it is the basis; this book is formed in the first instance of loose sheets of paper, with the view of facilitating the rapid posting of its contents into the stores ledger.
18. Branch ledgers; one kept by each foreman of stores to record under their respective heads the stores received and issued by him daily; these books are for each store room what the general stores ledger is for the whole establishment, and form a useful comparative check on the formation of that book, besides which, they would exhibit the balance of stores, for which each foreman is accountable.
19. Receipts for rejected supplies returned to contractors; a mere note book of the dates, quantities, and descriptions of goods returned, with the receipt of the carrier or other parties to whom they were delivered on behalf of the contractor.

Having thus traced the general course of business, and method of account observed at the dépôt at Weedon from its establishment in June 1855, and described the distinctive features and objects of the several classes of books which came successively into use during the period of Mr. Elliott's superintendence, and of those subsequently introduced by Captain Gordon, we now beg to offer, by way of comment, some few remarks, which present themselves on a review of the whole matter.

With reference to the system of accounts kept under Mr. Elliott's superintendence, we observe that we consider it to have sufficiently provided for some of the important objects contemplated by account keeping for business of the nature of that conducted at the dépôt at Weedon; thus, it provided for the adequate record of the facts connected with the receipt of stores from the contractors; as, the conditions of the contracts under which supplies were to be made; the extent to which those conditions were complied with; the corresponding reception of goods, and consequent credit to the contractors; appropriate books were also provided for the records of receipts of stores from

other sources than contractors. This was a simpler matter, involving no other examination of the goods and relative vouchers than was requisite to test the descriptions and the quantities of the various kinds of stores consigned to the dépôt from the Tower, Woolwich, regiments, &c.; books were also provided for the record of issues, and for shewing in connexion with them the authority of the Director-General for such issues; these fundamental objects were thus provided for, and if the accounts, such as they were, had been efficiently kept in all respects, they would doubtless have been saved from falling into that condition of accumulated arrear and general incompleteness and incoherency by which they were characterised when Captain Gordon took charge of the dépôt, and towards which they had in fact been more or less tending from the very commencement, and which it should be added, was attributable in no small degree to the numerical insufficiency of the staff of clerks employed in the offices of the dépôt.

At the same time we notice that, although the accounts under Mr. Elliott's superintendence were fairly adapted, in the main, for the sufficient record of current transactions, they were deficient in this important particular, that no comprehensive chronological record for the daily entry of receipts was framed so as to secure the accuracy which generally accompanies promptly made entries, and to provide a satisfactory basis for the formation of the general stores ledger: there was, moreover, a prevalent absence of that connexion and check which are essential to the ready production of reliable results from any form or method of account.

When Captain Gordon took charge of the dépôt in May 1858 he adopted the business-like step of at once taking stock, and thereby determined the actual quantities of goods of all descriptions remaining in store for which he became officially responsible, while, with respect to accounts, he established a daily journal of receipts, amended the form and arrangement of the issue journal and contract ledgers, introduced a separate ledger for each branch store; by means of which and some other alterations in matters of detail he effected a considerable improvement in the method and working of the accounts.

Allowing for these not unimportant improvements, the present system is substantially the same as that which previously obtained, with this difference, that it is now efficiently worked by the instrumentality of an adequate staff of clerks, a state of things which there is reason to believe existed at no time during Mr. Elliott's superintendence.

But the system still remains, as it always has been, deficient in this essential particular, that it is not constructed on the principle of double entry, in the absence of which safeguard no certain reliance can be placed on any results exhibited by accounts, however conscientiously and diligently they may be kept, and especially when transactions of the multifarious character of those of this department have to be recorded.

But notwithstanding the various defects which have been pointed out, we have no reason for thinking otherwise than that the materials exist by means of which all the transactions of the department from the commencement may be elucidated and explained.

A favourable opportunity for the application of double entry would be an actual stock taking, which would furnish a practical starting point for the introduction of that system. It also occurs to us to remark, that it may become matter for consideration whether some portion of the account keeping, which is now done at the dépôt, and afterwards examined and checked at the War Office, might not be advantageously performed in the first instance by the latter department as part of a comprehensive and uniform plan of account for all clothing and stores, the various dépôts for which are virtually branches of the War Office.

We have, &c.

QUILTER, BALL, JAY, & Co.

P.S.—We have not in the foregoing report alluded to the cash accounts kept by Mr. Elliott; they have not come under our notice officially; we moreover understand them to relate strictly to the disbursement of the imprest monies sent to Weedon for payment of salaries, wages, and incidental expenses, and to have no connexion with the peculiar business of the dépôt.

Q. B. J. & Co.

To the Royal Commissioners for
Inquiring into Stores and Clothing
Dépôts at Weedon.

APPENDIX No. 27.

REPORT OF MESSRS. QUILTER, BALL, JAY, AND CO., AS TO THE RESULTS OF THE SYSTEM.

57, Coleman Street, London,
July 25, 1859.

GENTLEMEN,—We beg leave to submit the following report of the result of the comprehensive investigation which, in conformity with instructions received from you, has been made by us of the accounts and transactions of the Military Clothing and Stores' Depôt at Weedon.

The investigation extends over a period of rather more than two years and five months, namely, that between the 7th December 1855, the date of Mr. J. S. Elliott's appointment to the office of principal military storekeeper at Weedon, and the 14th May 1858, when Captain Gordon, C.B., took charge of the depôt.

The main object of the inquiry has been two-fold:—

1st. To ascertain whether all the stores received at the depôt, or for which the department was officially responsible, although not actually delivered to the depôt, have been duly accounted for.

2nd. To ascertain that a due equivalent in supplies has been received for all the monies paid to contractors and tradesmen by the War Office in virtue of certificates passed in their favour at Weedon;

and, 3rd. As incidental to the chief purpose of the inquiry, our attention has been directed to the subject of the official method of book-keeping, with a view to the suggestion of any improvements of which it might appear susceptible, and in particular to the submission of a scheme of accounts for the department of military stores based upon the principle of double entry.

The defective and neglected state in which we found the accounts at Weedon rendered it out of the question to attempt the investigation intrusted to us in simple reliance upon the information they presented, and obliged us, in order to proceed with any degree of certainty, to have recourse to original vouchers of every available description, the correspondence and the books, and from all those sources to collect and classify the facts according to a defined plan in a series of books constructed expressly for the purposes of the inquiry. In order to the execution of this plan, it became necessary to re-arrange and classify the whole of the vast mass of documents which had accumulated during the existence of the depôt.

Having found that a stores' ledger had been made up to the 31st March 1857, and transmitted to the War Office by Mr. Elliott, we divided the whole period under investigation into two sections:—

The first commencing from 7th December 1855, and terminating 31st March 1857, and comprising rather more than 15½ months.

The second commencing from 1st April 1857, and terminating 14th May 1858, and comprising just 13½ months.

Being together rather more than 2 years and 5 months.

By this arrangement, and the provision of two separate sets of books to correspond with it, we were enabled to be occupied upon the two sections more or less simultaneously, and to expedite the work accordingly; and it moreover gave us the opportunity, had we found it desirable to do so, of making a rest at the close of the first section, and of comparing the results we might arrive at up to that date with those exhibited by the stores' ledger of Mr. Elliott. But finding as we advanced that such intermediate comparison could not, owing to the character of the materials for working it out, be effected without great additional labour, it was not attempted.

The books constructed for the working out of this investigation consist of journals and ledgers; that is to say,—

JOURNALS (3) OF STORES RECEIVED (consisting of 8 volumes).

1. Journal of stores received from contractors, formed chiefly from the "inspection note registers," in respect of goods which actually passed through Weedon, and from the "Mark Lane reports," in respect of goods inspected at Mark Lane, and from thence forwarded to the regiments, but for which issues Weedon was officially responsible.
2. Journal of stores received from regiments, but which at the time of their transmission to Weedon were not public property. This branch of stores receipt may be regarded as exceptional. Formerly it was the custom to furnish the soldiers' kits out of stocks of the different descriptions of necessities kept with the several regiments, but belonging to contractors and tradesmen, the men paying for the kits so supplied at a regulation price out of the bounty granted to them on enlistment. On the

cessation of this practice, which occurred in the year 1856, the goods that happened to be then on hand for the purpose of supplying the kits were transmitted to Weedon, and such of them as, after examination, were passed and approved as fit and suitable for the public service, were purchased by the Government of the contractors and tradesmen, and became public property and proper subjects of record in the public accounts. But the stores received under these circumstances, although sent "from regiments," were, in fact, in the nature of original supplies by contractors, and distinguishable accordingly from stores received back after having been previously issued for service, and the transfer of stores from other Government departments.

This journal is formed from a great variety of loose papers and rough documents, comprising memoranda books, vouchers, and correspondence.

3. Journal of stores, being public property, received from regiments and from other departments, formed chiefly from vouchers and other original papers, memoranda books, and registers of correspondence.

JOURNAL OF ISSUES.

All issues of stores are brought together and recorded in this book, which consists of 5 volumes; it is formed from information extracted after laborious research and collation from the store issue journal, the Mark Lane ledger, issue notes, receipts of commanding officers, and other documents.

The journals thus described constitute a chronological record of every transaction, both of receipt and issue, and are arranged on a plan by which the different descriptions of stores which form the subjects of the successive entries are distributed and collected, under the denominations to which they respectively belong, according to the official classification, in virtue of which stores of every sort and kind are reduced under six general heads, namely:—

1. Cloth.
2. Clothing.
3. Boots.
4. Necessaries.
5. Garniture.
6. Saddlery.

STORES LEDGERS.

To each of these general heads we have appropriated a separate stores' ledger so arranged in point of form as to provide a distinct account of receipt and issue for each of the numerous subdivisions into which those general heads are severally distributed in the actual business of the department; without such an arrangement goods issued could not be identified with goods received, and as a consequence the disposal of the latter could not be traced. Accordingly there is,—

1. The Cloth Ledger,—comprising five divisions and 85 subdivisions.
2. The Clothing Ledger,—comprising twelve divisions and 251 subdivisions.
3. The Boots Ledger,—comprising one division and 21 subdivisions.
4. The Necessaries Ledger,—comprising seven divisions and 143 subdivisions.
5. The Garniture Ledger,—comprising five divisions and 90 subdivisions; and,
6. The Saddlery Ledger,—comprising six divisions and 129 subdivisions.

The above "divisions" represent simply the grouping of certain descriptions of stores (of the like general character), made for the sake of convenience in forming and working the stores' ledgers; but the "sub-divisions" represent each an article or class of articles of stores to be separately and distinctly accounted for.

These stores' ledgers are based upon the stores' journals, the entire contents of the journals of receipt being posted to the *debit* and those of the journal of issue to the *credit* of the several ledgers under their respective subdivisions; and by this means a knowledge of the stock of each description of stores that should be on hand is arrived at, such stock being represented by the balance appearing at the debit of each column of subdivision.

The special use of the stores' ledgers, and to which they are necessarily limited, is to provide a classified record in detail of all receipts and issues under heads representing their several kinds and descriptions, number and quantities; but in order to a complete investigation of the transactions of the department, other objects than those proper to the stores' ledgers had to be provided for,—namely, a scrutiny of the accounts with contractors and tradesmen, with the view of testing the correctness of the cash payments made to them,—the examination of accounts with regi-

ments and other departments in respect of stores claimed by them respectively to have been returned or transferred to Weedon ;—these objects would be in connexion with the receipts of stores : while in connexion with the issue of stores, it was necessary to trace to the possession of the different regiments or other services the various issues for which credit was taken in the stores' ledgers.

In order to carry out the foregoing branches of the inquiry, ledgers have been opened applicable to each object indicated, as follows :—

LEDGERS OF RECEIPT.

Contractors' ledger in respect of general supplies ; the credit side being based upon and corresponding with the journal of receipts No. 1 ; while the debit side is constituted of certificates granted,—and, the quantities of clothing due as the equivalent for materials issued for conversion into clothing : a personal account is opened with each contractor and tradesman, in which are brought together and contrasted on the one hand the supplies received, and on the other the certificates granted and clothing due in return for materials issued.

Contractors' conversion ledger. This is subsidiary to the preceding book, into which its results merge. It contains in personal accounts opened with every contractor, on the one hand, to the debit, the quantities of cloth and materials issued for conversion ; and on the other hand, to the credit, the equivalent due in clothing, which equivalent is charged to the contractor against the gross supplies credited to him in the contractors' ledger.

Contractors' ledger in respect of necessities. The credit side of this book is based upon and corresponds with the journal of receipts, No. 2, while the debit side is formed from the register of certified invoices granted to the contractors after reception and approval of the goods, so as to show the amount of stores supplied by and cash certified to be payable to each contractor.

Ledger of stores returned by line regiments.

- " " " cavalry regiments.
- " " " militia regiments.
- " " " enrolled pensioners.
- " " transferred from other Government departments, as the Tower, Woolwich, &c.

In these ledgers an account is opened with every regiment and department, and credit given to each for the stores received from them respectively, according to the journal of receipts No. 3.

The foregoing ledgers relate entirely to the receipt of stores.

LEDGERS OF ISSUE.

Ledger of stores issued to line regiments.

- " " " cavalry regiments.
- " " " artillery (royal and militia).
- " " " militia regiments (ex artillery).
- " " " enrolled pensioners.
- " " " prison and convict services.

These ledgers are based upon the journal of issues described at page 375, and exhibit in detailed accounts opened with every regiment and service, the quantities and descriptions of stores charged against them respectively by the depôt on the authority of War Office "orders to issue." This classification being effected, the items were examined and compared with the receipts of commanding officers, receipts from the army packers, returns made from regiments to the War Office, and such other vouchers as we found available, in order to ascertain whether the stores for the issue of which credit had been taken at Weedon had reached the regiment and services for which they were designated.

Independently of the special objects assigned to these contractors' and regimental ledgers, they furnish a means of check upon the accuracy of the corresponding work of the investigation generally, a purpose, considering the disjointed and confused mass of materials on which we have had to operate, of no little value and importance : they number 37 parts or volumes.

We now proceed to set forth the result of our examination into the receipts and issues of stores from the 7th December 1855 to the 14th May 1858 under each of the six general heads into which stores are officially divided, namely, cloth, clothing, boots, necessities, garniture, saddlery, as exhibited by the respective stores' ledgers previously described at page 375, and at the same time to compare the balance of those ledgers with the "remain," or quantities found to exist on stock being taken at the last-mentioned date.

CLOTH.

Abstract of Results exhibited by the Stores' Ledger.				Differences.		
Description of Cloth.	Total Quantities received.	Total Quantities issued.	Balance, 14 May 1858.	Remain, 14 May 1858.		
					More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
Red - " - " - " - "	530,276 ⁴ / ₁₂	384,409 ² / ₁₂	145,867 ² / ₁₂	147,637	1,769 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	—
Blue - " - " - " - "	233,079 ⁷ / ₁₂	208,382 ¹ / ₁₂	24,697 ¹ / ₁₂	25,736 ⁸ / ₁₂	1,039 ⁷ / ₁₂	—
Scarlet - " - " - " - "	100,166 ⁵ / ₁₂	74,750 ¹ / ₁₂	25,416 ⁷ / ₁₂	25,712	295 ⁵ / ₁₂	—
Green - " - " - " - "	99,462 ¹¹ / ₁₂	67,027 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	32,435 ¹ / ₁₂	33,688 ³ / ₁₂	1,253 ² / ₁₂	—
White - " - " - " - "	75,956 ³ / ₁₂	26,622 ³ / ₁₂	49,333 ¹ / ₁₂	49,240	Nil.	93 ¹⁰ / ₁₂
Grey Kersey - " - " - " - "	307,336 ¹ / ₁₂	274,935 ¹¹ / ₁₂	32,400 ¹ / ₁₂	32,505 ³ / ₁₂	104 ⁴ / ₁₂	—
Oxford grey - " - " - " - "	478,171 ⁸ / ₁₂	322,862	155,309 ⁸ / ₁₂	155,339	29 ⁴ / ₁₂	—
Tartan - " - " - " - "	15,939 ¹ / ₁₂	9,599	6,340 ³ / ₁₂	6,435 ³ / ₁₂	95	—
Crimson - " - " - " - "	2,213 ³ / ₁₂	1,871 ³ / ₁₂	342 ³ / ₁₂	346 ³ / ₁₂	4 ⁶ / ₁₂	—
Black - " - " - " - "	2,769 ³ / ₁₂	207 ² / ₁₂	2,562 ¹ / ₁₂	2,746	183 ¹ / ₁₂	—
Buff - " - " - " - "	2,541	639 ⁶ / ₁₂	1,901 ⁶ / ₁₂	1,866 ³ / ₁₂	Nil.	35 ³ / ₁₂
Yellow - " - " - " - "	4,991 ⁹ / ₁₂	1,220 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	3,770 ⁹ / ₁₂	3,761 ² / ₁₂	Nil.	9 ⁶ / ₁₂
Blueish grey, E.I.C. - " - " - " - "	1,560 ⁹ / ₁₂	1,560 ⁹ / ₁₂	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Flannel - " - " - " - "	4,508	18	4,490	4,458 ⁶ / ₁₂	Nil.	31 ⁴ / ₁₂
Osnaburgh - " - " - " - "	2,000	2,000	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Grey - " - " - " - "	33 ⁹ / ₁₂	24 ⁶ / ₁₂	8 ³ / ₁₂	Nil.	Nil.	8 ³ / ₁₂
Sky blue - " - " - " - "	146 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	146 ⁶ / ₁₂	146 ⁶ / ₁₂	Nil.	Nil.
Purple - " - " - " - "	144 ³ / ₁₂	—	144 ³ / ₁₂	144 ³ / ₁₂	Nil.	Nil.
Grey, E.I.C. - " - " - " - "	63 ⁹ / ₁₂	63 ⁹ / ₁₂	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
White duck and drill - " - " - " - "	192 ⁹ / ₁₂	10	182 ⁹ / ₁₂	169 ⁶ / ₁₂	Nil.	13 ³ / ₁₂
	1,861,553 ⁷ / ₁₂	1,376,204 ⁴ / ₁₂	485,349 ³ / ₁₂	489,932 ⁴ / ₁₂	—	—

The preceding statement shows that, according to the ledgers, the total receipts of cloth amounted to 1,861,553 ⁷/₁₂ yards, and the total issued to 1,376,204 ⁴/₁₂ yards, resulting in a balance to represent the stock on hand of 485,349 ³/₁₂ yards against 489,932 ⁴/₁₂ yards, as according to the remain were found to exist on the 14th May 1858, the difference between the two results being 4,583 ¹/₁₂ yards, as an excess of actual stock over that shown by the ledger balances.

This close approximation we consider satisfactory, such difference being at the rate of not more than about one-seventh of a yard in every 100 yards of the total quantities dealt with, first as receipts and subsequently as issues. A detailed statement, showing the ledger balances and the differences between them and the remain under each particular head into which cloth is subdivided is annexed. Vide Appendix A., page 380.

CLOTHING.

Abstract of Results exhibited by the Clothing Ledger.					Remain 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Clothing.	Total Quantities received.	Total Quantities issued.	Balance 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
Tunics - - - - -	452,094	412,516	39,578	—	37,376	—	2,202
Trowsers - - - - -	434,994	404,882	30,112	—	27,882	—	2,230
Shakos, caps, &c. - - -	315,517	237,499	78,018	—	71,109	—	6,909
Jackets and vests - - -	196,021	134,969	61,052	—	58,075	—	2,977
Great coats - - - - -	297,513	133,306	164,207	—	164,430	223	—
Cloaks and capes - - -	21,266	18,526	2,740	—	1,205	—	1,535
Frock coats - - - - -	9,418	9,265	153	—	32	—	121
Sashes and girdles - - -	13,464	11,078	2,386	—	1,259	—	1,127
Summer frocks, &c. - - -	145,266	123,293	21,973	—	35,376	13,403	—
Comforters and muffatees - -	28,802	14,289	14,513	—	14,682	169	—
Robes, buffalo and calf - - -	7,924	7,923	1	—	—	—	1
Cholera belts - - - - -	2,995	28	2,967	—	11,976	9,009	—
Drawers - - - - -	116,222	33,184	83,038	—	79,796	—	3,242
Leggings, waterproof - - -	7,585	3,644	3,941	—	—	—	3,941
Shoulder cords - - - - -	168	106	62	—	3	—	59
Colours - - - - -	60	47	13	—	—	—	13
Sheepskin garments - - - -	31	—	31	—	—	—	31
Aprons - - - - -	2	—	2	—	28	26	—
Buttons, pensioners' - - - -	176 ¹ / ₁₂	97 ¹ / ₁₂	78 ³ / ₁₂	—	—	—	78 ³ / ₁₂
Worsted - - - - -	6	31	—	25	848	873	—
	2,049,524 ¹ / ₁₂	1,544,683 ¹ / ₁₂	504,865 ³ / ₁₂	25	504,077	—	—

With reference to that class of differences comprised in the preceding abstract in which the remain is less than the ledger balances, we remark that we have reason to believe that such differences will be found to be due to the circumstance that, whereas the remain consists only of those quantities of clothing which were found in stock at Weedon, the ledger balances include all such as should be on hand not only at Weedon, but also at Mark Lane, forasmuch as in the ledger the depôt is charged with all the stores for which it was officially accountable, whether subjected to inspection at Weedon or at Mark Lane.

We have endeavoured by an analysis of the details of receipts and issues to distinguish between the stock which according to the accounts should have been found at Weedon and at Mark Lane respectively, but have not been able to complete it in time to state its result in this report.

As to the differences of the opposite kind, namely, those in which the remain is in excess of the ledger balances, we notice, especially with reference to the two principal items, namely, cholera belts and summer frocks, that the variations most probably arise from the circumstance that at the close of the war with Russia sundry quantities of clothing, &c., were returned from the Crimea and other places, and received into store without being invoiced in the usual manner, the consequence being that vouchers have been wanting whereon to found the requisite entries of such receipts in the accounts of the depôt.

A detailed statement, marked B., showing the ledger balances and the differences between them and the remain under each particular head into which clothing is subdivided, is given in the Appendix, page 383.

BOOTS.

Abstract of Results exhibited by the Boots Ledger.				Remain 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balance 14th May 1858.		More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
	Pairs.	Pairs.				
Ankle boots - - - - -	847,429	588,646	258,783	255,579	—	3,204
Long boots - - - - -	41,499	40,022	1,477	1,015	—	462
Shoes - - - - -	26,595	16,679	9,916	9,771	—	145
Slippers - - - - -	15,683	15,520	163	92	—	71
Laces and materials - - - -	234,096	233,757	339	Nil.	Nil.	339
	1,165,302	894,624	270,678	266,457	—	4,221
Bootings for Cavalry overalls - -	1,046	1,750	704 deduct in excess	704	704	—
	1,166,348	896,374	269,974	266,457	704	4,221

To what extent (if any) the difference of 3,882 pairs may represent an actual deficiency it is of course impossible to state; but considering the gross total of upwards of two millions dealt with by way of receipt on the one hand and of issue on the other, and considering the difficulties attending the formation of the accounts, we cannot regard this result as otherwise than satisfactory.

As a particular fact involved in this result, we may notice that the ledger balances include under the head of "ankle boots" an apparent stock of 2,720 pairs, described as "repairable and unserviceable," whereas no stock answering to that description appears, on the face of it, to be included in the remain.

A detailed statement, marked C., showing the balances of the boots ledger, and the relative differences between them and the remain, is given in the Appendix, page 387.

NECESSARIES.

The very diverse character of the multitudinous articles which come under the description of necessities does not allow of an intelligent classification of them being made, so as to present the contents of the ledger in an abstract form; we must therefore be content to refer to the detailed statement marked D. in the Appendix, page 388, for a view of the balances shown by the ledger, and of the comparison between them and the remain; some of the variations are considerable, and some appear contradictory; but to have continued our researches with the view of effecting a closer agreement between the ledger balances and the remain would have involved an amount of labour scarcely due to the comparatively unimportant nature of the individual items of which this branch of stores is constituted.

GARNITURE.

Abstract of Results exhibited in the Stores Ledger.					Remain, 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balance, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
Linings, &c., yards -	681,753 $\frac{10}{12}$	103,702 $\frac{7}{12}$	578,051 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	574,433 $\frac{4}{12}$	—	3,617 $\frac{1}{12}$
Lace and fringe „ -	317,822 $\frac{6}{12}$	65,484 $\frac{8}{12}$	252,337 $\frac{10}{12}$	—	246,752 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	5,585 $\frac{1}{12}$
Braid - - -	11,309	11,306	3	—	—	—	3
Buttons, „ dozens -	1,223,236 $\frac{8}{12}$	742,246 $\frac{5}{12}$	480,990 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	467,773 $\frac{1}{12}$	—	13,216 $\frac{4}{12}$
Button thongs „ (obsolete) -	128,208 $\frac{8}{12}$	751	127,457 $\frac{8}{12}$	—	Nil.	—	127,457 $\frac{8}{12}$
Chevrons and badges -	40,403	40,062	341	—	368	27	—
Epaulettes, shoulder knots, and straps - - -	23,800 $\frac{6}{12}$	19,200	4,600 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	354	—	4,246 $\frac{6}{12}$
Cord, yards - - -	45,252 $\frac{10}{12}$	1,837 $\frac{1}{12}$	43,415 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	40,423 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	2,992
Roses, crowns, drums, bugles, and wings, &c. -	1,049	890 $\frac{6}{12}$	158 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	340	181 $\frac{6}{12}$	—
Twist and tape, &c. -	487,713	90,418 $\frac{7}{12}$	397,294 $\frac{5}{12}$	—	390,466 $\frac{5}{12}$	—	6,828
Thread, ounces - -	115,496 $\frac{6}{12}$	53,507 $\frac{6}{12}$	61,989	—	80,414 $\frac{6}{12}$	18,425 $\frac{6}{12}$	—
Silk, skeins - - -	43,652	26,303 $\frac{9}{12}$	17,348 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	19,038	1,689 $\frac{9}{12}$	—
Sewing cotton, dozens -	2,502 $\frac{3}{12}$	Nil.	2,502 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	198	—	2,304 $\frac{3}{12}$
Sets of garniture - -	7,821	7,436	385	—	Nil.	—	385
Black velvet - - -	17	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Nil.	—	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
Worsted, lbs. - - -	105	Nil.	105	—	Nil.	—	105
Wadding, sheets - -	2,777 $\frac{6}{12}$	300	2,477 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	771	—	1,706 $\frac{6}{12}$
Hooks and eyes, dozens -	68,918 $\frac{1}{12}$	12,535 $\frac{1}{12}$	56,383	—	48,649 $\frac{7}{12}$	—	7,733 $\frac{9}{12}$
	3,201,838 $\frac{4}{12}$	1,175,989 $\frac{8}{12}$	2,025,848 $\frac{8}{12}$	—	1,869,983 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	—

The differences in the preceding abstract call for no other remark than that they present nothing of an extraordinary character, considering the immense number and variety of subjects included in it; and although some of the items are large in respect of figures, they relate chiefly to articles or classes of articles which, taken separately, are of inferior importance in a pecuniary point of view: this will be more fully seen on reference to the detailed statement of the ledger balances marked E. at page 391 of the Appendix.

SADDLERY.

In this case, as in that of “necessaries,” no abstract of the ledger results is given, but the detailed statement only, *vide* Appendix F., page 393. The differences between the ledger balances and the remain under this head are numerous, and in the great majority of instances indicate that a larger stock should have been on hand than according to the remain was found to exist; but the articles included under this branch are very numerous, and of a very miscellaneous character, comprising but few completely manufactured articles (saddles, for example), and consisting for the most part of the materials, and separate parts of wood, leather, iron, brass, &c., which enter into the manufacture of military saddlery and its appendages. These circumstances render the identification of issues with receipts a troublesome and somewhat hazardous process. Again, we understand that the materials in the saddlery workshops at Weedon were not included in the remain, and also that large quantities of straps, &c., certified to be broken and unserviceable, were sent to Woolwich from Weedon without the necessary record of particulars being made, so as to allow of these issues being distinguished and distributed in the accounts under their appropriate subdivisions. Large quantities of materials were also consumed in repairs and re-constructions which were never taken account of as issues.

These circumstances, taken together, tend no doubt to explain the apparent discrepancies which occur almost exclusively under those descriptions of stores, most liable to be affected by them.

Independently of the property included in the “remain” of the 14th May 1858, there existed at that date a considerable stock of cloth and some other articles in the hands of contractors, to whom the same had been intrusted for making up and alteration. In pursuance of official practice the property so intrusted to contractors is entered in the accounts simply as issued, the effect being just the same as if the property had been issued in the ordinary course of business for regimental or other service.

According to this practice the stores in question would not properly constitute an element in the official “remain;” but an account of them should, nevertheless, be taken from time to time, so as to enable the authorities at once to know the state of the departmental assets, and to control the contractors in the execution of their contracts; for it is obvious that property so situated is as much stock in hand as that which remains in the warehouses of the dépôt.

By the mode of examination adopted in reference to this matter, we ascertained that 1,027 yards of blue cloth were lent to a contractor in March 1857, to enable him to proceed with the supplies under his contract; but we have not been able to trace the return of the loan, either in money or in kind. In another instance, where cloth was issued to a firm for conversion in November 1856, we have obtained their admission that certain balances amounting to 633 yards, respecting which we sought explanation, had not been accounted for by them, and that they are consequently chargeable with the same.

The result of our investigation under this head is to show that certain property of the following descriptions, constituting a virtual addition to the “remain” of that date, was outstanding in the hands of contractors on the 14th May 1858, namely, cloth, tunics, jackets, trowsers, vests, saddles, and saddlery, the particulars of which are set out in statement marked G. in the Appendix, page 395.

The whole of the issues for the entire period under investigation have been traced to their various destinations, as indicated in the accounts. A detailed abstract, marked H., setting forth the quantities and descriptions of clothing and quantities of boots issued to each regiment and other service, down to the 14th May 1858, will be found in the Appendix, page 396.

GENERAL RESULTS.

The general result at which we arrive under the first head of inquiry is, that all stores delivered to Weedon, or coming within the scope of its official responsibility, have been substantially accounted for; but from what has been stated it will be seen that we have not been able to come to the conclusion thus briefly stated except through the medium of a searching, laborious, and constantly ramifying investigation, without which, however, it was impossible that any conclusion at all could be arrived at.

With respect to the second head of inquiry, namely, that into the personal accounts with contractors, we are enabled, after careful examination, the mode of which has been already indicated, to report that, excepting in some few and trifling instances not calling for special observation, we find them to be essentially correct, and that no other monies have been paid to the contractors than such as they became entitled to receive in consideration of stores delivered.

At the same time, although no pecuniary loss was sustained in consequence of them, we think it right to bring under your notice the following instances of laxity and irregularity in the matter of granting certificates, which occurred towards the close of Mr. J. S. Elliott's period of office.

A contract had been entered into by the War Office with a certain firm for the supply of a large number of soldiers' kits, of which a batch, amounting to 26,000, was in course of delivery previously to and at the 14th May 1858. Each kit consisted of some 39 different articles or sets of articles, such as boots, shirts, socks, razors, brushes,

forage caps, &c.; the total number, therefore, of articles to be delivered to complete the batch of 26,000 kits was - - - - - 1,014,000
 and for that number of *complete kits* certificates had been granted up to the 14th of May 1858; the deliveries took place, not in complete kits, but in the different articles of which the kit was made up, and in this way various articles had been delivered, inspected, and approved up to the 14th May 1858 to the number of - - - - - 1,073,404
 so that at that date there was a balance of deliveries in excess of certificates to the extent of - - - - - 59,404
 thus arising,—

Excessive deliveries of some articles - - - - -	73,361
Deficient deliveries of other articles - - - - -	13,957
	<hr/> 59,404

The deficient deliveries so certified and passed for payment, and which included 2,841 pairs of boots, were subsequently made good under the superintendence of Captain Gordon, by whom the whole matter was finally rectified and adjusted.

Although from what has been already stated, the remark may appear superfluous, yet considering the doubts upon the point which the mismanagement of the accounts of the depôt has given rise to, we think it right to state expressly that nothing has come before us in the course of our investigation to warrant the suggestion of fraudulent practices by the late principal military storekeeper in dealing with the stores confided to his administration.

PROPOSED SYSTEM OF ACCOUNTS.

We now proceed, under the third head of inquiry, to submit the outline of a scheme of accounts for this department of military stores, based upon the principle of double entry.

To offer reasons in support of that principle as a means of security against fraud and error, and as a test of accuracy in accounts generally, is unnecessary, for its value is universally admitted; its applicability to accounts of the nature of those of the military stores department we consider to be demonstrated by the fact that our recent investigation has been conducted by the instrumentality of a plan and forms of account framed in strict accordance with it, and we hesitate not to say that, but for its operation, we should not have been enabled to submit with confidence the results we have laid before you in this report.

The general character and uses of the principal books necessary to be kept have been already indicated in describing the accounts constructed for the purposes of this investigation, and we will now proceed, in recapitulating them, to show more particularly their relation to each other, and to point out how, as it appears to us, the business of the accounts might be so arranged and worked as to effect a limitation of the accounts to be kept at the depôt and stations, to the simple business performed there, namely, that of inspection, receipt, and issue; and at the same time to provide for the centralization of all accounts of stores at the War Office, with the view of keeping the authorities there constantly informed of the quantities of stores on hand of every description, and thereby of enabling them to exercise a prompt and efficient control over the transactions of the department.

PRINCIPAL BOOKS OF ACCOUNT TO BE KEPT AT THE DEPÔT.

1. Journal of Stores received from Contractors.
2. Journal of Stores received from Regiments and other Departments.

These journals constitute a record of all stores received, and may be regarded simply as one book divided into two volumes for the sake of convenience.

3. Journal of Issues.

This book is a comprehensive record of all stores issued in execution of War Office orders, and shows the nature and quantities of the goods issued, and the several regiments and services to which they are destined; it bears the same relation to the former journals as a book of sales does to a book of purchases in mercantile book-keeping. All the journals are to be added up daily, and the total exhibited monthly.

4. Stores Ledgers.

These are at present six in number, to agree with the six general heads under which stores are at present divided, namely, cloth, clothing, boots, necessaries, garniture, and saddlery; but the number may of course be varied at

any time to suit any different classification that may be found convenient; they are practically one book divided into six volumes.

These ledgers depend upon the journals, both of receipt and issue, from which they are formed by posting into them the contents of the journals, that is to say, the transactions of receipt are posted under appropriate heads descriptive of the different kinds of stores to the debit of the ledger, and those of issue under the same heads to the credit of the ledger, the result being that the difference or balance under each head in the ledger exhibits the stock that should be on hand of the description coming under such head.

If the work of posting has been correctly performed, the total figures appearing at the debit of the various accounts in the ledger will agree with the total figures appearing on the summation of the journals, that is to say, the credit side of the ledgers will agree with the journal of issue, and the debit side of the ledger with the journals of receipt, so that the two records constitute a reciprocal check upon the accuracy of the work of each; this comparison between the journal and ledger results to be made monthly.

These journals and ledgers are all the books of account which the business of the depôt requires should be kept on the spot.

The journals we propose to be kept in duplicate; the duplicates to be written on detached sheets and forwarded to the War Office daily, accompanied by their relative vouchers, that is to say, in the case of the receipt journals, by the inspection notes in respect of supplies by contractors and the delivery bills in respect of stores received from regiments and other departments. The vouchers relative to the issues journal would, as to the authority to issue, be already with the War Office from whence it emanates, but the vouchers from the officer commanding or other recipient of the stores issued could only be forwarded as and when they reached the depôt, which is necessarily always some time after the date of issue.

Therefore, as regards this latter description of vouchers, those transmitted daily would not relate to the particular facts recorded in the daily duplicate of the journal, but to the subjects of entry in the like documents of previous date; but this need occasion no difficulty in the examination of the returns, inasmuch as each transaction in the journal would be distinguished by a serial number, borne also by the corresponding voucher, which voucher is prepared and forwarded to the recipients by the storekeeper.

As copies of the journals are to be transmitted daily, so is a summary of the ledgers to be made up and transmitted monthly to the War Office, which done, the duty of the storekeeper, in respect of accounts, will be at an end.

BOOKS OF ACCOUNT IN CONNEXION WITH THE CLOTHING DEPARTMENT TO BE KEPT AT THE WAR OFFICE.

1. The three Daily Journals of Receipt and Issue, returned by the storekeeper,

To be preserved in sheets until a sufficient number accumulates to constitute a volume for binding. On these journals, after they have been examined and verified by means of the vouchers accompanying them, will be founded the contractors' and regimental ledgers, to be presently described.

2. A Register of Payments to Contractors.

This book to be a simple chronological abstract of the orders on the paymaster-general granted from time to time to contractors; the separate items to be posted to the debit of each contract account in the contractors' ledger, and the total to be made up monthly and carried to the credit of an account to be opened in the name of the paymaster-general (also) in the contractors' ledger.

3. The Contractors' Ledger.

This ledger contains the personal accounts with the contractors, the credit side being formed by postings to a separate account for each contract, from the contractors' journal of receipts, of the quantities and cost of supplies received from the several contractors. The debit side will consist of postings to the same accounts; firstly, of the sums of money paid to contractors on account of their respective contracts, from the register of payments; and, secondly, in the cases of those contractors to whom cloth and other stores have been issued for conversion or alteration, the equivalent, in clothing or other products, of the stores so issued; this last class of debits would be posted from the issue journal.

4. Summary Stores Ledger.

This book will be formed from the monthly summaries of receipts and issues, to be furnished by the depôt, and will exhibit in a condensed form the monthly receipts and issues during, and the balances of stock on hand at the close of every month.

5. Ledgers for Regiments and other Services.

The classification of regiments and services made by us (*vide* page 376) was adapted to the exigencies of the investigation, and is only repeated here by way of suggestion; such classification, which will of course regulate the number and forms of the requisite ledgers, will have to be considered and settled by official knowledge and experience.

The classification adopted by us is the following, a separate ledger being appropriated to each division:—Line, cavalry, artillery (including militia), militia (ex artillery), enrolled pensioners, prisons and convict services; in all, six ledgers.

These ledgers depend, in the first instance, on the journal of issues and on the journal of receipts from regiments, &c.; from the former are to be posted, to the debit of the several regiments and services, the issues made to them respectively; and from the latter, to the credit of the like accounts, stores delivered to the depôt either by way of return from regiments, &c., or of transfer from other stations. These ledgers will further depend upon a journal, to originate at the War Office, of stores *consumed* as distinguished from stores *issued*, and of stores which are occasionally transferred from one station to another, and to be based upon the periodical returns made to the War Office from the different regiments and stations.

The contents of this journal to be posted, in respect of stores consumed, to the credit of the respective regiments and services; and in respect of transfers, to the credit of the station issuing, and to the debit of that receiving such transferred stores.

The ledgers thus constituted would exhibit the quantities of stores issued to, and consumed, returned, or transferred by each individual regiment and station. The aggregate postings to the debit of these ledgers would agree with the combined totals of the depôt journal of issues and the journal of stores transferred; and the aggregate postings to their credit would agree with the combined totals of the depôt journal of stores received (No. 2), the journal of stores consumed and transferred.

Such journal totals to be entered in the ledgers in aggregate accounts under the requisite heads, to accord, for the sake of convenience and perspicuity, with the titles of the six or other number of general heads into which all stores are or may be subdivided.

The balance of these aggregate accounts would exhibit the total quantity of each class of stores on hand with all regiments and stations; while the separate accounts would

exhibit in detail the proportion of that total for which each regiment and station would be accountable.

6. Journal of Stores consumed or transferred by Regiments and Stations.

The character and use of this book, as a book of account, are comprised in the description of the preceding (regimental) ledgers.

7. General Abstract of Clothing, &c., consumed.

This book is supplemental to the regimental ledgers, its purpose being to exhibit in a collected form the quantities of each description of stores consumed by each regiment and by the entire army during the year; it will be readily formed from the preceding journal by a re-distribution of the contents of that book, so far as they relate to consumption of stores, in a tabular form arranged to provide for the object in view: it is not strictly necessary to the system of account.

We have endeavoured as much as possible to avoid entering into details which might encumber the description without rendering the view of the plan more clear; we have accordingly made no mention, amongst some others, of the account which it will be necessary to keep of the small stores in daily course of consumption at the depôt and stations: they are analogous to petty cash disbursements in mercantile affairs, and are simply an element in the working expenses of the establishment.

The arrangement of the system of account thus indicated presupposes that as the War Office is the fountain of all authority, whether to order, receive, issue, or pay for stores, so ought it to be the centre of all information relating to those matters; and we venture to think that it will be found to provide for the attainment of that object in all essential particulars, especially in the means it furnishes of prompt and efficient control over the business and accounts of the depôt and stations, and in rendering it independent of any other than its own immediate records for a competent knowledge of necessary facts.

In concluding this report, we deem it right to state that we have received from the War Office every requisite facility in the conduct of this investigation.

We have, &c.

QUILTER, BALL, JAY, and Co.

To the Royal Commissioners for inquiring into Stores and Clothing Depôts at Weedon, Woolwich, and the Tower.

APPENDIX.

A.—CLOTH.

DETAILED STATEMENT of BALANCES on the CLOTH LEDGER referred to in REPORT, page 376.

A.—Results exhibited by the Cloth Ledger.					Differences.		
Description of Cloth.	Total Quantities received.	Total Quantities issued.	Balance, 14th May 1858.		Remain, 14th May 1858.	More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
RED:							
Infantry.—Rank and file - - -	530,255 $\frac{1}{12}$	384,395 $\frac{2}{12}$	145,859 $\frac{1}{12}$	—	147,637	1,777 $\frac{1}{12}$	—
Facings - - -	21 $\frac{3}{12}$	13 $\frac{6}{12}$	7 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	Nil.	—	7 $\frac{9}{12}$
Cavalry.—Facings - - -	—	— $\frac{6}{12}$	—	$\frac{6}{12}$	Nil.	$\frac{6}{21}$	—
Deduct - - -	530,276 $\frac{4}{12}$	384,409 $\frac{2}{12}$	145,867 $\frac{8}{12}$	$\frac{6}{12}$	147,637	1,777 $\frac{7}{12}$	7 $\frac{9}{12}$
	—	—	$\frac{6}{12}$	—	—	7 $\frac{9}{12}$	—
	530,276 $\frac{4}{12}$	384,409 $\frac{2}{12}$	145,867 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	147,637	1,769 $\frac{10}{12}$	—
BLUE:							
Artillery.—Staff - - -	1,711 $\frac{6}{12}$	1,695 $\frac{4}{12}$	16 $\frac{2}{12}$	—	Nil.	—	16 $\frac{2}{12}$
Serjeants - - -	13,724 $\frac{2}{12}$	13,910 $\frac{1}{12}$	—	185 $\frac{4}{12}$	30	215 $\frac{4}{12}$	—
Rank and file—tunics - - -	61,978 $\frac{8}{12}$	55,783	6,195 $\frac{8}{12}$	—	3,258 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	2,937 $\frac{5}{12}$
" " " trowsers - - -	37,692 $\frac{9}{12}$	29,195 $\frac{3}{12}$	8,497 $\frac{1}{12}$	—	9,392 $\frac{10}{12}$	895 $\frac{4}{12}$	—
" " " cloaks - - -	8,943 $\frac{9}{12}$	8,249 $\frac{9}{12}$	694	—	736 $\frac{7}{12}$	42 $\frac{1}{12}$	—
Engineers.—Facings - - -	623 $\frac{3}{12}$	334 $\frac{6}{12}$	288 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	287 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	1
Cavalry.—Staff tunics - - -	54 $\frac{4}{12}$	29	25 $\frac{1}{12}$	—	28 $\frac{1}{12}$	21 $\frac{1}{12}$	—
Serjeants' tunics - - -	3,015 $\frac{7}{12}$	1,814 $\frac{1}{12}$	1,201 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	1,397 $\frac{9}{12}$	196 $\frac{6}{12}$	—
Rank and file tunics - - -	27,896 $\frac{7}{12}$	29,242 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	1,346 $\frac{2}{12}$	797 $\frac{6}{12}$	2,143 $\frac{8}{12}$	—
Staff overalls - - -	119 $\frac{6}{12}$	5 $\frac{1}{12}$	114	—	123	9	—
Other ranks - - -	51,790 $\frac{2}{12}$	51,571	219 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	374 $\frac{3}{12}$	155	—
Cloaks - - -	16,765 $\frac{6}{12}$	13,633 $\frac{6}{12}$	3,132	—	2,959 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	172 $\frac{9}{12}$
Facings - - -	886 $\frac{9}{12}$	123 $\frac{1}{12}$	763 $\frac{8}{12}$	—	747	—	16 $\frac{8}{12}$
Infantry.—Facings - - -	7,232	2,715 $\frac{3}{12}$	4,516 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	5,431 $\frac{9}{12}$	915	—
Experimental Facings - - -	481 $\frac{3}{12}$	80	401 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	Nil.	—	401 $\frac{3}{12}$
E. I. Co.—Dark blue - - -	163	—	163	—	173	10	—
Deduct - - -	233,079 $\frac{5}{12}$	208,382 $\frac{4}{12}$	26,228 $\frac{7}{12}$	1,531 $\frac{6}{12}$	25,736 $\frac{8}{12}$	4,584 $\frac{10}{12}$	3,545 $\frac{2}{12}$
	—	—	1,531 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	—	3,545 $\frac{2}{12}$	—
	233,079 $\frac{5}{12}$	208,382 $\frac{4}{12}$	24,697 $\frac{1}{12}$	—	25,736 $\frac{8}{12}$	1,039 $\frac{7}{12}$	—

A.—CLOTH.—Detailed Statement of Balances on the Cloth Ledger referred to in Report, page 376.—cont.

A.—Results exhibited by the Cloth Ledger.					Differences.		
Description of Cloth.	Total Quantities received.	Total Quantities issued.	Balance, 14th May 1858.		Remain, 14th May 1858.	More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
SCARLET:							
Engineers.—Staff	112 ⁹ / ₁₂	76	36 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	38 ⁶ / ₁₂	2	—
" Serjeants	1,075 ³ / ₁₂	637	438 ³ / ₁₂	—	440 ⁹ / ₁₂	2 ⁶ / ₁₂	—
" Rank and file	8,253 ⁶ / ₁₂	7,252 ³ / ₁₂	1,001 ³ / ₁₂	—	1,041 ⁹ / ₁₂	40 ⁶ / ₁₂	—
" Band	74 ⁹ / ₁₂	75	—	³ / ₁₂	Nil.	³ / ₁₂	—
" Stripes	1,665 ⁶ / ₁₂	1,121 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	543 ⁸ / ₁₂	—	544 ⁶ / ₁₂	¹⁰ / ₁₂	—
Artillery.—Facings, staff	38 ⁶ / ₁₂	38 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	—	Nil.	—	—
" Serjeants	352 ³ / ₁₂	364 ⁹ / ₁₂	—	12 ⁶ / ₁₂	Nil.	12 ⁶ / ₁₂	—
" Rank and file	3,074 ³ / ₁₂	2,410	664 ³ / ₁₂	—	910 ⁹ / ₁₂	246 ⁶ / ₁₂	—
Cavalry.—Staff	—	3	—	3	Nil.	3	—
" Serjeants	2,357	1,130 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	1,226 ² / ₁₂	—	1,620 ³ / ₁₂	394 ¹ / ₁₂	—
" Rank and file	21,220 ⁶ / ₁₂	16,017 ¹ / ₁₂	5,203 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	11,194	5,990 ⁷ / ₁₂	—
" Experimental	7,325 ⁶ / ₁₂	1,100	6,225 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	Nil.	—	6,225 ⁶ / ₁₂
" Facings	1,116 ⁶ / ₁₂	49 ⁹ / ₁₂	1,066 ⁹ / ₁₂	—	790 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	276 ³ / ₁₂
Infantry.—Staff	1,290 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	541 ³ / ₁₂	749 ⁷ / ₁₂	—	560	—	189 ⁷ / ₁₂
" Seajeants	29,321 ⁸ / ₁₂	25,572 ⁷ / ₁₂	3,749 ¹ / ₁₂	—	4,702 ³ / ₁₂	953 ² / ₁₂	—
" Rank and file, Guards	22,432 ¹¹ / ₁₂	18,347 ⁸ / ₁₂	4,085 ³ / ₁₂	—	3,331 ⁹ / ₁₂	—	753 ⁶ / ₁₂
" Facings	454 ³ / ₁₂	12 ⁷ / ₁₂	441 ⁸ / ₁₂	—	537	95 ⁴ / ₁₂	—
" Enrolled Pensioners	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Deduct	100,166 ⁶ / ₁₂	74,750 ¹ / ₁₂	25,432 ⁴ / ₁₂	15 ⁹ / ₁₂	25,712	7,741 ³ / ₁₂	7,445 ¹⁰ / ₁₂
	—	—	15 ⁹ / ₁₂	—	—	7,445 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	—
	100,166 ⁶ / ₁₂	74,750 ¹ / ₁₂	25,416 ⁷ / ₁₂	—	25,712	295 ⁶ / ₁₂	—
GREEN:							
Rifles.—Staff tunics	416 ⁶ / ₁₂	279 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	136 ⁸ / ₁₂	—	152 ⁶ / ₁₂	15 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	—
" " trowsers	303 ⁶ / ₁₂	78 ¹ / ₁₂	225 ¹ / ₁₂	—	252	26 ¹ / ₁₂	—
" Serjeants' tunics	4,889 ⁹ / ₁₂	4,420 ³ / ₁₂	469 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	1,002	532 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	—
" " trowsers	2,314 ⁷ / ₁₂	2,439 ³ / ₁₂	—	124 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	Nil.	124 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	—
" Rank and file tunics	42,737 ⁶ / ₁₂	33,371 ⁶ / ₁₂	9,366 ³ / ₁₂	—	15,869 ³ / ₁₂	6,503 ⁶ / ₁₂	—
" " trowsers	45,740 ⁹ / ₁₂	25,555 ¹¹ / ₁₂	20,184 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	—	14,330 ³ / ₁₂	—	5,854 ⁷ / ₁₂
Pipe Major	49	12	37	—	34 ⁹ / ₁₂	—	2 ¹ / ₁₂
Pipers	83	61 ⁶ / ₁₂	21 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	22	⁶ / ₁₂	—
Infantry.—Facings	2,730 ⁶ / ₁₂	807 ¹¹ / ₁₂	1,922 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	1,842 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	80
Cavalry.—Ditto	197 ³ / ₁₂	1 ¹ / ₁₂	196 ⁷ / ₁₂	—	182 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	14 ¹ / ₁₂
Deduct	99,462 ¹¹ / ₁₂	67,027 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	32,559 ¹¹ / ₁₂	124 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	33,688 ³ / ₁₂	7,204 ¹ / ₁₂	5,950 ¹¹ / ₁₂
	—	—	124 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	—	—	5,950 ¹¹ / ₁₂	—
	99,462 ¹¹ / ₁₂	67,027 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	32,435 ¹ / ₁₂	—	33,688 ³ / ₁₂	1,253 ² / ₁₂	—
WHITE:							
Engineers and Military Train Staff	121 ³ / ₁₂	³ / ₁₂	121	—	14 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	106 ⁶ / ₁₂
" " Band	113 ³ / ₁₂	72 ⁷ / ₁₂	40 ⁹ / ₁₂	—	49 ⁹ / ₁₂	9	—
Cavalry.—Facings	739	28 ⁷ / ₁₂	710 ⁵ / ₁₂	—	481 ⁷ / ₁₂	—	229 ² / ₁₂
Infantry.—Staff	452 ³ / ₁₂	169 ⁷ / ₁₂	282 ⁸ / ₁₂	—	363 ³ / ₁₂	80 ⁷ / ₁₂	—
" Serjeants	2,176 ⁶ / ₁₂	180 ¹ / ₁₂	1,996 ⁵ / ₁₂	—	1,759 ⁹ / ₁₂	—	237 ⁶ / ₁₂
" Band	14,333 ⁶ / ₁₂	9,814 ¹¹ / ₁₂	4,518 ⁷ / ₁₂	—	4,192	—	326 ⁷ / ₁₂
" Rank and File	21,502 ⁶ / ₁₂	10,752 ⁶ / ₁₂	10,750	—	11,215 ³ / ₁₂	465 ³ / ₁₂	—
" Piping	34,100 ¹ / ₁₂	3,300 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	30,799 ³ / ₁₂	—	31,164 ⁹ / ₁₂	365 ⁶ / ₁₂	—
" Kersey	2,303	2,303	—	—	Nil.	—	—
" Facings	114 ⁹ / ₁₂	—	114 ⁹ / ₁₂	—	Nil.	—	114 ⁹ / ₁₂
Deduct	75,956 ¹ / ₁₂	26,622 ³ / ₁₂	49,333 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	—	49,240	920 ⁴ / ₁₂	1,014 ² / ₁₂
	—	—	—	—	—	—	920 ⁴ / ₁₂
	75,956 ¹ / ₁₂	26,622 ³ / ₁₂	49,333 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	—	49,240	—	93 ¹⁰ / ₁₂
GREY KERSEY:							
Serjeants	30,324 ⁵ / ₁₂	8	30,316 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	30,271 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	45
Rank and file	277,012 ⁴ / ₁₂	274,927 ¹ / ₁₂	2,084 ⁵ / ₁₂	—	2,233 ⁹ / ₁₂	149 ⁴ / ₁₂	—
Deduct	307,336 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	274,935 ¹¹ / ₁₂	32,400 ¹¹ / ₁₂	—	32,505 ³ / ₁₂	149 ⁴ / ₁₂	45
	—	—	—	—	—	45	—
	307,336 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	274,935 ¹¹ / ₁₂	32,400 ¹¹ / ₁₂	—	32,505 ³ / ₁₂	104 ⁴ / ₁₂	—
OXFORD GREY:							
Staff	3,807 ¹ / ₁₂	1,285 ⁵ / ₁₂	2,521 ⁸ / ₁₂	—	1,842	—	679 ⁸ / ₁₂
Serjeants	30,443 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	26,346 ⁷ / ₁₂	4,097 ³ / ₁₂	—	4,216 ⁸ / ₁₂	119 ⁶ / ₁₂	—
Privates	424,144 ¹ / ₁₂	282,234 ¹ / ₁₂	141,909 ⁸ / ₁₂	—	143,050 ⁸ / ₁₂	1,140 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	—
SERGE:							
Blue	19,486	12,692 ¹¹ / ₁₂	6,793 ¹ / ₁₂	—	6,229 ⁹ / ₁₂	—	563 ⁴ / ₁₂
Green	—	² / ₁₂	—	² / ₁₂	Nil.	² / ₁₂	—
Blue, convicts	290 ⁸ / ₁₂	300	—	⁹ / ₁₂	Nil.	⁹ / ₁₂	—
Deduct	478,171 ⁸ / ₁₂	322,862	155,321 ⁸ / ₁₂	12	155,339	1,272 ⁴ / ₁₂	1,243
	—	—	12	—	—	1,243	—
	478,171 ⁸ / ₁₂	322,862	155,309 ⁸ / ₁₂	—	155,339	29 ⁴ / ₁₂	—

A.—CLOTH.—Detailed Statement of Balances on the Cloth Ledger referred to in Report, page 376.—*cont.*

A.—Results exhibited by the Cloth Ledger.					Remain, 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Cloth.	Total Quantities received.	Total Quantities issued.	Balance, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
TARTAN :							
Infantry.—Blue, O. P.	9,792 ⁹ ₁₂	3,320 ³ ₁₂	6,472 ⁶ ₁₂	—	6,435 ³ ₁₂	—	37 ³ ₁₂
„ Green	132 ⁶ ₁₂	115 ⁶ ₁₂	17	—	Nil.	—	17
„ Grey	6,014	6,163 ³ ₁₂	—	149 ³ ₁₂	Nil.	149 ³ ₁₂	—
Deduct	15,939 ³ ₁₂	9,599	6,489 ⁶ ₁₂	149 ³ ₁₂	6,435 ³ ₁₂	149 ³ ₁₂	54 ³ ₁₂
	—	—	149 ³ ₁₂	—	—	54 ³ ₁₂	—
	15,939 ³ ₁₂	9,599	6,340 ³ ₁₂	—	6,435 ³ ₁₂	95	—
CRIMSON :							
Staff overalls	3	—	3	—	3	—	—
Other ranks „	2,210 ⁶ ₁₂	1,871 ³ ₁₂	339 ³ ₁₂	—	343 ⁹ ₁₂	4 ⁶ ₁₂	—
	2,213 ⁶ ₁₂	1,871 ³ ₁₂	342 ³ ₁₂	—	346 ⁹ ₁₂	4 ⁶ ₁₂	—
BLACK :							
Cavalry facings	207 ⁶ ₁₂	26 ¹¹ ₁₂	180 ⁷ ₁₂	—	53	—	127 ⁷ ₁₂
Infantry „	2,561 ⁹ ₁₂	180 ³ ₁₂	2,381 ⁶ ₁₂	—	2,693	311 ³ ₁₂	—
Deduct	2,769 ³ ₁₂	207 ² ₁₂	2,562 ¹ ₁₂	—	2,746	311 ⁶ ₁₂	127 ⁷ ₁₂
	—	—	—	—	—	127 ⁷ ₁₂	—
	2,769 ³ ₁₂	207 ² ₁₂	2,562 ¹ ₁₂	—	2,746	183 ¹¹ ₁₂	—
BUFF :							
Cavalry facings	175 ⁹ ₁₂	1 ⁴ ₁₂	174 ⁵ ₁₂	—	151	—	23 ⁵ ₁₂
Infantry „	2,365 ⁹ ₁₂	638 ² ₁₂	1,727 ¹ ₁₂	—	1,715 ³ ₁₂	—	11 ¹⁰ ₁₂
	2,541	639 ⁶ ₁₂	1,901 ⁶ ₁₂	—	1,866 ³ ₁₂	—	35 ³ ₁₂
YELLOW :							
Cavalry facings	387 ⁹ ₁₂	18 ² ₁₂	369 ⁷ ₁₂	—	370 ⁶ ₁₂	1 ¹ ₁₂	—
Infantry „	4,603 ⁹ ₁₂	1,202 ⁵ ₁₂	3,401 ¹ ₁₂	—	3,390 ³ ₁₂	—	10 ⁵ ₁₂
Deduct	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 ¹ ₁₂
	4,991 ⁶ ₁₂	1,220 ¹⁰ ₁₂	3,770 ⁸ ₁₂	—	3,761 ² ₁₂	—	9 ⁶ ₁₂
BLUEISH GREY:							
E. I. Co.	1,560 ⁹ ₁₂	1,560 ⁹ ₁₂	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
FLANNEL							
Padding cloth	4,508	16	4,492	—	4,458 ⁶ ₁₂	—	33 ⁶ ₁₂
	—	2	—	2	—	2	—
Deduct	4,508	18	4,492	2	4,458 ⁶ ₁₂	2	33 ⁶ ₁₂
	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
	4,508	18	4,490	—	4,458 ⁶ ₁₂	—	31 ⁶ ₁₂
OSNABURGH							
	2,000	2,000	Nil.	Nil.	N 1.	Nil.	Nil.
GREY Infantry facings							
	33 ² ₁₂	24 ⁶ ₁₂	8 ³ ₁₂	—	Nil.	—	8 ³ ₁₂
SKY BLUE :							
Infantry facings	146 ⁶ ₁₂	—	146 ⁶ ₁₂	—	146 ⁶ ₁₂	—	—
PURPLE							
	144 ³ ₁₂	—	144 ³ ₁₂	—	144 ³ ₁₂	—	—
GREY E. I. Co.							
	63 ⁹ ₁₂	63 ⁹ ₁₂	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
WHITE TROWSER, drill							
„ duck	23 ⁶ ₁₂	—	23 ⁶ ₁₂	—	N.	—	23 ⁶ ₁₂
	169 ³ ₁₂	10	159 ³ ₁₂	—	169 ⁶ ₁₂	10 ³ ₁₂	—
Deduct	192 ⁹ ₁₂	10	182 ⁹ ₁₂	—	169 ⁶ ₁₂	10 ³ ₁₂	23 ⁶ ₁₂
	—	—	—	—	—	—	10 ³ ₁₂
	192 ⁹ ₁₂	10	182 ⁹ ₁₂	—	169 ⁶ ₁₂	—	13 ³ ₁₂

B.—CLOTHING.

DETAILED STATEMENT of BALANCES on the "CLOTHING LEDGER" referred to in REPORT, page 377.

B.—Results exhibited by the Clothing Ledger.					Remain 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Clothing.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balances, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
TUNICS :							
Artillery.—Staff - - -	85	80	5	—	Nil.	—	5
" Sergeants - - -	531	477	54	—	Nil.	—	54
" Band - - -	209	206	3	—	Nil.	—	3
" Drummers - - -	154	147	7	—	Nil.	—	7
" Privates - - -	9,123	8,267	856	—	Nil.	—	856
Cavalry.—Staff Blue, - - -	150	151	—	1	1	2	—
" " Scarlet - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Sergeants' Blue - - -	1,428	1,458	—	30	2	32	—
" " Scarlet - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Private Blue - - -	22,246	20,897	1,349	—	Nil.	—	1,349
" " Scarlet - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infantry.—Line Staff - - -	1,881	1,814	67	—	29	—	38
" Militia " - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Instr. Musketry Staff - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Line Sergeants - - -	18,701	17,538	1,163	—	1,150	—	13
" Militia " - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Line Band - - -	6,247	5,859	388	—	386	—	2
" Militia " - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Line Drummers - - -	7,032	6,202	830	—	844	14	—
" Militia " - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Line Privates - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Militia " - - -	344,558	313,792	30,766	—	34,926	4,160	—
" Instr. Musketry Privates - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Highlanders.—Line Staff - - -	85	83	2	—	Nil.	—	2
" Militia " - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Line Sergeants - - -	1,152	1,118	34	—	Nil.	—	34
" Militia " - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Line Band - - -	385	327	58	—	Nil.	—	58
" Militia " - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Line Drummers - - -	486	437	49	—	Nil.	—	49
" Militia " - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Line Privates - - -	21,305	19,728	1,577	—	Nil.	—	1,577
" Militia " - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fire Brigade - - -	72	71	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Medical Staff Corps.—Stewards and Ward Masters.	270	271	—	1	Nil.	1	—
" Orderlies - - -	1,452	1,450	2	—	Nil.	—	2
Recruiting Staff.—Staff - - -	4	4	—	—	Nil.	—	—
" Sergeants - - -	115	96	19	—	38	19	—
" Privates - - -	7	12	—	5	Nil.	5	—
Osmanli Horse Artillery - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Land Transport Corps - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Military Labourers.—Staff & Sergeants	7	7	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Turkish Contingent.—Infantry - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
" Artillery - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
COATEES :							
Line and Militia Sergeants - - -	1,511	1,334	177	—	Nil.	—	177
" " Privates - - -	12,891	10,690	2,201	—	Nil.	—	2,201
Coats - - -	3	—	3	—	Nil.	—	3
Deduct							
	452,094	412,516	39,615	37	37,376	4,233	6,435
	—	—	37	—	—	—	4,233
	452,094	412,516	39,578	—	37,376	—	2,202
TROUSERS :							
Artillery.—Staff - - -	84	79	5	—	Nil.	—	5
" Sergeants and Band - - -	777	697	80	—	Nil.	—	80
" Drummers and Privates - - -	11,587	9,947	1,640	—	Nil.	—	1,640
Cavalry.—Staff - - -	152	157	—	5	Nil.	5	—
" Sergeants - - -	881	1,041	—	160	Nil.	160	—
" Privates - - -	34,689	27,250	7,439	—	5,645	—	1,794
" Undress - - -	32	1	31	—	Nil.	—	31
Infantry.—Staff - - -	1,933	1,894	39	—	18	—	21
" Sergeants - - -	26,398	24,502	1,896	—	2,495	599	—
" Privates - - -	343,781	325,656	18,125	—	18,783	658	—
Enrolled Pensioners.—Staff - - -	320	358	—	38	2	40	—
" Other Ranks - - -	8,024	7,873	151	—	37	—	114
Fire Brigade - - -	22	22	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Medical Staff Corps.—Orderlies and Stewards.	1,458	1,448	10	—	Nil.	—	10
" Ward Masters - - -	334	271	63	—	Nil.	—	63
Military Labourers.—Drill and Duck - - -	200	229	—	29	Nil.	29	—
" " Blue Serge - - -	195	225	—	30	Nil.	30	—
" Prisons.—Chief Warders and Warders.	135	123	12	—	7	—	5
Prisoners.—Duck - - -	—	—	—	—	51	51	—
" Cotton - - -	600	151	449	—	400	—	49
" Cloth - - -	1,537	1,182	405	—	405	—	—
Convict Service.—Warders - - -	238	239	—	1	Nil.	1	—
" " Prisoners - - -	1,203	1,202	1	—	Nil.	—	1

B.—CLOTHING.—Detailed Statement of Balances on the "Clothing Ledger" referred to in Report, page 377—*cont.*

B.—Results exhibited by the Clothing Ledger.					Remain 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Clothing.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balances, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
TROUSERS:—cont.							
Recruiting Staff.—Staff	4	4	—	—	—	—	—
" " Serjeants	94	95	—	1	31	32	—
" " Privates	1	7	—	6	Nil.	6	—
Schoolmasters	295	274	21	—	8	—	13
Police A. C. Dépôt	10	5	5	—	Nil.	—	5
Osmanli Horse Artillery	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Cape Mounted Rifles	2	—	2	—	Nil.	—	2
Land Transport Corps	7	—	7	—	Nil.	—	7
	434,994	404,882	30,382	270	27,882	1,611	3,841
Deduct	—	—	270	—	—	—	1,611
	434,994	404,882	30,112	—	27,882	—	2,230
BUSBIES :							
Artillery.—Staff	19	17	2	—	Nil.	—	2
" Serjeants	156	111	45	—	Nil.	—	45
" Privates	1,943	2,387	—	444	Nil.	444	—
Cavalry.—Staff	3	1	2	—	Nil.	—	2
" Privates	1,393	1,504	—	111	125	236	—
CAPS :							
Cavalry.—Staff	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
" Serjeants	250	—	250	—	Nil.	—	250
" Privates	3,412	487	2,925	—	1,309	—	1,616
Infantry.—Staff	11	9	2	—	4	2	—
" Serjeants	1,592	337	1,255	—	566	—	689
" Band	53	—	53	—	Nil.	—	53
" Privates	87,066	46,337	40,729	—	44,841	4,112	—
Highlanders.—Staff	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Serjeants	60	—	60	—	264	204	—
" Privates	567	171	396	—	479	83	—
Enrolled Pensioners.—Staff	388	369	19	—	29	10	—
" " Sergeants	408	331	77	—	121	44	—
" " Privates	8,613	7,435	1,178	—	675	—	503
Medical Staff Corps	2,559	1,206	1,353	—	Nil.	—	1,353
Military Labourers.—Forage Caps	196	224	—	28	Nil.	28	—
Military Prisons.—Ch. Warders and Warders.	141	132	9	—	4	—	5
" Prisoners	1,085	31	1,054	—	Nil.	—	1,054
Convict Service.—Prisoners	123	120	3	—	Nil.	—	3
Schoolmasters	183	172	11	—	6	—	5
Various	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Cloth	1,484	764	720	—	Nil.	—	720
" Fur	7,236	13,250	—	6,014	Nil.	6,014	—
" Leather	120	—	120	—	Nil.	—	120
" Wool	799	1,880	—	1,081	Nil.	1,081	—
Artillery.—Serjeants	7	—	7	—	Nil.	—	7
" Privates	1,463	537	926	—	Nil.	—	926
HATS:							
Military Train	4,575	4,609	—	34	Nil.	34	—
Convict Service.—Prisoners	151	150	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Police A. C. Dépôt	12	5	7	—	Nil.	—	7
BONNETS:							
Highlanders	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
BEARSKINS:							
Cavalry and Military Train.—Privates	227	225	2	—	Nil.	—	2
HELMETS AND LANCERS' CAPS:							
Lancers.—Staff	2	1	1	—	Nil.	—	1
" Serjeants	3	—	3	—	Nil.	—	3
" Privates	1,255	1,020	235	—	61	—	174
" Staff	4	—	4	—	Nil.	—	4
" Serjeants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Privates	3,013	2,637	376	—	53	—	323
Helmets, Fur	5,431	—	5,431	—	Nil.	—	5,431
" Russian	2	—	2	—	Nil.	—	2
" Plumes	2	—	2	—	Nil.	—	2
CHACOS :							
Cavalry.—Staff	27	23	4	—	1	—	3
" Serjeants	396	130	266	—	5	—	261
" Privates	3,274	3,404	—	130	395	525	—
Infantry.—Staff	77	70	7	—	Nil.	—	7
" Privates	13	—	13	—	Nil.	—	13
" Cases of	—	22	—	22	Nil.	22	—
Recruiting Staff.—Serjeants	24	25	—	1	24	25	—
Infantry.—Staff	828	756	72	—	47	—	25
" Serjeants	11,294	9,958	1,336	—	618	—	718
" Privates	163,575	136,652	26,923	—	21,482	—	5,441
	315,517	237,499	85,883	7,865	71,109	12,864	19,773
Deduct	—	—	7,865	—	—	—	12,864
	315,517	237,499	78,018	—	71,109	—	6,909

B.—CLOTHING.—Detailed Statement of Balances on the "Clothing Ledger" referred to in Report, page 377—*cont.*

B.—Results exhibited by the Clothing Ledger.					Remain 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Clothing.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balances, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
JACKETS :							
Artillery.—Staff - - - -	4	4	—	—	Nil.	—	—
„ Serjeants - - - -	52	40	12	—	Nil.	—	12
„ Band - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Privates - - - -	2,028	1,796	232	—	Nil.	—	232
Cavalry and Military Train.—Staff -	5	5	—	—	Nil.	—	—
„ „ Serjeants - - - -	78	77	1	—	Nil.	—	1
„ „ Privates - - - -	1,575	833	742	—	Nil.	—	742
„ „ Undress, R. & F. -	192	—	192	—	Nil.	—	192
Infantry.—Staff - - - -	191	194	—	3	Nil.	3	—
„ Serjeants - - - -	4,264	2,926	1,338	—	1,136	—	202
„ Band - - - -	821	809	12	—	Nil.	—	12
„ Privates - - - -	143,237	87,288	55,949	—	53,841	—	2,108
Enrolled Pensioners.—Staff and Ser- jeants.	9	4	5	—	7	2	—
„ „ Privates - - - -	123	52	71	—	67	—	4
Military Labourers.—White Kersey -	192	189	3	—	Nil.	—	3
Military Prisons.—Warders - - - -	2	2	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Convict Service.—Warders, Blue -	82	81	1	—	Nil.	—	1
„ „ Prisoners - - - -	300	300	—	—	484	484	—
Artillery - - - -	1,886	—	1,886	—	Nil.	—	1,886
Pea - - - -	6,903	8,297	—	1,394	Nil.	1,394	—
Flushing - - - -	191	932	—	741	Nil.	741	—
Sheepskin - - - -	2,002	2,033	—	31	Nil.	31	—
Medical Staff.—Hip Hospital - -	10,744	9,852	892	—	Nil.	—	892
WAISTCOATS AND VESTS :							
Infantry.—Staff - - - -	60	63	—	3	Nil.	3	—
„ Serjeants - - - -	773	966	—	193	Nil.	193	—
„ Band - - - -	238	279	—	41	Nil.	41	—
„ Privates - - - -	14,366	16,040	—	1,674	Nil.	1,674	—
Military Prisons.—Prisoners - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ „ Cloth - - - -	1,605	99	1,506	—	1,497	—	9
„ „ Flannel - - - -	1,359	23	1,336	—	1,043	—	293
Convict Service.—Prisoners - - -	301	300	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Chamois, lined - - - -	1,095	1,088	7	—	Nil.	—	7
Flannel - - - -	1,172	246	926	—	Nil.	—	926
Sheepskin - - - -	151	151	—	—	—	—	—
Cord - - - -	18	—	18	—	Nil.	—	18
Turkish Contingent - - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Land Transport Corps - - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
	196,021	134,969	65,132	4,080	58,075	4,566	7,543
Deduct - - - -	—	—	4,080	—	—	—	4,566
	196,021	134,969	61,052	—	58,075	—	2,977
GREAT COATS :							
Artillery.—Serjeants - - - -	548	523	25	—	235	210	—
„ Privates - - - -	830	1,413	—	583	500	1,083	—
Infantry.—Serjeants - - - -	3,770	3,843	—	73	Nil.	73	—
„ Privates - - - -	255,845	109,835	146,010	—	142,405	—	3,605
„ Military Labourers - - - -	7	2	5	—	Nil.	—	5
Military Prisons.—Chief Warders -	131	115	16	—	4	—	12
„ „ Warders - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convict Service.—Prisoners - - -	81	3	78	—	80	2	—
Police A. C. Depot - - - -	5	5	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Artillery - - - -	275	12	263	—	Nil.	—	263
Cloth - - - -	2,674	—	2,674	—	Nil.	—	2,674
Fur, lined - - - -	1,343	338	1,005	—	Nil.	—	1,005
Flushing - - - -	793	—	793	—	Nil.	—	793
Chamois, lined - - - -	19	—	19	—	Nil.	—	19
Fur, Officers - - - -	154	—	154	—	Nil.	—	154
Pea - - - -	1,068	—	1,068	—	Nil.	—	1,068
Pilot - - - -	36	—	36	—	Nil.	—	36
Coarse - - - -	245	4,426	—	4,181	Nil.	4,181	—
Gregos - - - -	4,141	12,712	—	8,571	Nil.	8,571	—
Sheepskin - - - -	5,972	1	5,971	—	Nil.	—	5,971
Blue Overcoats - - - -	2,523	—	2,523	—	2,100	—	423
Black do. - - - -	—	—	—	—	50	50	—
Grey - - - -	17,048	78	16,970	—	19,056	2,086	—
Rt. Hon. S. S. - - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Mr. Mackenzie - - - -	2	—	2	—	Nil.	—	2
Do. from - - - -	2	—	2	—	Nil.	—	2
	297,513	133,306	177,615	13,408	164,430	16,256	16,083
Deduct - - - -	—	—	13,408	—	—	16,033	—
	297,513	133,306	164,207	—	164,430	223	—
CLOAKS AND CAPES :							
Cavalry and Military Train.—							
Staff, Blue, and do. Scarlet	6,692	5,715	977	—	924	—	53
„ Schoolmasters - - - -	129	134	—	5	4	9	—
„ Watch, Blue and Black - -	73	5	68	—	39	—	29
„ Do. Grey - - - -	360	447	—	87	23	110	—
„ Sheepskin - - - -	3,440	1,000	2,440	—	Nil.	—	2,440

B.—CLOTHING.—Detailed Statement of Balances on the "Clothing Ledger" referred to in Report, page 377—*cont.*

B.—Results exhibited by the Clothing Ledger.					Remain 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Clothing.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balances, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
CLOAKS AND CAPES.—<i>cont.</i>							
Military Prisons.—Prisoners -	1,229	744	485	—	Nil.	—	485
Convict Service.—Prisoners -	50	65	—	15	Nil.	15	—
Police A. C. Depot -	4	4	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Waterproof Capes -	5,342	8,341	—	2,999	Nil.	2,999	—
Cavalry and Military Train.—							
" " Blue, with Capes	745	—	745	—	37	—	708
" " Scarlet "	3	—	3	—	86	83	—
" " Military Train -	2,818	2,040	778	—	49	—	729
" " Capes -	381	31	350	—	43	—	307
	21,266	18,526	5,846	3,106	1,205	3,216	4,751
Deduct -	—	—	3,106	—	—	—	3,216
	21,266	18,526	2,740	—	1,205	—	1,535
FROCK COATS :							
Enrolled Pensioners.—Staff -	317	355	—	38	3	41	—
" " Serjeants -	382	449	—	67	4	71	—
" " Privates -	8,184	7,973	211	—	9	—	202
Military Prisons.—							
" " Ch. Warders and Warders	133	118	15	—	8	—	7
" " Schoolmasters -	300	276	24	—	8	—	16
Police A. C. Depot.—Body Coats -	11	5	6	—	Nil.	—	6
Convict Service.—Warders -	88	89	—	1	Nil.	1	—
Chobham Pattern -	3	—	3	—	Nil.	—	3
Cavalry Coats -							
	9,418	9,265	259	106	32	113	234
Deduct -	—	—	106	—	—	—	113
	9,418	9,265	153	—	32	—	121
SASHES AND GIRDLES :							
Staff.—Silk -	1,301	1,232	69	—	—	—	69
Serjeants.—Worsted -	12,069	9,831	2,238	—	1,116	—	1,122
Schoolmasters.—Silk -	77	15	62	—	8	—	54
" " Worsted -	17	—	17	—	135	118	—
	13,464	11,078	2,386	—	1,259	118	1,245
FROCKS :							
Summer -	145,092	123,123	21,969	—	35,376	13,407	—
Blue Serge -	174	170	4	—	Nil.	—	4
	145,266	123,293	21,973	—	35,376	13,407	4
COMFORTERS AND MUFFATEES :							
Comforters -	28,010	13,509	14,501	—	14,682	181	—
Muffatees -	792	780	12	—	Nil.	—	12
	28,802	14,289	14,513	—	14,682	181	12
ROBES :							
Buffalo -	7,923	7,923	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Calfskin -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
	7,924	7,923	1	—	Nil.	—	1
BELTS :							
Police A. C. Depot -	5	5	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Cholera -	2,990	23	2,967	—	11,976	9,009	—
	2,995	28	2,967	—	11,976	9,009	—
DRAWERS :							
Military Prisons.—Prisoners:							
" " Cotton -	967	10	957	—	64	—	893
" " Flannel -	2,103	872	1,231	—	1,204	—	27
Convict Service.—Prisoners' Serge	4,003	2	4,001	—	4,000	—	1
" " Cotton -	11,834	9,343	2,491	—	961	—	1,530
" " Flannel -	594	315	279	—	1,787	1,508	—
" " Serge, Long -	640	640	—	—	—	—	—
" " Woollen -	96,081	22,002	74,079	—	71,780	—	2,299
	116,222	33,184	83,038	—	79,796	1,508	4,750
LEGGINGS :							
Waterproof -	7,585	3,644	3,941	—	—	—	3,941
SHOULDER CORDS :							
Schoolmasters -	168	106	62	—	3	—	59

B.—CLOTHING.—Detailed Statement of Balances on the “Clothing Ledger” referred to in Report, page 377—cont.

B.—Results exhibited by the Clothing Ledger.					Remain 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Clothing.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balances, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
COLOURS :							
Colour Belts - - - -	25	23	2	—	—	—	2
Queen's - - - -	9	7	2	—	Nil.	—	2
Regimnetal - - - -	14	8	6	—	Nil.	—	6
Cases for - - - -	2	7	—	5	Nil.	5	—
Scrolls for - - - -	8	—	8	—	Nil.	—	8
Standards - - - -	2	2	—	—	Nil.	—	—
	60	47	18	5	—	5	18
Deduct - - - -	—	—	5	—	—	—	5
	60	47	13	—	—	—	13
SHEEPSKIN GARMENTS - -	31	—	31	—	Nil.	—	31
APRONS :							
Artillery - - - -	2	—	2	—	28	26	—
BUTTONS :							
Enrolled Pensioners.—Coat, Serjeants	34 ³ / ₁₂	5 ¹ / ₁₂	29 ² / ₁₂	—	Nil.	—	29 ² / ₁₂
” ” ” Privates	80 ² / ₁₂	46 ² / ₁₂	34 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	Nil.	—	34 ⁶ / ₁₂
” ” Breast, Serjeants	4 ⁶ / ₁₂	4 ⁶ / ₁₂	—	—	Nil.	—	—
” ” ” Privates	56 ⁸ / ₁₂	41 ¹ / ₁₂	15 ⁷ / ₁₂	—	Nil.	—	15 ⁷ / ₁₂
Police A. C. Dépôt. - -	—	1	—	1	Nil.	1	—
	176 ¹ / ₁₂	97 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	79 ³ / ₁₂	1	—	1	79 ³ / ₁₂
Deduct - - - -	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	176 ¹ / ₁₂	97 ¹⁰ / ₁₂	78 ² / ₁₂	—	—	—	78 ² / ₁₂
WORSTED :							
Convict Service.—Prisoners - -	6	31	—	25	848	873	—

N.B.—Sundry quantities of stores are included in the ledger balances in this statement, which were not taken into account in Captain Gordon's remain, they having, as we understand, been set aside as “obsolete and unserviceable,” and as such were sent to the Tower subsequently to the 14th of May 1858, such quantities tend to explain *pro tanto* the “Differences.”

Again, as is noticed in page 377 of the Report, certain quantities of clothing which were in stock at Mark Lane on the 14th of May 1858 are not included in the remain; such quantities also tend *pro tanto* to the like result.

C.—BOOTS.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF BALANCES ON THE “BOOT LEDGER” referred to in Report, page 377.

C.—Results exhibited by the Boot Ledger.					Remain 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Boots.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balances 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
ANCLE BOOTS:							
Regulation - - - -	822,903	567,382	255,521	—	255,091	—	430
” Repairable and Unservice- able.	4,118	1,398	2,720	—	Nil.	—	2,720
Royal Engineers - - - -	16,705	16,631	74	—	71	—	3
High-lows, laced - - - -	1,086	1,050	36	—	Nil.	—	36
Cavalry Stable - - - -	502	81	421	—	417	—	4
Convicts - - - -	2,115	2,104	11	—	Nil.	—	11
	847,429	588,646	258,783	—	255,579	—	3,204
LONG BOOTS:							
Thigh - - - -	3,620	3,735	—	115	Nil.	115	—
Knee - - - -	34,330	34,224	106	—	45	—	61
Fireman's Water - - - -	24	24	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Wellingtons - - - -	3,286	1,824	1,462	—	942	—	520
Half Wellingtons - - - -	239	215	24	—	28	4	—
	41,499	40,022	1,592	115	1,015	119	581
SHOES:							
Highlanders - - - -	20,337	13,072	7,265	—	7,317	52	—
Military Prisons and Convicts - -	5,918	3,388	2,530	—	2,454	—	76
Military Labourers - - - -	340	219	121	—	Nil.	—	121
	26,595	16,679	9,916	—	9,771	52	197

C.—Boots.—Detailed Statement of Balances on the Boot Ledger referred to in Report, page 377—cont.

C.—Results exhibited by the Boot Ledger.					Remain 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Boots.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balances, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
SLIPPERS:							
List - - - - -	121	28	93	—	92	—	1
Brown Leather - - - - -	15,562	15,492	70	—	Nil.	—	70
	15,683	15,520	163	—	92	—	71
LACES AND MATERIALS:							
Laces - - - - -	231,676	231,676	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Soles - - - - -	615	615	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Heels - - - - -	787	500	287	—	Nil.	—	287
Welts - - - - -	874	874	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Tips, doz. - - - - -	94	92	2	—	Nil.	—	2
Shce Thread, lbs. - - - - -	50	—	50	—	Nil.	—	50
	234,096	233,757	339	—	—	—	339
Bootings for Cavalry Overalls - - -	1,046	1,750	—	704	—	704	—

D.—NECESSARIES.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF BALANCES on the “NECESSARIES LEDGER” referred to in Report, page 377.

D.—Results exhibited by the Necessaries Ledger.					Remain 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Necessaries.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balances, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
Belts.—Pouch - - - - -	263	103	160	—	Nil.	—	156
” ” Staff - - - - -	—	4	—	4			
” ” Sword - - - - -	394	125	269	—	Nil.	—	269
” ” Waist - - - - -	136	37	99	—	Nil.	—	99
” ” Slides and Swivels - - - - -	360	30	330	—	Nil.	—	330
” ” Frogs - - - - -	3	—	3	—	Nil.	—	3
” ” Billets - - - - -	280	279	1	—	Nil.	—	1
” ” Brass Hooks - - - - -	6,974	6,256	718	—	Nil.	—	718
” ” ” Sword Belts - - - - -							
Pouches.—Serjeants and rank and file - - - - -	274	136	138	—	Nil.	—	138
” ” Cap - - - - -	366	123	243	—	Nil.	—	243
” ” Buckles - - - - -	271	57	214	—	Nil.	—	214
” ” Loops - - - - -	47	—	47	—	Nil.	—	47
Clasps - - - - -	51	—	51	—	Nil.	—	51
Slings.—Musket - - - - -	131	14	117	—	Nil.	—	117
” ” Long Sword - - - - -	—	22	160	—	Nil.	—	160
” ” Short ” - - - - -	213	31					
” ” Buttons - - - - -	—	—	—	—	8	8	—
” ” Tassels - - - - -	2,160	68	2,092	—	Nil.	—	2,092
Havresacks - - - - -	6,324	4,511	1,813	—	Nil.	—	1,813
Swordknots.—Serjeants - - - - -	306	233	73	—	Nil.	—	73
Scabbards - - - - -	8	—	8	—	Nil.	—	8
Belt-plates - - - - -	—	20	—	20	Nil.	20	—
Bags.—Corn - - - - -	92	592	—	497	Nil.	497	—
” ” Stable - - - - -	85	82					
Bottles of Oil - - - - -	1,009	—	1,009	—	497	—	512
Brass Paste, Boxes of - - - - -	1,364	66	1,298	—	500	—	798
Horse Brushes - - - - -	510	130	380	—	500	120	—
Lace Brushes - - - - -	432	1	431	—	432	1	—
Curry Combs - - - - -	640	131	509	—	500	—	9
Horse Logs - - - - -	538	55	483	—	531	48	—
Horse Pickers - - - - -	535	—	535	—	416	—	119
Horse Rubbers - - - - -	499	—	499	—	499	—	—
Scissors - - - - -	917	260	657	—	500	—	157
Turnscrews - - - - -	500	—	500	—	500	—	—
Spurs, Artillery - - - - -	2,579½	2,584½	—	5	500	505	—
” ” Cavalry - - - - -			—	—	—	—	—
Valises - - - - -	4,633	4,237	396	—	678	282	—
Trowsers, Duck - - - - -	557	—	557	—	499	—	58
” ” Sea Kit - - - - -	1,429	379	1,050	—	1,501	451	—
” ” Red Cossack - - - - -	295	—	295	—	295	—	—

D.—NECESSARIES.—Detailed Statement of Balances on the "Necessaries Ledger" referred to in Report, page 377.—*cont.*

D.—Results exhibited by the Necessaries Ledger.					Differences.		
Description of Necessaries.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balances, 14th May 1858.		Remain 14th May 1858.	More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
Trowsers, "Fatigue" - - - - -	30,526	38,673					
Line Staff - - - - -	—	1					
Militia do. - - - - -	4	4	31,717	—	19,873	—	11,844
Line all Ranks - - - - -	21,183	321					
Militia do. - - - - -	20,237	1,234					
Soap (lbs.) - - - - -	7,715	39½	7,675½				
" Marine - - - - -	2,089	—	2,089		300	—	9,464½
Sponges, Horse - - - - -	491	—	491		491	—	—
" Pipe-clay - - - - -	44,287	38,157	6,130	—	5,512	—	618
" Water Horse - - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pipe-clay - - - - -	1,752	57	1,695	—	500	—	1,195
Blacking, Tins of - - - - -	46,682	36,347	10,335	—	5,594	—	4,741
Braces, Pairs - - - - -	51,751	48,273	4,186	—	5,851	1,665	—
" Military Prisons - - - - -	1,007	299	—	—	—	—	—
Hair Combs - - - - -	44,663	40,140	4,523	—	2,422	—	2,101
Holdalls, Canvas - - - - -	36,167	—	—	—	—	—	—
" Leather - - - - -	303	34,654	1,816	—	2,438	622	—
Button Sticks - - - - -	39,831	33,262	6,569	—	6,929	360	—
Brushes, Button - - - - -	37,574	34,734	2,840	—	1,919	—	921
" Cloth - - - - -	10,227	34,210	4,675	—	2,325	—	2,350
" Clothes - - - - -	28,658	36,617	8,056	—	5,925	—	2,131
" Shaving - - - - -	44,673	35,339	4,216	—	1,915	—	2,301
" Shoe, Pairs - - - - -	39,555	26,841	6,247	—	5,574	—	673
" Brass - - - - -	33,088	1,021	484	—	484	—	—
" Hair - - - - -	1,505	47,491	—	720	1,660	2,380	—
Knives - - - - -	46,771	47,109	—	730	1,660	2,390	—
Forks - - - - -	46,379	39,071	8,022	—	5,989	—	2,033
Spoons - - - - -	47,093	—	—	—	—	—	—
Razors and Cases - - - - -	7,791	36,731	1,638	—	2,874	1,026	—
Razors - - - - -	30,578	210	210	—	—	—	—
Razor Cases - - - - -	210	—	—	—	—	—	—
Towels - - - - -	92,564	80,494	12,070	—	9,538	—	2,532
Bags, Clothes - - - - -	4,557	2,908	1,649	—	Nil.	—	—
" " Enrolled Pensioners - - - - -	1,481	33	1,448	—	1,438	—	1,664
" " Military Prisoners - - - - -	53	9	44	—	39	—	—
Gauntlets - - - - -	2,007	2,964	567	—	631	—	—
" Lined - - - - -	1,524	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mitts, Pairs - - - - -	36,690	54,076	6,841	—	2,465	—	—
" Worsted - - - - -	87	114	—	—	—	—	—
" Woollen - - - - -	24,140	2,000	1,513	—	Nil.	—	1,019
" Military Prisons - - - - -	3,908	590	—	1	1	—	—
" Leather - - - - -	3,513	1,654	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Gloves.—Foot Guards - - - - -	589	1,654	—	—	Nil.	—	—
" Cape Mounted Rifles - - - - -	1,654	1,088	—	309	1,400	—	—
" Artillery Militia - - - - -	779	59,508	—	6,401	Nil.	—	—
" Woollen - - - - -	53,107	154	—	61	Nil.	—	—
" Leather - - - - -	93	—	732	—	Nil.	—	—
" Fur-lined - - - - -	732	—	2,973	—	Nil.	—	—
" Wool-lined - - - - -	2,973	—	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Socks, Pairs - - - - -	104,904	144,353	—	39,449	Nil.	—	—
" Woollen - - - - -	202,551	229,971	—	27,420	15,930	—	—
" Worsted - - - - -	188,601	130,066½	58,534½	—	Nil.	—	3,738½
" Cotton - - - - -	29,602	4,056	25,546	—	Nil.	—	—
Stockings.—Woollen - - - - -	37,729½	28,848	8,881½	—	2,328	—	—
" Worsted - - - - -	12,905½	17,002	—	4,096½	Nil.	—	—
Stocks and Clasps - - - - -	52,014	75,433	—	23,419	2,947	—	—
Stocks - - - - -	5,091	—	5,091	—	Nil.	20,715	—
Clasps for ditto - - - - -	560	—	560	—	Nil.	—	—
Stocks, Police - - - - -	5	5	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Frocks.—Sea Kit - - - - -	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
" Smock - - - - -	681	109	572	—	Nil.	—	566
Camp Kettles - - - - -	2	—	2	—	1	—	1
Needles - - - - -	16,029	—	16,029	—	Nil.	—	16,029
Housewives - - - - -	3,074	470	2,604	—	Nil.	—	2,604
Tin Plates - - - - -	139	139	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Hookpots - - - - -	4,201	2,416	1,785	—	Nil.	—	1,785
Kits, complete.—Cavalry - - - - -	1	1	—	—	Nil.	—	—
" Infantry - - - - -	935	935	—	—	Nil.	—	—
" Sea Kit - - - - -	8	—	8	—	Nil.	—	8
Ornaments.—Cap Brass - - - - -	89,987	28,266	61,721	—	52,899	—	8,822
" Chin Straps - - - - -	38,933	27,422	11,511	—	7,078	—	4,433
" Peaks - - - - -	18,843	9,525	9,318	—	11,896	2,578	—
" Tufts - - - - -	32,774	1,226	31,548	—	5,410	—	26,138
" White Metal - - - - -	35,353	2,990	32,363	—	11,854	—	20,509
" Worsted - - - - -	1,354	—	1,354	—	Nil.	—	1,354
Knee Caps, Drummers - - - - -	372	272	100	—	10	—	90
Knapsacks - - - - -	84,361	73,512	10,849	—	17,798	6,949	—
" Buckles - - - - -	240	120	120	—	21	—	99
" Boards - - - - -	62,146	19	62,127	—	12,086	—	50,041
" Frames - - - - -	444	2	442	—	Nil.	—	442
" Catches - - - - -	574	102	472	—	Nil.	—	472
" Slings and Slides - - - - -	25,873	13,490	12,383	—	202	—	12,181
" Straps, Great Coat Knapsack - - - - -	37,441	7,680	29,761	—	36,142	6,381	—
" Mess Tins - - - - -	32,919	18,225	14,694	—	15,122	428	—
" Ditto Covers - - - - -	34,783	17,927	16,856	—	20,159	3,303	—
" Ditto Straps - - - - -	34,590	12,540	22,050	—	17,060	—	4,990

D.—NECESSARIES.—Detailed Statement of Balances on the "Necessaries Ledger" referred to in Report, page 377.—*cont.*

D.—Results exhibited by the Necessaries Ledger.					Remain 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Necessaries.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balances, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
For Head Dresses:—							
Bags or Cases - - - - -	3,524	961	2,563	—	Nil.	—	2,563
Bands - - - - -	329	39	290	—	Nil.	—	290
Brass Balls - - - - -	8,881	3,064	5,817	—	Nil.	—	5,817
Covers - - - - -	54,420	53,649	771	—	1,291	—	21,405
Ditto, White, for India - - -	74,608	52,683	21,925	—	—	—	—
Cord Lines - - - - -	1,649	1,381	268	—	246	—	22
Chin Chains - - - - -	732	271	461	—	Nil.	—	461
Peaks - - - - -	44	4,302	—	4,258	Nil.	4,258	—
Plumes - - - - -	15,302	10,187	5,115	—	1,115	—	4,000
Plates - - - - -	1,085	996	89	—	Nil.	—	89
Rosettes - - - - -	1,354	—	1,354	—	Nil.	—	1,354
Rings - - - - -	318	448	—	130	155	285	—
Sockets - - - - -	10,963	3,729	7,234	—	147	—	7,087
Steam Kettles - - - - -	23	21	2	—	9	7	—
Tubes - - - - -	729	15	714	—	276	—	438
Tufts - - - - -	6,644	12,087	—	5,443	Nil.	5,443	—
Gaiters, Highland - - - - -	1,369½	1,366	3½	—	Nil.	—	3½
Marking Ink, Bottles of, - - -	64	—	64	—	150	86	—
Straps for Overalls - - - - -	7,098	5,956	1,142	—	750	—	392
Choppers and Cases - - - - -	11	—	11	—	Nil.	—	11
Valises, Leather - - - - -	421	—	421	—	Nil.	—	421
Neckerchiefs - - - - -	3,315	—	3,315	—	—	—	110
" Convict Service - - - -	5,491	349	5,142	—	8,347	—	—
Soap Holders - - - - -	53	—	53	—	Nil.	—	53
Camp Kettle Bags - - - - -	47	—	47	—	Nil.	—	47
Breastplates - - - - -	1,101	—	1,101	—	Nil.	—	1,101
Flasks - - - - -	300	—	300	—	Nil.	—	300
Plaids - - - - -	2	—	2	—	Nil.	—	2
Purse - - - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Waterproof Sheets - - - - -	195	396	—	201	Nil.	201	—
Thimbles - - - - -	66	132	—	66	Nil.	66	—
Utensil Cases - - - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Letters and Numerals for Valises	75,225	4,565	70,660	—	15,278	—	55,382
Banyans, Blue Serge - - - - -	1,500	1,501	—	1	Nil.	1	—
Thigh Aprons, Drummers' - - -	12	—	12	—	Nil.	—	12
Bottles of Jet - - - - -	—	48	—	48	Nil.	48	—
Shaving Boxes - - - - -	—	168	—	168	Nil.	168	—
Reaping Hooks and Sickles - -	76	82	—	6	Nil.	6	—
Hand Brush - - - - -	—	1	—	1	Nil.	1	—
Paint, do. - - - - -	—	1	—	1	Nil.	1	—
Scrubbing, do. - - - - -	—	1	—	1	Nil.	1	—
Thigh Pieces or Sabre Guards - -	855	1,054	—	199	Nil.	—	342
" Sword Patches - - - -	541	—	541	—	Nil.	—	—
Bandages - - - - -	8,539	8,539	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Nightcaps - - - - -	—	298	—	298	Nil.	298	—
Sundries - - - - -	35	312½	—	277½	Nil.	302½	—
Boxes for Schoolmasters' Clothing	—	—	—	25	Nil.	—	—
Crutch Linings - - - - -	50	—	50	—	Nil.	—	50
Axe Cases - - - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Revolver Cases - - - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Strappings - - - - -	611½	1,448	—	836½	Nil.	836½	—
Sandals - - - - -	793	—	793	—	Nil.	—	793
Bill-hooks - - - - -	46	—	46	—	Nil.	—	46
Axes - - - - -	8	—	8	—	Nil.	—	8
Shovels - - - - -	9	—	9	—	Nil.	—	9
Buckets, Leather - - - - -	18	—	18	—	Nil.	—	18
Shirts.—Flannel - - - - -	8,615	7,795	820	—	6,708	—	—
" Cotton - - - - -	218,437	123,901	94,536	—	42,632	—	—
" Fire Brigade, Overshirts -	150	150	—	—	Nil.	—	47,628
" Military Prisons, Cotton -	2,695	3,096	—	401	618	—	—
" " Flannel - - - - -	2,119	792	1,327	—	1,052	—	—
" Jerseys - - - - -	75,480	35,894	39,586	—	37,230	—	—
	2,774,393½	2,025,585	864,277	115,468½	453,213	—	—

N.B.—Sundry quantities of stores are comprised in the ledger balances in this statement which were not taken into account in Captain Gordon's remain, they having, as we understand, been set aside as "obsolete and unserviceable," and as such sent to the Tower subsequently to the 14th May 1858; certain other quantities were also in stock at that date at Mark Lane, but were not included in the remain. All such quantities tend to account, *pro tanto*, for the "differences."

E.—GARNITURE.

DETAILED STATEMENT of BALANCES on the GARNITURE LEDGER referred to in REPORT, page 378.

E.—Results exhibited by the Garniture Ledger.					Remain, 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Necessaries.	Total Quantities received.	Total Quantities issued.	Balances, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
Linings, &c.:							
White Cotton, yards	17,138 $\frac{9}{12}$	17,414 $\frac{4}{12}$	—	275 $\frac{7}{12}$	147,843 $\frac{8}{12}$	}	3,277 $\frac{4}{12}$
Calico	184,138 $\frac{11}{12}$	17,726 $\frac{11}{12}$	166,412	—	5,165 $\frac{1}{12}$		
Cotton Shirting	—	—	—	—	246 $\frac{6}{12}$	}	42 $\frac{3}{12}$
„ Grey	1,537 $\frac{9}{12}$	6,130 $\frac{2}{12}$	—	4,592 $\frac{5}{12}$	5,011		
Buckram	9,588 $\frac{1}{12}$	1,790 $\frac{4}{12}$	7,798 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	7,755 $\frac{11}{12}$	}	879 $\frac{9}{12}$
Linen, Brown	47 $\frac{4}{12}$	10,490	—	10,442 $\frac{8}{12}$	58,972 $\frac{7}{12}$		
„ Black	755 $\frac{2}{12}$	583 $\frac{6}{12}$	171 $\frac{8}{12}$	—	680	}	—
Holland	78,924 $\frac{9}{12}$	7,866 $\frac{1}{12}$	71,057 $\frac{1}{12}$	—	254 $\frac{6}{12}$		
White Shalloon	5,648 $\frac{5}{12}$	571 $\frac{1}{12}$	5,077 $\frac{1}{12}$	—	5,125 $\frac{6}{12}$	48 $\frac{5}{12}$	—
Black Shalloon	5,600	14 $\frac{6}{12}$	5,585 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	5,592	6 $\frac{6}{12}$	—
White Serge	348,046 $\frac{8}{12}$	35,693 $\frac{7}{12}$	312,353 $\frac{7}{12}$	—	313,278 $\frac{8}{12}$	925 $\frac{7}{12}$	—
Rattinette	1,550 $\frac{8}{12}$	794 $\frac{8}{12}$	756 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	731	—	25 $\frac{3}{12}$
Twillet, Black	39	—	39	—	112 $\frac{6}{12}$	73 $\frac{6}{12}$	—
„ Drab	—	86	—	86	Nil.	86	—
„ White	50	40 $\frac{6}{12}$	9 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	Nil.	—	9 $\frac{6}{12}$
Staying Canvas	28,688	4,500 $\frac{2}{12}$	24,187 $\frac{10}{12}$	—	23,664	—	523 $\frac{10}{12}$
	681,753 $\frac{10}{12}$	103,702 $\frac{7}{12}$	593,447 $\frac{11}{12}$	15,396 $\frac{8}{12}$	574,433 $\frac{4}{12}$	1,140	4,757 $\frac{11}{12}$
Deduct	—	—	15,396 $\frac{8}{12}$	—	—	—	1,140
	681,753 $\frac{10}{12}$	103,702 $\frac{7}{12}$	578,051 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	574,433 $\frac{4}{12}$	—	3,617 $\frac{11}{12}$
Lace and Fringe, yds.:							
Lace, White	198,609 $\frac{7}{12}$	28,965 $\frac{8}{12}$	169,643 $\frac{11}{12}$	—	153,872	—	15,771 $\frac{11}{12}$
„ Scarlet	11,140	1,708 $\frac{8}{12}$	9,431 $\frac{1}{12}$	—	10,274	842 $\frac{6}{12}$	—
„ Drummers'	25,792 $\frac{6}{12}$	5,115 $\frac{10}{12}$	20,676 $\frac{1}{12}$	—	21,885 $\frac{6}{12}$	708 $\frac{10}{12}$	—
„ Red Worsted	54,458	26,023	28,435	—	39,410	10,975	—
„ Yellow	3,821 $\frac{6}{12}$	1,723 $\frac{6}{12}$	2,098	—	169 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	1,928 $\frac{3}{12}$
„ Gold	2,337	425 $\frac{1}{12}$	1,911 $\frac{1}{12}$	—	1,925 $\frac{9}{12}$	14 $\frac{8}{12}$	—
„ Silver	523 $\frac{3}{12}$	584 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	61 $\frac{3}{12}$	12	73 $\frac{3}{12}$	—
„ Black	18,300	635	17,665	—	17,368	—	297
Fringe, Drummers'	2,840 $\frac{8}{12}$	302 $\frac{2}{12}$	2,537 $\frac{11}{12}$	—	2,335 $\frac{2}{12}$	—	202 $\frac{2}{12}$
	317,822 $\frac{6}{12}$	65,484 $\frac{8}{12}$	252,399 $\frac{1}{12}$	61 $\frac{3}{12}$	246,752 $\frac{9}{12}$	12,614 $\frac{3}{12}$	18,199 $\frac{4}{12}$
Deduct	—	—	61 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	—	—	12,614 $\frac{3}{12}$
	317,822 $\frac{6}{12}$	65,484 $\frac{8}{12}$	252,337 $\frac{10}{12}$	—	246,752 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	5,585 $\frac{1}{12}$
Braid							
	11,309	11,306	3	—	Nil.	—	3
Buttons, doz.:							
Four-hole Trowser	150,038 $\frac{10}{12}$	24,084 $\frac{6}{12}$	125,954 $\frac{4}{12}$	—	113,451	}	220 $\frac{8}{12}$
„ „ Military Pris.	3	189 $\frac{8}{12}$	—	186 $\frac{8}{12}$	12,096		
Three-hole	1,731 $\frac{4}{12}$	484 $\frac{1}{12}$	1,247	—	15,660	14,413	—
Tunic, all Ranks	903,939 $\frac{11}{12}$	587,366 $\frac{6}{12}$	316,573 $\frac{5}{12}$	—	285,519	—	31,054 $\frac{5}{12}$
„ Staff	4,748 $\frac{7}{12}$	3,150 $\frac{5}{12}$	1,598 $\frac{2}{12}$	—	1,675 $\frac{11}{12}$	77 $\frac{9}{12}$	—
Washers	162,775	126,971	35,804	—	39,372	3,568	—
	1,223,236 $\frac{8}{12}$	742,246 $\frac{5}{12}$	481,176 $\frac{11}{12}$	186 $\frac{8}{12}$	467,773 $\frac{11}{12}$	18,058 $\frac{9}{12}$	31,275 $\frac{1}{12}$
Deduct	—	—	186 $\frac{8}{12}$	—	—	—	18,058 $\frac{9}{12}$
	1,223,236 $\frac{8}{12}$	742,246 $\frac{5}{12}$	480,990 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	467,773 $\frac{11}{12}$	—	13,216 $\frac{1}{12}$
Button Thongs (obsolete)							
	128,208 $\frac{8}{12}$	751	127,457 $\frac{8}{12}$	—	Nil.	—	127,457 $\frac{8}{12}$
Chevrons and Badges:							
Chevrons, Gold	1,005	897	108	—	35	}	3
Badges, „	106	200	—	94	10		
„ Colour	4,202	4,146	56	—	22	}	7
Chevrons, Silver	284	251	33	—	26		
„ Worsted	32,629	32,717	—	88	210	298	—
Badges, Good conduct	2,155	1,851	304	—	53	—	251
„ Shooting	22	—	22	—	12	—	10
	40,403	40,062	523	182	368	298	271
Deduct	—	—	182	—	—	271	—
	40,403	40,062	341	—	368	27	—
Epaulettes, Straps, and Shoulder Knots:							
Epaulettes	65	333	—	268	Nil.	268	—
„ Enrolled Pensioners	240	435	—	195	Nil.	}	14
„ Serjeants and Staff							
„ Corporals, &c.	5,855	5,646	209	—	Nil.	—	—
Embroidered Straps, pairs	351	47	304	—	282	—	22
„ „ Militia	1	—	1	—	2	1	—
„ „ Worsted	15,434 $\frac{9}{12}$	12,111	3,323 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	70	—	3,253 $\frac{9}{12}$

E.—GARNITURE.—Detailed Statement of Balances on the Garniture Ledger referred to in Report, page 378.—*cont.*

E.—Results exhibited by the Garniture Ledger.					Differences.	
Description of Garniture.	Total Quantities received.	Total Quantities issued.	Balance, 14th May 1858.		Remain, 14th May 1858.	
			Debtor.	Creditor.		More than Ledger.
Epaulettes, Straps, &c.— <i>cont.</i>						
Shoulder Knots, Serjeants - - -	180	2	178	—	Nil.	178
" " Band - - -	70	—	70	—	Nil.	70
" " Privates - - -	1,549	594	955	—	Nil.	955
" " Schoolmaster - - -	55	32	23	—	Nil.	23
	23,800 $\frac{6}{12}$	19,200	5,063 $\frac{6}{12}$	463	354	269
Deduct - - -	—	—	463	—	—	4,515 $\frac{6}{12}$
	23,800 $\frac{6}{12}$	19,200	4,600 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	354	4,246 $\frac{6}{12}$
Cord, yards :						
Cord, Highland - - -	30,669 $\frac{7}{12}$	—	30,669 $\frac{7}{12}$	—	28,984	1,685 $\frac{7}{12}$
" Gold - - -	61	13 $\frac{9}{12}$	47 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	2,578 $\frac{9}{12}$	1,291 $\frac{1}{12}$
" " Highland, small - - -	145 $\frac{6}{12}$	8 $\frac{9}{12}$	136 $\frac{9}{12}$	—		
" " " common - - -	75	—	75	—	Nil.	—
" " Highland - - -	1,041 $\frac{9}{12}$	13	1,028 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	—	—
" Silver - - -	4	2	2	—	—	2
" Royal - - -	201	—	201	—	3,687	82 $\frac{6}{12}$
" Rifle - - -	3,600	31 $\frac{6}{12}$	3,568 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	474	—
" Drummers - - -	514	40	474	—	Nil.	180
" Yellow - - -	288	108	180	—	2,000	3,953
" Red Worsted - - -	5,953	—	5,953	—	2,700	—
" White Worsted - - -	2,700	1,620	1,080	—	1,620	—
	45,252 $\frac{10}{12}$	1,837 $\frac{1}{12}$	43,415 $\frac{9}{12}$	—	40,423 $\frac{9}{12}$	5,903 $\frac{1}{12}$
Roses, Crowns, &c.:						
Crowns, Copper - - -	23	—	23	—	Nil.	23
" Silver - - -	15	5	10	—	13	—
" Gold - - -	514	591	—	77	161	238
Drums, Gold - - -	154	18	136	—	133	3
Bugles, Gold Cross - - -	74	35	39	—	31	8
Roses, Gold - - -	5	—	5	—	Nil.	5
" Silver - - -	15	—	15	—	Nil.	15
" Worsted - - -	8	—	8	—	Nil.	8
Wings, Gold - - -	8	2	6	—	Nil.	6
" Silver - - -	4	3	1	—	2	—
" Worsted - - -	192	214	—	22	Nil.	22
" Canvas - - -	—	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	Nil.	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cuff Loops - - -	28	—	28	—	Nil.	28
Skirt Ornaments - - -	9	—	9	—	Nil.	9
Waist Leathers - - -	—	3	—	3	Nil.	—
	1,049	890 $\frac{1}{2}$	280	121 $\frac{1}{2}$	340	286 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deduct - - -	—	—	121 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	—	105
	1,049	890 $\frac{1}{2}$	158 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	340	181 $\frac{1}{2}$
Twist, yards - - -	164,524	33,374 $\frac{7}{12}$	131,149 $\frac{5}{12}$	—	124,841 $\frac{5}{12}$	6,308
Tape, " - - -	7	—	7	—	Nil.	7
" Stay, yards - - -	323,182	57,044	266,138	—	265,625	513
	487,713	90,418 $\frac{7}{12}$	397,294 $\frac{5}{12}$	—	390,466 $\frac{5}{12}$	6,828
Thread, oz. - - -	115,496 $\frac{6}{12}$	53,507 $\frac{6}{12}$	61,989	—	80,414 $\frac{6}{12}$	18,425 $\frac{6}{12}$
Silk Skeins - - -	43,652	26,303 $\frac{9}{12}$	17,348 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	19,038	1,689 $\frac{9}{12}$
Sewing Cotton, doz. - - -	2,502 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	2,502 $\frac{3}{12}$	—	198	2,304 $\frac{3}{12}$
Sets of Garniture :						
For Tunics - - -	3,711	3,711	—	—	Nil.	—
" Trowsers - - -	1,248	863	385	—	Nil.	385
" Overalls - - -	2,862	2,862	—	—	Nil.	—
	7,821	7,436	385	—	—	385
Black Velvet - - -	17	8 $\frac{6}{12}$	8 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	N	8 $\frac{6}{12}$
Worsted, lbs. - - -	105	—	105	—	Nil.	105
Wadding, Sheets of - - -	2,777 $\frac{6}{12}$	300	2,477 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	771	1,706 $\frac{6}{12}$
Hooks and Eyes, doz. :						
Large, all Ranks - - -	12,814 $\frac{11}{12}$	3,379 $\frac{4}{12}$	9,435 $\frac{7}{12}$	—	2,798 $\frac{9}{12}$	6,636 $\frac{10}{12}$
" Staff - - -	406 $\frac{9}{12}$	196 $\frac{2}{12}$	210 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	86 $\frac{10}{12}$	123 $\frac{6}{12}$
Hooks, Small, all Ranks - - -	55,660 $\frac{5}{12}$	8,936 $\frac{11}{12}$	46,723 $\frac{6}{12}$	—	45,748 $\frac{6}{12}$	975
" Small, Staff - - -	16 $\frac{8}{12}$	11 $\frac{5}{12}$	5	—	15 $\frac{6}{12}$	—
" Enrolled Pensioners - - -	19 $\frac{7}{12}$	11	8 $\frac{7}{12}$	—	Nil.	8 $\frac{7}{12}$
	68,918 $\frac{1}{12}$	12,535 $\frac{1}{12}$	56,383	—	48,649 $\frac{7}{12}$	7,743 $\frac{11}{12}$

F.—SADDLERY.

DETAILED STATEMENT of BALANCES on the SADDLERY LEDGER referred to in REPORT, page 378.

F.—Results exhibited by the Saddlery Ledger.					Remain, 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Saddlery.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balance, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
Saddles, complete - - -	6,847	6,580	267	—	267	—	—
Saddle Trees - - - -	6,223	4,410	1,813	—	1,369	—	444
Saddle Seats - - - -	4,355	3,914	441	—	598	157	—
Saddle Flaps - - - -	6,760	4,276½	2,483½	—	2,641	}	97½
Sweat Flaps - - - -	255	—	255	—	—		
Panels, pairs - - - -	4,677½	3,686½	991	—	1,334	343	—
Lacing Thongs - - - -	2,575	2,259	316	—	1,436	1,120	—
Girth Tabs - - - -	6,330	4,334	1,996	—	1,916	—	80
Girths - - - -	8,139	7,149	990	—	1,691	701	—
Stirrup Irons - - - -	12,598½	5,537	7,061½	—	4,671	—	2,390½
Stirrup Leathers - - - -	10,051	4,484½	5,566½	—	2,637½	—	2,929
Cruppers - - - -	9,430	4,488	4,942	—	2,636	—	2,306
Breast Plates and Neck Straps - -	10,972	5,122	5,850	—	1,810	—	4,040
Surcingles - - - -	9,415	4,419	4,996	—	2,409	—	2,587
Wallets, pairs - - - -	10,419	6,517	}	3,325	1,598	—	1,727
Saddle Bags, Canvas - - - -	—	577					
Pilch Seats - - - -	7,329	7,305½	23½	—	4,450	}	
Shabraques - - - -	5,644	3,958	1,686	—	785		
Saddle Cloths - - - -	3,217	2,522	695	—	336		
Saddle Blankets - - - -	377	411	—	34	Nil.		
Sheepskins - - - -	9,570	5,366	4,204	—	1,911		
Saddle Covers, Leather - - - -	3,185	2,926	259	—	Nil.		
„ „ Sheepskin - - - -	7	2,707	—	2,700	Nil.	2,990½	—
Horse Covers, hair-lined - - - -	—	163	—	163	Nil.	}	
Horse Blankets - - - -	779	—	779	—	Nil.		
Horse Hoods - - - -	17	—	17	—	Nil.		
Horse Rollers - - - -	57	57	—	—	Nil.		
Horse Rugs - - - -	136	178	—	42	233		
Horseshoe Cases - - - -	9,882½	4,185½	5,697	—	3,142	—	2,555
Carbine Buckets - - - -	10,370	4,667	5,703	—	2,966	—	2,737
Holsters, pairs - - - -	1,207	616½	590½	—	173	—	417½
Lance Buckets - - - -	2,522½	1,026	1,496½	—	292½	—	1,204
Numnahs - - - -	11,215	9,482	1,733	—	1,617	—	116
Curb Chains - - - -	7,737	2,224	5,513	—	2,549	—	2,964
Curb Hooks - - - -	6,744½	2,256	4,488½	—	2,371	—	2,117½
Bridoon Bits - - - -	11,392	7,103	4,289	—	748	—	3,541
Bridle Bits - - - -	11,252	6,351	4,901	—	2,340	—	2,561
Galvanized Bits - - - -	5	—	5	—	Nil.	—	5
Bits with Bosses - - - -	50	—	50	—	Nil.	—	50
Bridoon Headstalls - - - -	3,922	2,045	1,877	—	532	—	1,345
Collar „ - - - -	10,538	6,391	4,147	—	1,237	—	2,910
Bit „ - - - -	7,458	2,463	4,995	—	4,423	—	572
Bridoon Reins - - - -	11,276	5,889	5,387	—	1,200	—	4,187
Bit „ - - - -	9,471	3,955	5,516	—	3,719	—	1,797
Twisted Hide Reins - - - -	1	8	—	7	Nil.	7	—
Chain Reins and Collar Chains - -	7,689	5,121	2,568	—	2,499	—	69
Heel Ropes - - - -	1,247	50	1,197	—	Nil.	—	1,197
Picketing Irons - - - -	990	1,005	—	15	Nil.	15	—
Farriers' Churns - - - -	224½	130	94½	—	28	—	66½
Sabretâches - - - -	614	612	2	—	Nil.	—	2
„ Slings - - - -	307	—	307	—	Nil.	—	307
Billets, Sabretâche - - - -	494	—	494	—	Nil.	}	134
„ Leather - - - -	—	17	—	17	217		
„ - - - -	368	494	—	126	Nil.		

F.—SADDLERY.—Detailed Statement of Balances on the Saddlery Ledger referred to in Report, page 378—*cont.*

F.—Results exhibited by the Saddlery Ledger.					Remain, 14th May 1858.	Differences.	
Description of Saddlery.	Total Receipts.	Total Issues.	Balance, 14th May 1858.			More than Ledger.	Less than Ledger.
			Debtor.	Creditor.			
Bosses - - - - -	371	28	343	—	894	551	—
„ Breastplate - - - - -	3	3	—	—	Nil.	—	—
„ Crupper - - - - -	6	6	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Hobbles - - - - -	577	1	576	—	Nil.	—	576
Lassos - - - - -	2,238	1,738	500	—	421	—	79
Forage Nets - - - - -	1,041	325	716	—	Nil.	—	716
Rope Neck Collars - - - - -	454	450	4	—	Nil.	—	4
Straps, Baggage - - - - -	9,465½	4,435⅔	5,030	—	2,696	—	2,334
„ Cloak and Wallet - - - - -	7,887	3,747½	4,139½	—	1,535½	—	2,604
„ Single Cloak - - - - -	9,482	4,679½	4,802½	—	944	—	3,858½
„ Horseshoe Case - - - - -	9,408½	4,050	5,358½	—	3,557	—	1,801½
„ Carbine Bucket - - - - -	7,518	3,064	4,454	—	869	—	3,585
„ Carbine Stay - - - - -	7,237	3,312	3,925	—	2,582½	—	1,343
„ Holsters - - - - -	3,309	538½	2,770½	—	344	—	2,426
„ Lance Buckets - - - - -	2,031	507½	1,523½	—	452	—	1,071½
„ Farriers' Churn - - - - -	106	113½	—	7½	27	34½	—
„ Crupper - - - - -	453	380	73	—	Nil.	—	73
„ Pilch - - - - -	485½	650	747½	—	1,002	254½	—
„ Retaining - - - - -	2,939	2,16⅘					
„ Straining - - - - -	141	—					
„ Shabraque - - - - -	87	246	—	159	Nil.	159	—
„ Wallet - - - - -	2,856	394	2,462	—	4,362	1,901	—
„ Valise - - - - -	—	1	—	1	Nil.	—	—
„ Numnah - - - - -	680	—	680	—	Nil.	—	680
„ and Slings - - - - -	1,617	1,339	278	—	531½	253½	—
„ Chaperon - - - - -	121	—	121	—	Nil.	—	121
„ with Chains - - - - -	—	1	—	1	Nil.	1	—
Buckles, Crupper - - - - -	36	—	36	—	Nil.	—	36
„ Chapes and Dees - - - - -	364	191½	309½	—	9	—	300½
Crupper Dees - - - - -	137	—					
Bridles - - - - -	17	15	2	—	Nil.	—	2
„ Shoulder - - - - -	1	—	1	—	Nil.	—	1
Water Decks - - - - -	10,582	—	10,582	—	10,582	—	—
Nose Bands - - - - -	261	—	261	—	140	—	121
Face-pieces and Half-moons - - - - -	1,464	754	710	—	Nil.	—	710
Holster Staples - - - - -	956	—	956	—	7,656	6,700	—
Lancer Flaps - - - - -	200	—	200	—	Nil.	—	200
Horseshoes - - - - -	24	—	24	—	Nil.	—	24
Bridle Cuffs - - - - -	3	—	3	—	Nil.	—	3
Collar Backs - - - - -	4	4	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Swivels - - - - -	109	109	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Bridle Backs - - - - -	2	2	—	—	Nil.	—	—
Roller Buckles - - - - -	2	2	—	—	Nil.	—	—
MATERIALS FOR REPAIRS:							
Hides - - - - -	1,617	425	1,192	—	730½	—	461½
Serge - - - - -	3,853	61	3,792	—	Nil.	—	3,792
Fittings for Saddle Trees - - - - -	4,600	—	4,600	—	Nil.	—	4,600
Woodwork for ditto - - - - -	3,047	2,735	312	—	Nil.	—	312
Ironwork for ditto - - - - -	2,398	2,215	183	—	Nil.	—	183
Sundries - - - - -	46,915¾	4,706⅘	42,209⅓	—	28,498⅘	—	13,710⅘
	413,448⅓	202,836	213,884⅘	3,272⅘	132,615⅘	—	—

NOTE.—It is noticed in the Report at page 26 that large quantities of broken and unserviceable straps, &c., were sent to Woolwich prior to the 14th of May 1858, of which no account was taken as issues. Certain other quantities of stores under this head which enter into the ledger balances were set aside as “obsolete and unserviceable,” and were excluded accordingly from Captain Gordon’s remain. All such quantities go to explain *pro tanto* the “Differences.”

G.—REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF CONTRACTORS FOR MAKING-UP AND ALTERATION, 14TH MAY 1859. REFERRED TO IN REPORT, Page 378.

Description.	Contractor.	Quantity.	Total.
CLOTH - - - - -	Hebbert and Co. - - -	34,444 $\frac{8}{12}$	140,725 $\frac{5}{12}$
" - - - - -	Dolan and Co. - - -	24,997 $\frac{4}{12}$	
" - - - - -	Prater and Co. - - -	20	
" - - - - -	Tait and Co. - - -	27,646 $\frac{4}{12}$	
" - - - - -	Clarke and Stephens - -	1,027 $\frac{3}{12}$	
" - - - - -	Isaacs and Co. - - -	7,631	
" - - - - -	Hamburgher and Co. - -	9,602 $\frac{3}{12}$	
" - - - - -	Gilpin and Co. - - -	2,400 $\frac{9}{12}$	
" - - - - -	Ireland and Co. - - -	15,969 $\frac{7}{12}$	
" - - - - -	McBirney and Co. - - -	8,253 $\frac{11}{12}$	
" - - - - -	Sykes and Hull - - -	7,950 $\frac{7}{12}$	
" - - - - -	Hyam, M. and I. - - -	750	
" - - - - -	Farnam and Co. - - -	31 $\frac{9}{12}$	
CLOTHING IN COURSE OF MAKING :			
Tunics - - - - -	Hamburgher and Co. - -	1,195	9,508
" - - - - -	Tait and Co. - - -	455	
" - - - - -	Dolan and Co. - - -	864	
" - - - - -	Shaw, W. - - -	200	
Trowsers - - - - -	Hamburgher and Co. - -	646	
" - - - - -	Tait and Co. - - -	549	
" - - - - -	Dolan and Co. - - -	830	
" - - - - -	Shaw, W. - - -	200	
Jackets - - - - -	Tait and Co. - - -	4	
Vests - - - - -	Ditto - - -	4	
" - - - - -	Dolan and Co. - - -	1,220	
CLOTHING FOR ALTERATION :			
Tunics - - - - -	Isaacs and Co. - - -	2,469	1,700
Coatees - - - - -	Ditto - - -	3	
Jackets - - - - -	Ditto - - -	869	
BOOTS FOR WATERPROOFING :	Doyle, J. - - -	500	
SADDLERY :			
Shabraques for alteration - - -	Gibson and Co. - - -	820	
" " " - - -	Hamburgher and Co. - -	731	
Wallets - - - - -	Brace, H. - - -	1	
Holsters - - - - -	Ditto - - -	1	
Carbine Buckets - - - - -	Ditto - - -	1	
Bridle Bits - - - - -	Ditto - - -	1	
Headstalls - - - - -	Ditto - - -	1	
Materials for Saddlery - - -	Gibson and Co. - - -	102	
Sets of Ironwork for Saddle Trees -	Cuff and Co. - - -	20	
Sets of Woodwork for Saddle Trees -	Ditto - - -	20	
Pattern Saddle Tree - - -	Ditto - - -	1	
Lasso - - - - -	Ross and Co. - - -	1	

H. PART I.—ABSTRACT of QUANTITIES and DESCRIPTIONS of CLOTHING and QUANTITIES

	Tunics.					Trowsers.			Jackets and Highland Vests.				Chacos.			Great Coats.	
	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Drummers.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Serjeants.	Privates.
Grenadier Guards :																	
1st Battalion																87	457
2nd Battalion	3					3							1				
3rd Battalion																	663
Coldstream Guards :																	
1st Battalion																16	545
2nd Battalion																	250
Scots Fusiliers :																	
1st Battalion					1											62	973
2nd Battalion																	
1st Foot, 1st Battalion	8	145	40	50	2,435	8	171	1,915						14	520	50	1,228
2nd Battalion	10	108	38	36	1,375	10	132	1,468				40	4	53	484	7	230
2nd Foot, 1st Battalion	10	137	41	49	2,242	8	166	1,997					8	145	1,689	37	671
2nd Battalion	2	50	20	24	832	2	78	1,011					1	6	308	67	1,184
3rd Foot, 1st Battalion	15	184	60	70	3,686	15	248	3,506				50	10	162	2,510	75	899
2nd Battalion																	
4th Foot, 1st Battalion	9	144	40	52	2,115	9	158	1,789				150	4	56	638	39	526
2nd Battalion	4	36	20	16	640	4	56	656				1	4	56	657	30	500
5th Foot, 1st Battalion	4	96	20	29	1,413	8	192	2,244	3	56	21	842	3	95	1,091	40	778
2nd Battalion	4	40	20	16	640	4	60	656				200	4	70	1,024	27	883
6th Foot, 1st Battalion	11	169	61	61	2,702	11	228	2,763				551	6	159	2,075	56	1,327
2nd Battalion																	
7th Foot, 1st Battalion	8	121	40	47	2,402	8	150	2,013				300	5	74	1,191	5	724
2nd Battalion	4	40	20	16	640	4	54	656				800	4	68	994	57	1,022
8th Foot, 1st Battalion	5	83	20	27	1,609	9	187	2,694	4	59	20	1,394	2	27	474	49	809
2nd Battalion	4	36	20	16	642	4	56	656				600	4	56	658		
9th Foot, 1st Battalion	7	104	34	32	1,633	7	153	1,608				100		22	500	16	731
2nd Battalion	4	36	20	16	640	4	56	657				151	4	56	656	39	657
10th Foot, 1st Battalion	4	86	20	27	1,461	8	178	2,506	4	61	20	1,330	4	86	1,134	4	113
2nd Battalion	4	36	20	16	640	4	56	656				200	4	56	656		
11th Foot, 1st Battalion	10	126	40	49	1,825	8	166	1,835				150	5	80	858		278
2nd Battalion	5	36	20	16	640	5	56	661					4	56	656	20	200
12th Foot, 1st Battalion	14	160	41	63	2,752	14	201	3,021				196	8	132	1,808	26	706
2nd Battalion																	
13th Foot, 1st Battalion	8	137	40	43	2,062	8	174	2,088				200	4	80	1,128		203
2nd Battalion	4	36	20	16	640	4	56	656				214	4	56	656		652
14th Foot, 1st Battalion	11	123	40	49	1,888	11	164	1,690				50	4	66	936		315
2nd Battalion	4	36	20	16	540	4	56	656				25	4	55	655		
15th Foot, 1st Battalion	11	67	20	38	1,000	11	79	1,015				100	4	79	944	37	699
2nd Battalion												300					
16th Foot, 1st Battalion	10	129	40	32	1,899	10	174	1,931				90	1	77	794	2	98
2nd Battalion								100				140				34	620
17th Foot, 1st Battalion	9	159	40	47	1,800	9	201	1,907				96		39	300		
2nd Battalion																20	250
18th Foot, 1st Battalion	8	128	40	46	2,381	8	161	2,168				201	4	55	630		234
2nd Battalion												200					
19th Foot, 1st Battalion	9	141	40	55	2,673	7	152	1,740				734	4	76	1,172	38	756
2nd Battalion												200					350
20th Foot, 1st Battalion	10	146	40	54	2,875	10	140	1,919				600	5	71	1,209		337
2nd Battalion																	
21st Foot, 1st Battalion	9	141	32	36	1,308	9	179	1,407				40	5	56	695		
2nd Battalion																	
22nd Foot, 1st Battalion	5	84	21	28	1,066	5	104	1,021				20	5	125	1,145	13	378
2nd Battalion												250				41	200
23rd Foot, 1st Battalion	8	145	41	51	2,847	8	179	2,705				679	4	81	1,598	4	638
2nd Battalion												130			50		
24th Foot, 1st Battalion	4	84	20	28	1,544	8	182	2,616	4	58	20	1,389	4	87	1,277	7	430
2nd Battalion																	
25th Foot, 1st Battalion	7	65	20	24	1,227	7	80	1,133				110	6	72	1,103	10	262
2nd Battalion																	
26th Foot	11	141	41	50	1,965	11	182	2,014				77	5	82	1,011	10	813
27th Foot		80	20	26	1,483	8	178	2,456	4	58	20	1,321	4	49	699	10	89
28th Foot	8	133	39	33	1,538	8	172	1,728				50	4	85	683	17	217
29th Foot		82	20	26	1,132	8	184	2,299	4	54	20	1,310	4	92	1,186	11	214
30th Foot	9	96	25	36	1,120	9	135	954				10	8	128	1,365	19	444
31st Foot	9	129	30	47	1,570	9	164	1,875				50	7	85	923	44	642
32nd Foot		81	20	26	1,630	9	175	2,357	4	54	20	1,325	4	80	1,417	7	130
33rd Foot	5	122	39	45	2,472	8	142	2,052				356	4	81	1,308	10	308
34th Foot	10	150	40	53	2,660	10	179	2,224				262	8	112	1,317	12	947
35th Foot		80	20	22	1,844	8	174	2,520	4	54	20	1,301	1	62	1,029	11	477
36th Foot	7	67	21	27	843	13	135	1,526				92	5	101	1,159	6	352
37th Foot	4	84	20	30	1,401	8	180	2,230	4	56	21	964	4	97	1,333	13	823
38th Foot		138	40	48	2,298	8	154	1,880				100	4	55	975	6	532
39th Foot	9	123	40	41	2,153	9	162	2,138				42	5	91	1,051		353
40th Foot	8	143	41	50	2,364	8	183	2,255				60	4	84	1,137	15	210
41st Foot	8	128	40	49	2,021	12	159	1,679					4	87	1,108	10	233
42nd Foot	11	151	40	58	2,432	2			10	135	36	2,007	1				131
43rd Foot	4	83	20	25	1,444	8	185	2,485	4	54	20	1,201		35	422	10	204
44th Foot	9	138	40	51	2,571	8	126	1,637				100	5	74	941	7	412
45th Foot	7	141	41	47	2,247	7	182	2,317				40	2	91	1,188	40	697

Boots issued to LINE REGIMENTS from 7th December 1855 to 14th May 1858.

Forage Caps.		Sashes.		Schoolmaster.				Summer Frocks.	Warm Clothing.					Sundries.							Boots.		
Sergeants.	Privates.	Silk.	Worsted.	Cloak.	Frock Coat.	Trowsers.	Cap and Cover.		Shoulder Cords.	Flannel Vests.	Woollen Drawers.	Comforters.	Fur Caps.	Waterproof Capes.	Colours and Cases.	Colour Belts.	Girdles.	Leggings.	Coatees.	Cases of Chacos.			All Ranks.
.	.	1	.	5	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,459
.	.	1	.	.	1	1	.	1	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,764
.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,640
.	.	1	.	1	1	1	.	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,966
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,042
.	.	.	.	.	2	2	.	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,359
.	.	4	78	.	1	1	1	2	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,753
.	40	4	63	.	.	1	1	.	700	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,220
.	.	4	60	.	1	1	1	.	95	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,699
.	.	4	63	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,130
.	49	9	124	1	3	3	2	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,122
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,219
.	6	4	64	.	2	2	2	2	798	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,455
.	1	3	36	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,781
.	.	8	94	.	.	.	.	.	2,134	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	757
200	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,855
551	8	149	.	.	2	2	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	995
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,474
.	300	4	73	1	2	2	1	3	787	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,653
.	810	4	53	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,434
.	354	4	59	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,962
.	600	5	44	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,200
.	100	9	111	.	2	2	1	.	800	.	2,000	1,000	1,000	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,416
.	151	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,052
.	309	10	56	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	907
.	200	4	36	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,412
.	150	.	64	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	956
.	.	4	36	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,104
.	196	7	131	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	756
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,941
.	200	4	71	.	2	2	2	2	786	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,385
.	200	.	36	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,762
.	50	4	63	.	.	.	.	.	791	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,156
.	200	.	36	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,109
.	100	6	64	1	3	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	956
.	150	.	38	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,480
.	90	.	20	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,288
.	140	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,455
.	96	5	73	1	2	2	2	1	800	.	2,000	1,000	1,000	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	140
.	50	.	17	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,968
.	201	5	62	1	1	1	1	1	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	50
.	200	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,967
.	768	7	113	.	.	.	.	.	782	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
.	200	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,962
.	604	4	74	1	2	2	1	.	794	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,155
.	40	3	85	.	.	.	.	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,155
.
.	20	2	90	1	3	2	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,239
.	250	.	39	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,411
.	537	2	90	.	.	.	.	.	1,117	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,491
.	50	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	600
.	368	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,236
.
.	110	3	64	1	2	2	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,139
.
.	52	14	54	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,419
.	300	10	52	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,001
.	50	9	60	1	2	2	2	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,671
.	327	.	67	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,082
.	10	4	64	1	2	2	2	.	761	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,771
.	50	4	59	.	.	.	.	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,166
.	326	4	55	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,173
.	400	3	64	.	1	1	1	1	792	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,602
.	293	4	68	.	2	2	1	1	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,992
.	300	4	64	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,048
.	91	6	52	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	14	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,365
.	100	3	66	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,550
.	101	5	68	.	2	2	1	1	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,536
.	33	3	66	.	1	1	1	1	800	.	2,000	1,000	1,000	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,532
.	30	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,607
.	70	4	62	1	2	2	2	.	773	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,362
.	50	8	109	.	2	2	1	1	787	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	22	.	.	2,214
.	300	10	53	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,087
.	100	5	65	2	3	3	2	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,966
.	40	4	64	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,626

H. PART I. *continued*.—Abstract of Quantities and Descriptions of Clothing and Quantities

	Tunics.					Trowsers.			Jackets and Highland Vests.				Chacos.			Great Coats.	
	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Drummers.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Serjeants.	Privates.
46th Foot -	8	91	20	25	971	8	100	969	.	.	.	.	1	1	42	16	348
47th Foot -	9	130	43	22	1,656	10	140	1,465	.	.	.	.	3	63	783	1	213
48th Foot -	11	109	40	38	1,524	11	142	1,594	.	.	.	50	5	86	654	6	251
49th Foot -	8	132	40	47	1,932	7	101	583	.	.	.	103	4	76	854	8	387
50th Foot -	8	126	40	49	1,815	5	105	843	.	.	.	178	3	66	713	45	612
51st Foot -	11	140	40	46	2,230	11	175	1,995	.	.	.	388	4	90	1,188	19	957
52nd Foot -	4	79	20	26	1,650	8	184	2,737	4	59	20	1,504	.	18	764	.	.
53rd Foot -	4	83	20	26	1,854	11	174	2,572	4	54	20	1,336	1	66	1,072	9	229
54th Foot -	11	171	43	65	2,717	11	243	2,432	.	.	.	342	5	123	1,689	35	680
55th Foot -	13	119	36	48	1,759	13	159	2,029	.	.	.	40	5	99	1,150	24	533
56th Foot -	8	149	42	54	2,234	8	159	2,106	.	.	.	15	4	76	1,124	.	68
57th Foot -	10	107	32	36	1,309	10	140	1,558	.	.	.	.	5	74	581	.	.
58th Foot -	10	79	20	32	1,385	8	183	2,235	.	.	.	80	5	70	1,058	2	276
59th Foot -	6	49	18	35	1,108	9	136	1,685	4	32	21	456	4	70	651	.	246
60th Rifles.—1st Battalion -	17	168	61	62	3,010	20	245	4,204	4	58	20	1,021	8	125	1,701	11	278
" 2nd Battalion -	5	80	20	32	1,153	5	97	1,036	.	.	.	.	1	53	835	12	90
" 3rd Battalion -	4	94	20	32	1,634	4	167	1,877	.	.	.	.	1	14	290	6	203
" 4th Battalion -	4	53	20	23	1,001	4	124	1,687	.	.	.	.	4	74	1,017	45	983
61st Foot -	4	87	20	26	1,804	8	181	2,646	4	54	20	1,328	.	29	528	6	247
62nd Foot -	9	65	32	26	1,046	9	105	1,410	.	.	.	.	5	49	864	.	131
63rd Foot -	8	120	20	46	1,331	8	169	1,418	.	.	.	50	2	70	580	.	.
64th Foot -	4	80	20	26	1,868	8	178	2,911	4	58	20	1,500	.	20	679	12	471
65th Foot -	7	142	41	50	2,293	7	180	2,230	.	.	.	.	4	94	1,134	.	101
66th Foot -	8	147	40	51	2,727	8	190	2,621	.	.	.	200	2	100	1,025	1	934
67th Foot -	7	81	21	40	866	9	137	1,448	.	.	.	52	6	75	920	6	348
68th Foot -	9	129	33	26	1,582	9	161	1,545	.	.	.	200	5	59	530	12	80
69th Foot -	7	65	21	24	1,025	5	138	1,689	.	.	.	100	7	111	1,530	17	470
70th Foot -	4	92	20	25	1,766	8	174	2,691	4	54	20	1,301	.	20	918	6	190
71st Foot -	10	128	40	52	2,517	1	.	.	9	132	39	1,983	.	.	.	25	683
72nd Foot -	12	133	40	52	2,411	1	.	.	11	111	40	1,996	2	.	.	3	105
73rd Foot -	9	117	41	46	2,141	8	163	2,157	.	.	.	100	5	75	923	.	207
74th Foot -	10	122	21	55	1,790	.	.	.	14	174	20	2,481	.	.	.	8	203
75th Foot -	4	84	20	30	1,737	8	178	2,660	4	54	20	1,301	.	22	667	10	264
76th Foot -	11	142	40	49	1,864	11	170	1,905	.	.	.	118	5	77	892	65	942
77th Foot -	9	124	40	48	1,750	9	153	1,607	.	.	.	130	5	76	660	55	131
78th Foot -	4	77	20	27	1,632	.	.	.	8	155	20	2,654	.	.	.	4	182
79th Foot -	9	159	40	56	2,639	.	.	.	10	137	21	2,093	.	.	.	22	581
80th Foot -	8	108	40	48	2,319	8	149	2,082	.	.	.	.	4	83	1,377	18	250
81st Foot -	4	79	20	26	1,587	8	174	2,604	4	54	20	1,301	4	68	1,038	5	45
82nd Foot -	9	151	41	54	2,601	9	187	2,269	.	.	.	400	4	99	1,340	30	484
83rd Foot -	4	80	20	26	1,435	8	177	2,352	4	58	20	1,348	4	94	1,555	21	272
84th Foot -	4	79	20	27	1,899	4	173	2,926	4	54	20	1,401	4	92	1,317	4	150
85th Foot -	10	129	41	48	2,056	8	161	2,034	.	.	.	100	6	82	1,084	44	981
86th Foot -	4	80	20	27	1,532	8	176	2,674	4	58	20	1,320	.	16	537	3	110
87th Foot -	4	87	20	27	1,524	8	181	2,442	4	54	20	1,453	4	84	1,386	9	238
88th Foot -	8	144	42	44	2,280	8	168	1,676	.	.	.	.	4	97	1,409	14	651
89th Foot -	7	131	39	48	1,759	7	170	1,992	.	.	.	200	4	109	1,088	.	300
90th Foot -	9	143	40	53	2,437	9	172	1,629	.	.	.	230	4	75	1,000	10	504
91st Foot -	11	130	40	43	1,700	9	174	1,681	.	.	.	50	6	97	945	10	573
92nd Foot -	13	129	40	45	2,061	4	.	.	10	125	40	1,843	2	.	.	1	1,063
93rd Foot -	13	149	40	54	2,589	3	.	.	8	112	39	2,045	1	.	.	11	534
94th Foot -	10	131	40	44	2,251	10	165	1,870	.	.	.	299	4	84	1,288	4	292
95th Foot -	9	130	40	52	2,137	9	181	935	.	.	.	26	2	24	471	11	12
96th Foot -	9	134	40	42	2,018	9	190	2,028	.	.	.	10	5	80	1,006	9	187
97th Foot -	4	138	22	52	2,571	4	174	1,705	.	.	.	60	4	75	662	14	651
98th Foot -	11	128	44	50	2,198	11	176	2,274	.	.	.	306	7	101	1,413	5	245
99th Foot -	6	77	52	23	1,170	6	85	680	.	.	.	2	4	82	1,038	2	340
Rifle Brigade, 1st Battalion -	6	147	40	50	2,001	6	171	2,543	.	.	.	36	4	75	1,180	32	859
" 2nd Battalion -	9	149	40	50	3,027	9	134	1,855	.	.	.	.	5	105	1,796	23	260
" 3rd Battalion -	7	158	40	59	2,474	7	164	2,352	.	.	.	.	4	122	1,421	.	267
" 4th Battalion -	4	54	20	20	995	4	74	1,025	.	.	.	.	4	74	1,024	57	1,024
Ceylon Rifles -	42	81	20	28	1,471	40	101	1,549	40	81	20	1,549	36	101	1,549	.	402
Canadian Rifles -	8	67	40	27	1,193	8	107	1,117	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	264
St. Helena Regiment -	4	24	14	9	510	8	80	818	4	22	21	301	.	10	268	15	130
Royal Newfoundland Corps -	2	16	.	4	188	2	11	83	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.
Malta Fencibles -	4	34	20	12	544	8	54	556	.	.	.	.	4	53	522	8	399
1st West India Regiment -	9	72	21	22	1,100	9	86	2,095	1	104	40	2,047	4	24	.	22	565
2nd " " " -	8	63	21	20	1,017	8	84	2,133	.	104	40	2,048	4	33	194	36	797
3rd " " " -	4	54	21	19	872	4	75	891	.	.	.	.	.	30	.	63	1,229
Gold Coast Corps -	4	15	21	6	312	4	35	318	.	.	.	.	1	21	318	16	318
Falkland Island Corps -	.	3	.	1	32	.	3	33	.	.	.	.	.	3	33	.	1
Military Settlers, Cape of Good Hope.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	616	.	.	.	.	.
Royal Engineers, Hong Kong	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sappers and Miners -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	977	13,231	3,930	4,699	217,694	994	17,297	214,112	216	2,657	839	65,582	484	8,390	111,420	2,262	58,029

of Boots issued to Line Regiments from 7th December 1855 to 14th May 1858.

Forage Caps.		Sashes.		Schoolmaster.						Warm Clothing.					Sundries.							Boots.			
Sergeants.	Privates.	Silk.	Worsted.	Cloak.	Frock Coat.	Trowsers.	Cap and Cover.	Shoulder Cords.	Summer Frocks.	Flannel Vests.	Woollen Drawers.	Comforters.	Fur Caps.	Waterproof Capes.	Colours and Cases.	Colour Belts.	Girdles.	Leggings.		Coatees.	Cases of Chacos.			All Ranks.	
.	.	5	66	1	2	2	1	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,208
.	.	3	64	.	1	1	1	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,143
.	50	5	64	1	3	3	1	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,746
.	124	4	74	.	1	1	1	1	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,526
.	178	9	64	.	2	2	2	2	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,106
.	700	5	74	.	2	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,955
.	513	11	52	.	3	3	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,875
.	350	6	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,352
.	341	5	103	2	3	3	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,361
.	40	5	63	1	2	2	1	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,375
.	.	3	65	1	2	2	1	1	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,155
.	.	2	64	.	1	1	.	.	792	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,653
.	130	.	24	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	641	.	.	.	.	2,295
.	40	2	33	.	.	.	.	.	2,134	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,848
.	.	2	13	.	2	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,986
.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,240
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,621
.	.	.	18	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,034
.	327	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,176
.	.	1	63	.	2	2	1	.	800	.	2,000	1,000	1,000	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,623
.	50	3	60	.	.	.	.	.	800	.	2,000	1,000	1,000	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,354
.	500	1	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,503
.	.	.	20	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,592
.	200	.	60	1	3	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,075
.	50	8	63	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,322
28	1,200	3	70	.	1	1	.	1	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,204
.	800	4	60	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,841
.	300	9	54	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,246
.	.	3	23	.	1	1	.	.	798	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,184
.	.	5	63	1	1	1	1	.	795	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,465
.	100	2	66	.	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,346
.	.	.	59	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,898
.	300	8	105	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,961
.	120	5	63	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,398
.	130	4	64	.	2	2	2	1	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,054
.	.	1	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,037
.	.	3	49	.	1	1	.	.	788	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,495
.	150	4	65	.	2	2	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,976
.	300	.	12	.	2	2	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,126
.	400	4	92	.	.	.	.	.	1,891	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,194
.	328	4	64	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,491
.	400	9	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,606
.	100	5	94	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,273
.	300	5	60	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,116
.	475	4	59	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,106
.	.	2	68	2	2	2	2	1	798	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,262
.	301	4	65	.	2	2	1	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,241
.	300	3	70	.	.	.	.	.	1,908	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,170
.	50	5	62	1	4	4	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,069
.	.	7	44	.	2	2	1	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,925
.	.	3	69	.	2	2	1	.	1,870	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,700
.	302	5	65	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,774
.	126	6	73	1	2	2	2	1	800	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,693
.	10	4	85	2	2	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,332
.	60	6	73	1	.	.	.	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,742
.	306	4	64	1	2	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,809
.	4	.	68	1	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,983
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,992
.	36	1	.	.	1	1	.	.	799	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,586
.	.	5	43	1	2	2	2	.	800	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,978
.	93	2	6	1	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,160
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,963
.	.	4	81	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	946
.	.	.	26	.	.	.	.	.	.	240	240	.	120	.	.	2	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	120
.	.	7	15	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
.	.	4	34	1	2	2	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,271
.	2,160	3	25	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,160	.	.	.	.	.	1,168
.	2,160	19	69	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	1,080	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,028
.	.	58	65	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	352
.	.	1	15	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	39
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5,424
.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10	5	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5,693
5	29	26,568	582	7,099	43	128	127	78	39	49,270	240	10,250	5,005	5,120	19	19	20	.	3,440	641	22	.	.	.	329,319

H. Part I. *continued*.—Abstract of Quantities and Descriptions of Clothing and Quantities of Boots

	Tunics.					Trowsers.			Jackets and Highland Vests.				Chacos.			Great Coat.	
	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Drummers.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Serjeants.	Privates.
Depôt Battalions— <i>continued</i> .																	
Tower - - - -	.	.	.	.	1,163	.	.	742	.	.	.	136	.	.	.	.	7,386
Dublin Ordnance	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	500	18,415
Montreal - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	125	
Hongkong - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	300	5,700
Cork - - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Woolwich - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	{	3,690 766	}	230
Chatham - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,341
Sydney - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,000
Gosport - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Tilbury - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
RECRUITING STAFF:																	
Portsmouth - -	.	5	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	
York - - - - -	.	10	.	.	.	.	11	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	2	
Bristol - - - -	.	12	.	.	.	.	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	
Edinburgh - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	2	
Glasgow - - - -	.	10	.	.	.	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	3	34
North British -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	
Belfast - - - -	4	10	.	.	.	4	10	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	5	
Westminster - -	.	14	.	.	.	.	15	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7	
Cork - - - - -	.	8	.	.	.	.	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	5	
Dublin - - - - -	.	9	.	.	.	.	9	.	.	.	.	.	.	8	.	.	100
Weedon - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	49	.	1
London - - - - -	2	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Liverpool - - -	.	13	.	.	3	.	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3rd Regiment - -	.	1	.	.	4	.	1	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	
47th " - - - -	.	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	
52nd " - - - -	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
53rd " - - - -	.	1	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
68th " - - - -	.	1	.	.	2	.	1	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
LEGIONS:																	
German, Heligoland -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,000
2nd Jager Corps - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	21	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
German 6th Lt. Infantry	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	577
British Swiss - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	102	1,305	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Italian - - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	401	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
INSTRUCTORS OF MUSKETRY:																	
Hythe - - - - -	86	.	.	.	24	76	.	23	.	.	.	.	86	.	12	104	11
Malta - - - - -	5	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Aldershott - - -	3	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
East India Co., Chatham	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Provost-Serjeant, Portsmouth	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	
Director-General - -	4	12	4	2	27	.	76	143	.	.	.	36	.	.	7	1	211
" - - - - -	.	.	.	.	2*	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

* Orderlies.

H. Part I. *continued*.—Abstract of Quantities and Descriptions of Clothing and Quantities of Boots

	Tunics.					Trowsers.			Jackets and Highland Vests.				Chacos.			Great Coats.	
	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Drummers.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Serjeants.	Privates.
Hayter and Howell -	189	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Woolwich Laboratory -
Quartermaster-General, Curragh.
Pembroke Dock, 1st Bat. -	7	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2nd Dep. -
Depôt Battalion -	.	4	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	.	.	.
Capt. Smith, Weedon -
Invalid Depôt, Chatham -	6	22	.	.	.	6	22	.	.	.	.	.	2	11	.	.	.
Provis. " -	5	1	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Dolan and Co. -	3	.	.	.
Colonel Hudson -	2	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	2
H. Carroll -
Isaacs and Co. -	1
Almond and Co. -	1	.	1	.
The Royal Marines -	1	.	.	.
Military Hospital Chelsea -
J. Angles, Mark Lane -
Pearse and Co. -
Royal Hibernian College -
Military Asylum, Chelsea -
Anglesea Barracks, Portsea -
Woodrows and Rowe -	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
J. M. Marks -
Cavalry, Gosport -
Guards Detach., Croydon -
Quartermaster-General Aldershott.
FIRE BRIGADES:
Aldershott -	.	2	.	.	44	.	2	44	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Curragh -	25	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
CAMPS:
Shorncliffe -
Colchester -
Curragh -	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.
Aldershott -	3	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
Police A. C. Depôt -
Royal Engineers, Chatham -
Commissary Grant -	4	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sup. Car. Dep., Woolwich -	3
Medical Staff Corps -	*56	†215	.	.	‡1,448	*56	†215	‡1,448	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Depôt -
Military Labourers -	2	5	.	.	.	§4	.	§225	.	.	.	¶189	.	.	.	2	.
" -	225	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Invalid Depôt, Chichester -
Cooke, C. -
Commandant at Hounslow -
Storekeeper, Bombay -
" Calcutta -
" Madras -
	406	515	4	3	2,747	391	671	22,266	.	2	.	361	223	119	4,532	1,231	43,642

* Ward Masters.

† Stewards.

‡ Orderlies.

§ Duck.

¶ White Kersey.

|| Blue Serges.

sued to Garrisons, Dépôt Battalions, &c., from December 7, 1855, to May 14, 1858—*cont.*

[illegible]

H. PART 2.—ABSTRACT of QUANTITIES and DESCRIPTIONS of CLOTHING, and QUANTIT

	Tunics and Dress Jackets.			Dress Overalls.			Cloaks.				Undress Jackets.			Undress Overalls.		Schoolmaster.					
	Staff.	Serjeants.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Privates.	Staff.	With Capes.	Without Capes.	Capes for.	Military Train.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Privates.	Staff.	Other Ranks.	Cloak.	Coat.	Trowsers.	Cap and Cover.	Shoulder Cords.
Royal Horse Guards -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
1st Dragoon Guards -	12	79	1,190	12	22	1,247	.	315	.	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2nd ditto -	1	56	730	1	.	786	.	297	.	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3rd ditto -	1	58	765	1	.	822	.	707	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4th ditto -	10	58	783	10	33	693	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
5th ditto -	8	72	951	8	35	988	.	156	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6th ditto -	4	106	1,904	4	100	2,039	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
7th ditto -	3	65	1,122	3	.	938	.	172	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1st Dragoons -	8	18	464	8	18	464	.	52	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2nd ditto -	8	62	811	8	30	777	.	481	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
3rd ditto -	1	27	414	1	.	319	.	109	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
4th ditto -	8	21	464	8	21	464	.	85	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
5th Lancers -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
6th Dragoons -	8	54	879	9	18	852	.	100	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	2	2	2
7th Hussars -	3	64	990	3	57	990	.	332	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
8th ditto -	13	89	1,521	13	35	1,438	.	420	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	1
9th Lancers -	3	72	641	3	70	641	.	53	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
10th Hussars -	1	29	623	1	4	1,014	.	178	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
11th ditto -	9	19	464	10	19	464	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
12th Lancers -	3	96	1,183	4	96	1,185	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
13th Dragoons -	10	29	349	10	29	415	.	166	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
14th ditto -	3	50	647	3	50	646	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
15th Hussars -	1	26	247	1	.	351	.	295	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
16th Lancers -	.	.	.	.	.	50	.	199	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.
17th ditto -	10	72	1,340	10	25	1,388	.	375	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	1	1
18th Hussars -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	100	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cape Mounted Rifles -	5	79	762	8	151	1,617	.	.	.	.	4	77	673	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cavalry Depot, Maidstone -	3	9	20	3	8	20	.	34	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ditto, Canterbury -	.	.	50	.	.	50	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Military Train -	15	148	1,422	15	148	1,423	.	100	.	.	2,038	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	2	2	1
Storekeeper Tower -	.	.	.	.	.	51	.	297	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ditto, Woolwich -	.	.	.	.	72	4,234	.	9	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cavalry Brigade, Aldershot -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	.
Director General, War Office -	.	.	3	.	.	22	.	6	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Storekeeper, Tilbury -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	130	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ditto, Weedon -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	201	106	5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	151	1,458	20,739	157	1,041	26,388	.	5,369	106	31	2,040	5	77	674	.	.	8	7	7	6	5

H. PART 3.—ABSTRACT of QUANTITIES and DESCRIPTION of CLOTHING, and Quantities of BOOTS issue

	Tunics.					Trowsers.			Jackets and Highland Vests.				Chacos.			Great Coats.	
	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Drummers.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Serjeants.	Privates.
Anglesea -	2	8	12	.	88	2	20	88	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bedford -	4	32	21	11	613	4	53	640	1	.	.	.	4	52	575	3	73
Berks -	6	62	20	26	727	6	82	729	1	9	.	.	.	.	60	.	.
Brecknock -	3	17	20	1	237	3	38	221	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Bucks -	4	37	14	15	659	4	51	673	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19	8
Cambridge -	4	30	19	17	595	4	50	642	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	19	8
Cardigan -	1	16	.	2	200	1	17	203	.	.	.	.	1	6	2	1	.
Cardmarthen -	3	5	.	5	200	3	5	206	.	.	.	139	.	8	6	2	4
1st Cheshire -	3	35	20	11	943	4	55	1,004	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	3
2nd Cheshire -	4	52	19	20	1,101	4	104	2,124	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9
Carnarvon -	1	7	.	4	.	1	5	6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
1st Cornwall -	4	49	6	22	.	3	54	11	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	6	2
2nd Cornwall -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	2	1	.	.
Cumberland -	4	16	23	10	401	7	34	435	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Denbigh -	3	22	13	8	432	3	34	427	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	9	12
1st Derby -	3	30	.	16	491	3	30	507	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2nd Derby -	3	18	20	4	344	3	37	380	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	106
1st or East Devon -	4	32	20	15	481	4	53	508	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
2nd or South Devon -	4	30	19	10	435	4	50	634	.	.	.	.	3	54	622	.	.

BOOTS issued to CAVALRY REGIMENTS from December 7, 1855, to May 14, 1858.

Caps.		Dragoons Helmets.		Lancers Helmets.		Bear Skin Helmets.		Busbies.		Chacos.		Hats.		Frocks.		Warm Clothing.				Sundries.										Boots.	
Serjeants.	Privates.	Staff.	Other Ranks.	Staff.	Other Ranks.	Staff.	Other Ranks.	Staff.	Other Ranks.	Staff.	Other Ranks.	Military Train.	Summer.	Blue Serge.	Flannel Vests.	Woollen Drawers.	Comforters.	Fur Caps.	Waterproof Capes.	Leather Gloves.	Girdles.	Colors.	Color Belts.	Great Coats.	Watch Cloaks.	Flannel Vests.	Blankets.	Pea Coats.	Tweed Coats.	All Ranks.	
			153 291 360 221 214																												
			458 135																												
							225																								
												1 1																			
																											</				

MILITIA INFANTRY, and MILITIA and ROYAL ARTILLERY, from December 1855 to May 14, 1858.

[illegible]

to Militia Infantry, and Militia and Royal Artillery, from December 1855 to May 14, 1858—cont.

Forage Caps.		Sashes.		Schoolmaster.						Warm Clothing.					Sundries.					Boots.
Staff.	Serjeants.	Privates.	Silk.	Worsted.	Cloak.	Frock Coats.	Trowsers.	Cap and Cover.	Shoulder Cords.	Summer Frocks.	Flannel Vests.	Woollen Drawers.	Comforters.	Fur Caps.	Waterproof Capes.	Colors.	Color Belts.	Girdles.	Busbies.	All Ranks.
.	.	.	.	26	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	513
.	.	.	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	701
.	257
.	600
.	549
.	.	.	.	27	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	658
.	.	.	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	518
.	1,157
.	756
.	.	.	.	13	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	274
.	625
.	668
.	.	154	3	54	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	514
.	3,027
.	555
.	1,627
.	63	2,201	.	63	.	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,286
.	1,286
.	.	620	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5,090
.	48	1,430	.	50	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	595
.	903
.	679
.	3	182	3	20	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,086
.	4,474
.	562
.	672
.	86
.	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	985
.	831
.	.	800	4	37	.	1	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	756
.	.	1,341	2	53	.	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,121
.	4,662
.	641
.	.	.	4	68	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	244
.	2,375
.	.	150	4	52	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	227
.	2,106
.	.	1,176	3	55	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	345
3	.	65	2	52	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4,247
.	1,867
.	2	40	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	185
.	.	41	4	40	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	103
.	.	.	2	21	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,956
.	482
.	.	.	3	46	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	604
.	.	1,750	9	53	1	1	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,951
.	4,348
.	329
.	.	200	.	45	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	654
.	1	5	.	23	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,595
.	.	250	2	38	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	595
.	915
.	1,833
.	1,277
.	951
.	.	.	2	21	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	618
48	.	952	3	36	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,160
4	.	100	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	221
.	.	1,050	4	43	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3,592
.	.	50	.	40	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2,844
.	521
.	101
.	3,296
.	.	21	4	50	.	.	.	.	.	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1,733
.	2,695
10	.	850	.	27	.	.	.	.	.	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	694
12	.	270	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	12	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	942
.	530
.	258
.	381
.	.	70	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	504
.	308
.	266
.	160
.	572
.	21	1,591
.	158	468
.	93
.	325

H. Part 3.—Abstract of Quantities and Description of Clothing, and Quantities of Boots issued

	Tunics.					Trowsers.			Jackets and Highland Vests.				Chacos.			Great Coats.	
	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Drummers.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants.	Band.	Privates.	Staff.	Serjeants and Band.	Drummers and Privates.	Serjeants.	Privates.
Suffolk Artillery - - -	4	24	14	10	440	4	38	550	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	13	5
Sussex Artillery - - -	4	25	13	.	420	4	38	420	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Aberdeen - - - - -	4	9	20	9	101	4	27	215	.	.	.	.	.	.	100	.	.
Argyle and Bute - - -	5	19	8	6	321	7	26	281	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Ayrshire - - - - -	4	29	20	10	430	4	49	440	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dumfries - - - - -	4	29	20	9	555	7	99	1,084	3	30	20	517	.	.	.	4	54
Edinboro' - - - - -	4	16	20	10	441	4	36	354	.	.	.	60	.	.	.	.	.
Inverness - - - - -	3	30	5	15	301	.	.	.	3	29	.	316	.	.	.	.	.
Galloway - - - - -	4	16	14	5	249	4	31	255	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1st Lanark - - - - -	4	36	19	11	540	.	24	59	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	214
2nd Lanark - - - - -	4	60	20	19	1,166	7	149	1,946	3	47	.	750	.	14	111	.	261
Perth - - - - -	4	20	13	7	258	4	33	265	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Renfrew - - - - -	4	31	13	12	589	4	45	566	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Ross, Caithness, &c. -	4	15	19	6	296	4	36	296	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Stirling - - - - -	4	21	20	12	531	.	5	3	.	.	3	.	.	4	149	5	107
Berwick Artillery - -	3	14	.	4	195	3	14	204	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Edinboro' Artillery -	3	13	.	6	233	3	13	233	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Fife Artillery - - -	4	27	18	11	530	4	46	520	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Forfar and Kincardine Artillery.	5	40	20	16	818	9	101	1,364	4	40	.	356	.	.	.	.	70
Antrim - - - - -	4	55	20	19	748	7	119	1,754	.	52	.	1,020	.	.	.	.	.
Armagh - - - - -	4	36	21	6	400	4	57	416	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Carlow - - - - -	3	22	14	7	273	3	33	279	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cavan - - - - -	1	35	19	16	354	1	54	353	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Clare - - - - -	3	43	19	22	250	3	53	230	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
North Cork - - - - -	4	50	20	20	769	4	70	789	.	30	.	700	4	56	862	.	.
South Cork - - - - -	3	37	20	7	908	3	70	1,113	.	.	.	100	.	.	.	.	100
Donegal - - - - -	4	15	20	12	565	4	28	700	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
North Down - - - - -	4	41	20	16	451	4	61	766	.	.	.	250	4	48	471	.	.
South Down - - - - -	4	23	20	12	536	4	43	561	.	.	.	1	.	.	54	.	.
Dublin City - - - - -	5	87	20	16	1,668	7	122	2,085	3	82	37	280	4	56	992	.	130
Dublin County - - - -	4	33	20	12	653	4	53	653	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Fermanagh - - - - -	4	28	20	11	580	4	47	591	.	.	1	.	4	28	542	1	.
Galway - - - - -	4	34	22	22	462	6	64	485	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	70
Kerry - - - - -	3	51	20	20	642	6	75	904	.	.	.	.	3	20	192	1	118
Kildare - - - - -	3	22	20	8	290	3	42	299	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Kilkenny - - - - -	4	27	20	16	399	4	64	407	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
King's County - - - -	3	20	20	10	290	3	40	290	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Leitrim - - - - -	4	19	20	7	271	4	39	290	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Limerick County - - -	4	45	19	18	982	6	70	1,276	.	.	.	653	.	.	.	.	.
Londonderry - - - - -	3	40	20	16	701	3	60	746	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Longford - - - - -	4	19	14	7	385	5	33	405	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Louth - - - - -	3	27	20	10	432	3	47	1,294	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	29
South Mayo - - - - -	5	27	13	12	580	7	41	580	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.
North Mayo - - - - -	4	21	20	9	350	4	41	401	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Meath - - - - -	4	19	16	4	633	4	35	649	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.
Monaghan - - - - -	4	32	20	13	496	4	51	506	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	104
Queen's County - - -	4	31	20	4	285	4	51	289	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Roscommon - - - - -	4	36	20	8	777	4	56	901	.	20	.	719	.	.	.	.	304
Sligo - - - - -	4	25	17	4	338	4	42	342	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
North Tipperary - - -	4	39	.	15	467	4	40	483	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Tyrone - - - - -	4	35	14	12	525	4	49	537	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	137
West Meath - - - - -	4	29	17	11	394	4	46	425	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wexford - - - - -	4	32	20	16	762	4	52	788	.	.	.	.	.	.	250	.	200
Wicklow - - - - -	3	11	11	2	279	3	22	280	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Antrim Artillery - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Armagh Artillery - - -	1	6	.	2	99	1	5	99	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
West Cork Artillery - -	3	30	4	11	400	3	50	601	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Cork City Artillery - -	2	18	.	8	358	2	18	365	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Donegal Artillery - - -	3	20	15	8	377	3	35	377	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Dublin City Artillery -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Limerick City Artillery -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
South Tipperary Artillery -	4	30	20	12	550	4	50	562	.	.	.	300	.	.	.	.	.
Tyrone Artillery - - -	2	11	.	4	193	2	11	200	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Waterford Artillery - -	5	21	21	10	455	5	42	465	.	.	.	510	.	.	146	.	176
1st Royal Guernsey - - -	6	45	27	10	770	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	6	71	780	.	.
2nd Royal Guernsey - - -	5	43	16	14	857	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	59	871	.	.
3rd Royal Guernsey - - -	5	28	.	32	455	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	32	483	.	.
4th Royal Guernsey - - -	5	32	.	24	355	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	32	374	.	.
Sark - - - - -	1	7	.	.	116	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	7	116	.	.
D. G. War Office - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	1	.	.
Royal Artillery - - - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	480	530
Osmanli Horse Artillery -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Overalls	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Guernsey Artillery - - -	7	20	16	6	240	.	.	705	.	.	.	.	7	36	246	.	.
Alderney do. - - - - -	2	8	.	.	235	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	8	235	.	.
Quartermaster Mutch - -	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	616	4,950	2,388	1,891	88,328	622	7,469	101,600	45	731	161	19,078	132	1,558	22,816	858	8,472

Militia Infantry, and Militia and Royal Artillery, from December 1855 to May 14, 1858—cont.

[illegible]

H.—PART 4.—ABSTRACT OF QUANTITIES and DESCRIPTIONS of CLOTHING and QUANTITIES of BOOTS issued to Enrolled Pensioners from 7th December, 1855 to 14th May 1858.

	Frock Coats.			Jackets.		Trousers.		Caps.			Silk Sashes.	Buttons, &c.			Great Coats.
	Staff.	Sergeants.	Privates.	Staff and Sergeants.	Privates.	Staff.	Sergeants and Privates.	Staff.	Sergeants.	Privates.		Private's Coat.	Sergeant's Breast.	Private's Breast.	
Aberdeen	2	6	75	-	-	2	81	2	3	75	-	-	-	-	-
Ayr	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bath	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birmingham	6	15	147	-	-	6	162	6	6	156	-	8	8	-	15
Bolton	6	5	101	-	-	6	106	6	5	101	-	-	-	-	-
Brighton	2	-	4	-	-	2	4	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Bristol	5	3	113	-	-	8	113	8	-	113	-	-	-	-	-
Cambridge	1	3	65	-	-	1	68	1	3	65	-	-	-	-	-
Canterbury	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carlisle	2	6	65	-	-	2	71	2	-	68	-	-	-	-	-
Chatham	2	-	5	-	-	2	5	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Chester	2	2	44	-	-	2	46	2	1	44	-	-	-	-	-
Coventry	3	8	79	-	-	3	87	3	-	83	-	-	-	-	15
Cardiff	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derby	2	4	60	-	-	2	64	2	-	62	-	-	-	-	-
Dundee	3	4	91	-	-	3	95	3	4	91	-	-	-	-	-
Durham	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Edinburgh, 1st	13	26	299	-	-	13	325	18	12	299	-	-	-	-	-
Exeter	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Falmouth	2	-	7	-	-	2	7	2	-	7	-	-	-	-	-
Glasgow, 1st	5	16	200	-	-	5	216	5	-	208	4	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 2nd	2	18	200	-	-	2	218	6	7	200	-	-	-	-	-
Gloucester	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halifax	2	4	100	-	-	2	104	3	4	102	-	-	-	-	-
Hull	2	6	49	-	-	2	55	2	-	51	-	-	-	-	-
Inverness	2	-	1	-	-	2	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Ipswich	2	2	13	-	-	2	15	2	1	13	-	-	-	-	-
Jersey	5	-	-	-	-	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leeds	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leicester	9	12	107	-	-	9	119	6	-	109	-	-	-	-	-
Lincoln	2	-	5	-	-	2	5	2	-	5	-	-	-	-	-
Liverpool, 1st	6	15	282	-	-	6	297	6	15	282	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 2nd	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London, East	11	10	189	-	-	11	199	11	10	189	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto, West	9	3	44	-	-	9	45	9	2	44	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto, North	4	2	-	-	-	4	2	9	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto, South	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto, Woolwich	6	6	152	-	-	6	158	6	6	152	-	12	-	6	-
Ditto, Deptford	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lynn	2	-	2	-	-	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manchester, 1st	9	21	257	-	-	9	278	9	13	257	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 2nd	8	18	239	-	-	8	257	8	10	247	-	-	-	-	-
Newcastle	4	4	100	-	-	4	104	2	4	100	-	-	-	-	-
Northampton	2	-	30	-	-	2	30	2	-	30	-	-	-	-	-
Norwich	4	6	94	-	-	4	100	4	3	94	-	4	4	-	-
Nottingham	6	12	154	-	-	6	166	7	5	154	-	-	-	-	-
Oxford	2	1	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paisley	4	-	6	-	-	4	7	4	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
Perth	3	8	73	-	-	3	81	3	4	73	-	-	-	-	-
Plymouth, 1st	6	6	55	-	-	6	61	6	-	58	-	-	-	-	60
Ditto, 2nd	4	2	22	-	-	4	24	6	1	23	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 3rd	3	11	102	3	28	3	135	3	6	105	4	-	-	-	-
Portsmouth, 1st	4	7	61	-	-	4	68	4	7	61	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 2nd	2	2	8	-	-	2	10	3	1	8	-	-	-	-	-
Preston	1	6	110	-	-	1	116	1	4	110	-	-	-	-	-
Salisbury	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sheffield	6	10	104	-	-	6	114	6	5	104	-	-	-	-	-
Shrewsbury	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Southampton	2	-	-	-	-	2	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

H.—PART 4.—Abstract of Quantities and Descriptions of Clothing and Quantities of Boots issued to Enrolled Pensioners—*continued.*

	Frock Coats.			Jackets.		Trousers.		Caps.			Silk Sashes.	Buttons.			Great Coats.
	Staff.	Sergeants.	Privates.	Staff and Sergeants.	Privates.	Staff.	Sergeants and Privates.	Staff.	Sergeants.	Privates.		Private's Coat.	Sergeant's Breast.	Private's Breast.	
Stafford, North -	2	7	70	-	-	2	77	2	4	70	-	-	-	-	-
Stirling -	2	4	44	-	-	2	48	2	2	44	-	-	-	-	-
Stockport -	3	4	115	-	-	3	119	3	4	115	-	-	-	-	-
Taunton -	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thurso -	1	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Tilbury Fort -	1	-	5	1	24	1	51	1	-	7	-	-	-	-	20
Trowbridge -	2	2	50	-	-	2	52	2	2	50	-	-	-	-	-
Wales, East -	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wolverhampton -	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worcester -	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
York -	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Armagh -	4	-	-	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Athlone -	8	6	137	-	-	8	143	8	6	137	-	-	-	-	-
Ballymena -	2	3	63	-	-	2	66	2	3	63	-	-	-	-	-
Belfast, 1st -	7	8	246	-	-	7	254	7	8	246	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 2nd -	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birr -	5	8	141	-	-	5	149	1	8	141	-	-	-	-	-
Carlow -	3	6	89	-	-	3	95	3	3	89	-	-	-	-	-
Cavan -	2	4	95	-	-	2	99	2	4	95	-	-	-	-	-
Clonmel -	3	7	132	-	-	3	139	3	7	132	-	-	-	-	-
Cork, 1st -	9	12	282	-	-	9	294	9	12	282	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 2nd -	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drogheda -	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dublin, 1st -	7	12	265	-	-	7	276	7	12	264	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto, 2nd -	8	12	266	-	-	8	278	9	11	266	-	-	-	-	-
Ennis -	1	3	64	-	-	1	67	1	3	64	-	-	-	-	-
Enniskillen -	4	6	150	-	-	4	156	4	6	150	-	-	-	-	-
Fermoy -	3	3	60	-	-	3	62	3	3	60	-	-	-	-	-
Galway -	2	3	71	-	-	2	74	2	3	71	-	-	-	-	-
Kilkenny -	4	6	134	-	-	4	137	3	6	134	-	-	-	-	-
Londonderry -	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Limerick -	5	7	158	-	-	5	161	5	7	158	-	-	-	-	-
Longford -	4	5	112	-	-	4	117	4	5	112	-	-	-	-	-
Monaghan -	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newry -	2	4	91	-	-	2	95	2	4	91	-	-	-	-	-
Omagh -	1	2	28	-	-	1	30	1	1	28	-	-	-	-	-
Roscommon -	3	4	64	-	-	3	68	3	4	64	-	-	-	-	-
Sligo -	4	6	164	-	-	4	170	4	6	164	-	-	-	-	-
Tralee -	4	2	70	-	-	4	70	4	2	70	-	-	-	-	-
Tullamore -	1	2	37	-	-	1	39	3	2	37	-	-	-	-	-
Waterford -	2	4	74	-	-	2	70	2	4	70	-	-	-	-	-
Canada, viz. :—															
Toronto -	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
London -	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amherstberg -	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bitswyn -	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kingston -	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maryboro' -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
P. M. S. Woolwich	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	-	-	-	-	-
D. G. War Office	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Australia, Perth	2	11	203	-	-	2	185	2	11	175	12	27 $\frac{2}{12}$	27 $\frac{8}{12}$	-	-
	350	454	7,395	4	52	353	7,878	371	298	7,466	20	51 $\frac{2}{12}$	39 $\frac{8}{12}$	6	110

H.—PART 5.—ABSTRACT of QUANTITIES and DESCRIPTIONS of CLOTHING and QUANTITIES of BOOTS issued to Prisons and Convict Services from 7th December 1855 to 14th May 1858.

	Officers.					Prisoners.												Boots.	
	Frock Coats.	Trousers.	Jackets.	Great Coats.	Caps and Covers.	Great Coats.	Jackets.	Waistcoats.	Trousers, Cloth.	Caps.	Trousers, Cotton.	Worsted, lbs.	Flannel Drawers.	Cotton Drawers.	Hats.	Waterproof Capes.	Dowlais Frocks.	Cholera Belts.	All Ranks.
Aldershott	18	19	-	12	18	-	-	-	250	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	-	-	-
Athlone	8	8	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	100*
Barbadoes	1	2	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bermuda	90	240	81	2	1	-	20	-	420	120	500	-	-	-	150	50	-	-	60
Chatham	-	-	-	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-
Cork	6	10	-	8	8	-	49	-	70	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	100*
Devonport	9	9	-	5	4	-	4	12	26	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	12
Dublin	9	9	-	9	12	-	12	21	25	-	-	5	-	-	-	14	-	-	130
Fort Clarence	13	11	-	8	14	-	400	-	348	-	-	12	200	-	-	-	-	-	600
																			1728*
Gibraltar	4	3	-	5	3	-	324	324	332	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	930
																			500*
Gosport	10	10	-	11	11	-	100	-	100	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
																			1008*
Greenlaw	3	3	-	-	11	-	22	2	59	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	77
Hongkong	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Limerick	12	10	-	8	4	-	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
																			100*
Malta	2	2	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Milbank	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Melville Island	1	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	80
Mauritius	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Montreal	5	5	-	7	6	-	20	40	40	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	212
																			500*
Nova Scotia	6	6	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Quebec	-	-	-	6	-	-	40	20	40	-	-	-	100	-	-	-	-	-	60
																			300*
Pentonville	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Elmo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300*
Vido	1	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
																			2000*
Weedon	6	10	-	9	13	-	20	-	90	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	90
																			500*
Director-General	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	-	1	-	2	3	-	1	1	-	1
Stkpr., Cape Town	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	-	50
Stkpr., Tower	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
Yarmouth Military Hospital	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tilbury Fort	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Convict Guard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sydney, N.S.W.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
																			100*
Woodrows & Rowe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	207	362	83	115	132	3	1,044	422	1,834	151	651	31	874	10	150	79	49	1	2,635
																			7236*

* Shoe-strings.

WOOLWICH.

Monday, 25th October 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELF SEFFE, Esq.

HENRY SELF SEFFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. WILLIAM MORRIS examined.

WOOLWICH.

Mr. W. Morris.

25th Oct. 1858.

1. (*Chairman.*) WHAT is your office here?—Deputy military storekeeper.

2. How long have you filled that office?—Four years.

3. Previously, what position did you hold?—I was principal clerk.

4. How long have you been engaged in this establishment?—I have been here 42 years.

5. Who has been the principal military storekeeper?—Mr. Francis Pellatt.

6. He died lately, I believe?—He was killed by a fall from his carriage, at the arsenal gate.

7. We have understood from Captain Gordon, that he is to succeed as principal military storekeeper?—Yes.

8. When is he coming?—On the 1st of next month.

9. As deputy storekeeper, your functions have been confined, I suppose, to a portion only of this vast establishment?—Only a portion.

10. Can you state the departments of which the Woolwich establishment consists, the heads of those departments, and their functions?—The principal military storekeeper, one deputy, one assistant military storekeeper, eleven first-class clerks, seven second, fourteen temporary clerks, two of whom are shortly to go up for examination for the establishment. That relates to what is strictly the military store department.

11. What number of men are employed as labourers in the department in which you are deputy military storekeeper?—546.

12. Has the establishment increased in size of late years?—Very much.

13. Has the increase been steady and gradual, or sudden, in consequence of the demands occasioned by war?—We had a very large increase in consequence of the war, and in consequence of the increased space that our buildings have been run over; our buildings have been run into the marshes adjacent.

14. In the numbers which you have given, do you include the persons who are employed in the three or four various branches into which the establishment is divided?—Yes.

15. Will you be good enough to mention what those branches are?—The first is the corresponding branch, of which the first clerk is the head; the second is the contract branch, which receives all the contract stores; the third is the receiving branch for home stations, which takes cognizance of all returned stores and stores from departments; the fourth is the foreign issuing department; the fifth is the home issuing department; the sixth is the ledger department; and the seventh is the pay office.

16. What other departments are there with which you are not so directly connected?—There is the laboratory department, presided over by Captain Boxer, the royal carriage department, of which Colonel Tulloh is the head, and the royal gun factories, of which Colonel Eardley-Wilmot is the head.

17. Are those all the manufacturing departments?—Yes.

18. Have you anything directly to do with the manufacturing departments?—Nothing.

19. Do you pay the men who are employed in those departments?—I pay over the money upon a

receipt from the superintendents of the different departments the day before the money is paid to the men.

20. Does the whole of the money which is paid in wages to the men employed come to you in the first instance?—It all passes through my hands. I draw an imprest for the total amount twice a month.

21. I think at Weedon, where the establishment was much smaller, the imprest was only once a month, but you have an imprest twice a month?—Yes; sometimes I am obliged to have an extra imprest.

22. About what sum do you draw?—It varies from 28,000*l.* to 34,000*l.* a month for the payment of wages, and that money all goes through my hands.23. (*Mr. Turner.*) Does that embrace the whole of the establishment?—Yes; I provide change and deliver it to the superintendents as they request it, they specifying once a week how many sovereigns, half sovereigns, half-crowns, shillings, fourpenny pieces and coppers they shall require.24. (*Chairman.*) Then you get 15,000*l.* or 16,000*l.*, at a time?—Sometimes about that amount; 14,000*l.* was the last imprest I drew.

25. We have heard a good deal about guarantees, have you any guarantee?—I have two securities.

26. Have you any objection to state the amount of the security?—It is a joint and several security for 1,000*l.*27. (*Mr. Turner.*) One thousand pounds for the two?—Yes.28. (*Chairman.*) What security, except your own honesty, have the Government that you may not follow Mr. Elliott's example?—I really cannot answer that question.

29. There is none, is there?—I do not know; a great deal depends upon the respectability of the individual sometimes, and upon his family connexions; some persons who have family connexions they think can be trusted to a greater amount than those who have not. I do not know what the opinion of the Government is upon that point.

30. The Government trust you, in point of fact, as a banker trusts his cashier; there is nothing to prevent his robbing the cash-box if he is so minded?—No; I return an account once a month of the state of my balance, when I ask for more money.

31. (*Mr. Turner.*) I will ask you a question which I asked Mr. Ramsay to answer; I asked whether he ever took any steps, or whether any steps were taken in the Accountant-General's office, to ascertain whether Mr. Elliott at Weedon ever had in his possession the amount of cash balance which his cash-book exhibited, and he said they never did; that they trusted to Mr. Elliott being a man of honour and they thought it would be an affront to him. Now as an honourable man, and having your honour only to depend upon, would you be affronted if the Government asked you whether you had really in your possession the balance which your cash-book at any particular period exhibited?—Certainly not. I have been used to cash many years, and I have been in the habit of producing the balance to the storekeeper in this very room once a month to the then "respective officers." It would only be reviving the old system if the authorities at the present time should please to revert to it.

WOOLWICH.

Mr. W. Morris.

25th Oct. 1858.

32. Would you feel that you had any reason to be affronted, or that there was any want of confidence in you if you were asked occasionally to show the balance which you said that you had? Would not you rather consider it a compliment than otherwise?—Exactly so. I should be rather pleased than otherwise. I might mention that a gentleman came down here on one pay day from the War Department with the intention of looking at our balance. Being a very busy day he was obliged to wait for some little time, say half an hour, before we could make up the books to produce the balance, but we did it, and did it satisfactorily.

33. (*Chairman.*) When was that?—On the 11th of September last.

34. I presume you do not undertake to pay the money to all the individuals you have mentioned yourself?—No, certainly not.

35. Will you state the process which takes place in that respect?—The heads of the departments, that is, the superintendents of the different departments, send me in a requisition for money on the Monday telling me that they want so much change. I give the necessary directions to the county bank from this place; they provide the money and bring it down on the Tuesday morning, and I then appoint two or three individuals to count over that money to see that it is correct; upon their telling me that the money is correct I go up and sign a cheque for the amount. It is then passed over into the chest and locked up, the key being given to the cashier, who is one of the principal clerks. The next morning the superintendent of each department sends over his principal cashier, and he takes the money from me to his principal clerk to lay out for payment. The same process is gone through with my own department, so that the money rests in my chest only one night. I have a slight balance in hand. I must have a balance of 300*l.* or 400*l.* all the week.

36. What amount of money would be paid to superintendents in that way?—2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.*

37. Do you know whether those superintendents give security?—I cannot say.

38. You have been here for 42 years, have you ever known a case of a storekeeper or clerk or other official at Woolwich being deficient in his cash balances?—No; I had a great deal to do with the cash business during the time of Mr. Stacey, the storekeeper, and also Mr. Cheetham. I passed their accounts.

39. Are your accounts made up to the same period of the year as at Weedon, namely to the 31st of March?—My cash accounts are made up quarterly, and rendered 14 days after the quarter.

40. Have you rendered your Michaelmas account?—Yes, and I am now preparing to render my October account, because I expect Captain Gordon to take possession of the balance on the 1st of November; consequently I shall have to render up my account at the moment when I turn the balance over to him.

41. Has your cash account up to Michaelmas been checked and approved?—No, it has up to July. I have a letter in the office saying that it is passed and the corrections made to the 1st of July.

42. Do you send your vouchers with the account?—Vouchers and receipts.

43. Is the cash account checked here?—No; at the Accountant-General's Office at Pall Mall.

44. Are your store accounts settled yearly?—Yes, the year ending on the 31st of March.

45. When was your store account for the year ending the 31st of March last sent in?—About three weeks ago. We are allowed in such a large establishment as this three months.

46. But you have taken six months?—Yes; that was owing to the great arrears which we had. We have brought up a great many arrears within the last four or five months. We have sent in two years' ledgers lately.

47. How many ledgers for a year?—The ledger is contained in six books; it is divided into six for the facility of posting and of examination.

48. We have had it in evidence that those store accounts generally take, even for such an establishment as Weedon, some three months to verify; what has generally been the length of time occupied in examining the Woolwich accounts?—It has varied so much that I really cannot say. If they were to put 10 or 12 gentlemen on they might probably do it in three months.

49. You have stated that you have brought up arrears within the last four or five months, how did those arrears arise?—In consequence of the immense quantity of work in the department at the time of the war, and from the inexperience of the gentlemen whom we had to assist us.

50. Can you give from your experience an estimate of the amount of work now done in this establishment as compared with former years?—If you would allow me to put it on paper, I would give you the establishment, which would show you the same thing.

51. Cannot you give an approximate statement of the amount of work done in the shape of stores received or issued?—I cannot do it.

52. Has it doubled?—More than that.

53. Has it trebled or quadrupled?—I should say that it has trebled; the consumption probably in a year of war would in some cases average 10 years of peace.

54. Would that impose upon your establishment a corresponding amount of labour?—Not always, because to make out a set of vouchers for 10,000 sets of harness would involve no more labour than making out separate vouchers for 10 sets; but the manual labour, the packing, the examination, and that sort of thing, would be increased in proportion.

55. (*Colonel French.*) Are you acquainted with the reason why Captain Gordon is appointed to succeed you?—I am pretty certain that I told Mr. Godley that I would not take the situation for 50,000*l.* a year.

56. (*Chairman.*) Why not?—I feel that I am too old to take the responsibility and the worry of a situation of this sort; I am not in absolute want, and therefore I should rather retire into some more quiet sphere; if they can give me a more quiet appointment I shall be much better satisfied.

57. You have mentioned the various departments in which manufacture takes place, have you anything at all to do with the superintendence or inspection of articles manufactured on the premises?—Nothing whatever.

58. There are certain articles which are not manufactured here, but which are supplied by contract and otherwise, are there not?—Yes.

59. Can you mention what they are?—They are various; they are tools, such as pickaxes, spades, shovels, felling axes, anvils, and iron articles generally, such as furnaces for heating shot, tools for handling hot shot; then there are wheel-barrows, barrows with iron wheels, hand barrows, and saddlery or harness for artillery purposes; oil, paint, iron nails, blocks, rope and deals.

60. Are the deals in your department?—There are some deals.

61. Does the main supply of timber come under your charge as storekeeper?—No.

62. In whose department is that?—That of the superintendent of the royal carriage department.

63. Have you enumerated most of the articles which are supplied *ab extra*?—I think I have.

64. (*Colonel French.*) Has anything been done to improve the intrenching tools, with respect to which so much complaint arose during the Crimean war?—A committee sat at the time of the Crimean war, composed of Colonel Ord and Mr. Stacey, and new patterns were adopted.

65. Are the tools better than they were, because it was not the pattern complained of, but the material?

—I am not aware ; the present pattern as far as the material goes, I should think, is equal to or about the same quality as the last ; we have in store some of both the old and the new pattern ; there is a little difference in the shape.

66. (*Chairman.*) Are those tools furnished by contractors under tender ?—Yes, by tender.

67. Open to all the world ?—I believe so.

68. Is there any inspection of those tools after the supply, under your direction ?—The inspectors now are under the direction of Mr. Looker, the Tower inspector.

69. Are those inspectors sent here for the purpose with their viewers and staff ?—Yes, the viewers come down here, and the inspectors come afterwards.

70. Do you know the result of the inspections at all ?—Yes ; I take a memorandum of them all ; I think we have an account in the inspection book of any articles that you may wish to see. Here is one inspection note showing that 2,000 axe helvets were received and 2,000 rejected. (*The witness produced a book showing the results of inspections.*)

71. Has this book being long in use ?—Yes ; I have had it 20 years.

72. Will you describe the process that articles go through when they are received here ?—When the articles are delivered into store an invoice is delivered with them, and a gentleman from the contract branch goes down to see that the numbers are right ; he then verifies it by signing the invoice ; he returns to the office and registers the invoice in the register book, and then he reports the articles for examination to the separate departments, or to the viewers or inspectors ; he awaits the return of a paper similar to the one I have produced, and then he goes into the store after the inspection is finished and takes the serviceable stores, causes them to be put into store and marked with the proper marks ; the rejections are put on one side to be delivered to the contractor upon his application.

73. Does the store holder give a receipt for the goods which are so delivered to him ?—Yes.

74. The store holder and inspector being in that case different persons ?—Yes. They then are entered into the contract ledger ; that is to say, Mr. Adams supplied 4,000 of any articles ; he sends in 10 to-day, 1,000 to-morrow, and so on. Before a certificate is given for those 4,000 articles, the store holder brings up his account, and examines it with the different certificates in the contract office, which show that the 4,000 have been duly received on such a date. The certificate is signed by the deputy store-keeper, and then by the store holder. It is then passed forward to the accountant-general. I should say, that after we have found the number correct, we write to the contractor, for him to send in his bill. We then compare his prices with the prices which have been given to us from the contract office, and if they are correct we send both the bill and the certificate to the accountant-general.

75. Have you ever in this establishment, allowed the number stated in one inspection note to be supplied by goods coming in at another time, or under another inspection note ? Is the inspection note always attached to the particular articles delivered ?—We do not take any notice of goods until we get the inspection note. It may so happen that we know how a contractor is situated exactly, and we may make a note for him, and send it up to him, thinking that his man has either lost it or mislaid it, and then he returns it to us signed. We never do anything till we get the first invoice.

76. The first invoice is verified by the contract branch, and also by the inspector ?—Yes.

77. Have you not sometimes more than one contract running with the same person ?—Yes.

78. It was stated in evidence at Weedon, that occasionally a delivery under one contract has been treated as a delivery under another ; for instance, in the case of boots, a man might be delivering under two contracts, and the boots delivered under one

contract have been transferred to make up the quantity of the other. Have you ever allowed such a thing as that here ?—No ; we always worked off the old ones first.

79. Where do the tools which are inspected by the Tower inspectors come from, principally ?—From Wednesbury ; I believe that is the principal place.

80. (*Colonel French.*) Do the swords come from the same place ?—We have nothing to do with swords here.

81. (*Chairman.*) Have you any muskets delivered here ?—No ; we have some sent here occasionally to deposit.

82. Have you had any complaints about rejections of tools lately ?—We have rejected tools lately, and we have received letters from manufacturers, but I do not think I can call them complaints. Mr. Elville or Mr. Lyndon wrote three or four days or a week ago, to say that he thought if we tested his axes by driving a wedge in we should find that we could not break the eye—(we rejected them for being flawed)—that was actually done by the inspectors ; they caused a wedge to be driven in the eye of a felling axe, and it opened. I do not consider that a complaint. It is a matter of business. Things are sent in, and are rejected, and the causes of rejection are given. The manufacturer was of a different opinion, and wished us to try a certain thing to prove that the articles were good, but he was not aware at the time that we had tried it.

83. Had you submitted the axes to the very test which the manufacturer desired to be applied to them ?—Yes.

84. Are the articles compared with the specification as well as the pattern ?—Yes.

85. Have you ever noticed any discrepancies between the specifications and the patterns ?—No.

86. I presume there is less room for such discrepancies in axes and so forth than in cloth ?—Yes.

87. Do the contracts or specifications contain the condition that the decision of the Secretary of State shall be final ?—I understand from Mr. Howell that it is in the contract ; the specification is always with the pattern, and exhibited at the same time.

88. Where does the harness principally come from ?—From Messrs. Holgate, in London, but the major part of the harness that you saw of the Land Transport came from Walsall.

89. From Messrs. Brace ?—From Holmes, of Derby.

90. Is it also inspected by viewers from the Tower ?—No ; it is inspected by viewers from the carriage department, from the collar-makers' shop. They have a superior class of men who inspect all the harness ; it is finally inspected by the officers of that department.

91. Has the same system been pursued during the whole time you have been here ?—No ; it was formerly inspected by the mechanics, or the artificers of the field batteries and the horse artillery, and then, finally, by the officers of those corps.

92. Is the inspection by officers of this establishment a new thing ?—It is so far new that the whole of the harness was formerly inspected by the artillery ; it is now inspected by the carriage department staff. The same system is pursued, only different persons are employed.

93. It is substantially a Government inspection, as distinguished from a mere regimental inspection ?—Yes.

94. Was it always so with regard to saddlery ?—It was always inspected here. They came to assist the civil officer ; it was always under his direction.

95. Is the inspection, in your judgment, more rigid than it used to be ?—No, I do not see that it is.

96. Has the article improved ?—Lately I think it has.

97. Has the supply always been the subject of open competition, so far as you know ?—As far as I know, since the time of Maberley.

WOOLWICH.

Mr. W. Morris.

25th Oct. 1858.

WOOLWICH. 98. You have nothing, I think, to do with the timber, except the deals. What are the deals used for?—For general purposes; issuing to the West Indies, to Gibraltar and Malta, for engineering purposes.

Mr. W. Morris.
25th Oct. 1858.

99. Do you know whether the deals are furnished by open competition, or purchased by brokers?—What we purchase are purchased by brokers.

100. Have you any large quantity of timber in your department, as distinguished from the carriage department?—Not a large quantity; three or four or five thousand, I think, is the last contract which I went up one day last week to look at.

101. Are you a judge of timber?—I know good timber when I see it. I have been in the habit of seeing timber many years, and therefore I have made myself acquainted with it.

102. In the case of timber being purchased by the Government broker, is it purchased subject to inspection by the Government inspectors?—Yes; it is inspected in the Commercial Docks before it is moved.

103. Is the contract to purchase by the Government broker subject to the timber passing inspection, or when he has bought it does he thereby pledge the Government to receive it?—No; he purchases it upon our conditions. We are to go and inspect it. Our timber master, Mr. Wells, went up to inspect some timber, and he told me as there were two conditions for price, he wished me to go up and see him while he was at work in the docks, to see that the thing was going on properly, although I see the deals when they are landed here; I do not mean to say that I look at every deal, but I look at every stack, and I found that the deals turned out very well indeed, and we were getting them much above the standard that we anticipated, and consequently we got them at the lowest price. For instance, if there were 300 deals in the cargo, the conditions were that if we rejected more than one-third we were to pay 10*l.* per hundred more. If we only rejected 99 we got them at the reduced price; if we rejected 110 we were obliged to take them at 10*l.* per hundred more.

104. To a certain extent the broker's judgment does bind the Government, because if it turns out that his judgment is erroneous, and the deals are worth less than he supposed, the Government suffers by it, does it not?—No.

105. (Mr. Turner.) I understand that if you manage to get your supply of deals by only rejecting one-third, you get them at the lower price, but if you exceed the one-third in the full quantity you take you give a higher price; therefore if it is possible to come under the one-third it is your interest to do so, and in this particular case you found the deals to turn out very good in quality, and therefore you got them at the low price?—Yes; this is the condition in the contract,—"If the rejected deals exceed two-thirds of the quantity then the price of the selected to be 25*l.* per hundred, Petersburg standard."

106. (Chairman.) I believe you have sales by auction of old stores here?—Yes.

107. Have you anything to do with determining what should be sold? Do you report that there are certain things that ought to be sold?—I go round with the assistant and the master artificers, after the things have been condemned by the several departments, or recommended to be sold by special orders. I then have them lotted, and then I make out a report of the different articles, lotting them and giving them a value. The list is then sent round to the different departments, after being so lotted, to know if any part of them can be made available for the public service. When I get answers, to say that no part can be made available for the public service, I then submit the things to the War Department for their approval to sell. After I have got their order to sell, I then give orders for printing the catalogues, and the sale is then held in the usual way, by auction.

108. Is a reserved price always put upon the lots?—Yes.

109. Who fixes the reserved price?—Our master artificers.

110. Do you think they generally put a fair reserved price?—Yes; it is very difficult to get at the real price, that is the price they will fetch, for reasons which I will tell you; there are some five or six persons wanting the same article, and one among the five or six determines that he shall have it, so that in those instances we get a great deal more.

111. Does that often happen?—It often happens that prices are very much advanced; there is scarcely a sale but what the prices are advanced by some stranger coming in or by some disagreement among the Jews.

112. In the result are articles rarely bought in?—Yes. I could show you cases in our sale books where articles have been bought in.

113. If you put a fair price upon the lots, and they are rarely bought in, there can be no great loss. Are articles frequently bought in?—There is scarcely a sale passes over but there are lots that are not sold, which is tantamount to it; because the auctioneer puts them up at the reserved price, and he gets no bidder, when of course they are knocked down.

114. What becomes of them in that case?—We put them up again. We have several lots which we have put up five or six times, and we cannot get an offer for them. Some of the galvanized bits and galvanized stirrup irons that were objected to in the Crimea.

115. You have a sale here about once a month, have not you?—Not lately. Except during the time when the stores were coming in fast from the Crimea, we generally managed to have four or five or six sales in the year; the principal part of those sales of stores from the Crimea were old wood, slab wood, from broken-up carriages.

116. Have you a large quantity of goods now in store that you imagine will never be used?—No, I cannot say that we have, not a large quantity. I should think two sales will clear off all we have of either obsolete or unserviceable stores; still we are accumulating from all parts of the globe. (Appendix No. 9.)

117. Are all stores returned direct to Woolwich?—A great many find their way here.

118. What stores are you receiving now from all parts of the world?—A great many come from Gibraltar and Malta, such things as sponges, wad-hooks and drag-hooks, and stores generally.

119. Did I rightly understand you to say that before finally selling old stores there is a re-survey held?—Yes, by the heads of departments, Colonel Tulloh, Captain Boxer, and Colonel Wilmot, for the purpose of seeing that the articles are really worn out, and are not fit to be put into store for the service of the public, and to ascertain whether the most advantageous manner of disposing of them is to sell them and pay the money into the Exchequer.

120. Would that re-survey apply only to articles which had been condemned at Woolwich, or would you re-survey articles which had been sent from Weedon or elsewhere?—We should.

121. Have you ever sold boots at Woolwich?—I think we sold some boots at the time of the Crimean war that were returned after the men were landed.

122. If any boots were sold that were good serviceable boots are you responsible for that?—Yes, there was nothing good; there was nothing bearing the semblance of what you saw as worn boots; the major part of them were without soles and without heels.

123. Did they fetch a good price?—A capital price; it so happened that leather was very dear.

124. Is there what is technically called a ring at your sales?—Yes, there is a ring; everywhere where there is an old store you will find a ring round it.

125. (Mr. Turner.) Are the persons forming the ring jealous of any one outside it bidding?—Yes.

126. If the articles which we saw exposed for sale are a fair sample of your sales, one would almost

wonder what the temptation is to come and buy?—I am not surprised at your thinking so; I have wondered myself; they are rather a superior lot of harness to what we generally sell.

127. You stated that you have been forty-two

years in his establishment; have you any objection to state what your salary is?—That is a very delicate question; if I am to tell you, it is 440*l*.

128. After forty-two years service?—Yes, I rise up to 500*l*. at 20*l*. a year.

WOOLWICH

Mr. W. Morris.

25th Oct. 1858.

Adjourned to To-morrow at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

WOOLWICH.

Tuesday, 26th October 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

THOMAS HOWELL, Esq., examined.

WOOLWICH.

T. Howell, Esq.

26th Oct. 1858.

129. (*Chairman.*) You are Director of Contracts?—I am.

130. When was that office constituted?—In June 1855.

131. Were you then appointed to the office?—Yes.

132. What had been your previous occupation?—I had been a partner in the house of Messrs. Hayter and Howell, in Mark Lane, taking an active part in the business there. I had previously seen a good deal of the general mercantile business of the country.

133. Except with regard to the army packing, had you been in the Government service?—Not at all.

134. You have already stated that you adhere to the evidence which you gave at great length before the Committee on Contracts?—Yes, there are only some unimportant corrections.

135. In your capacity as Director of Contracts, have you not, subject to the direction of the Secretary of State-for-War, substantially the power of determining what contract shall be entered into?—No; demands are made by various departments, and I have to carry out those demands.

136. Have you to arrange the mode in which they should be carried out?—The rule is that they should be carried out by public competition upon tenders sent to certain parties, whose names are upon the office list. When there is a departure from that rule it is always upon my recommendation.

137. Is not it the general rule that when tenders are made the lowest tender is accepted?—The lowest tender is accepted unless there appears to be any special reasons for not accepting it, in which case I state those reasons upon paper and submit them to the Secretary of State; if he approves of them my recommendation is carried out, but not without his approval.

138. Can you give any illustration of the special reasons to which you refer?—It has taken place more particularly with regard to cloth. The extreme importance of getting a sound and perfect cloth has been appreciated by everybody connected with the department, and in some instances I have felt it my duty to recommend to the Secretary of State that the manufacturer who had the highest reputation in his particular branch of trade should be selected in preference to a lower tender from a person whose manufacturing capabilities and reputation were not at all equal to his.

139. There would still have been tenders in the case you suggest, but the lowest would not have been accepted?—Exactly.

140. Are there any cases in which supplies are furnished without resorting to tender at all?—Occasionally; certain purchases are made through the intervention of brokers.

141. I think you mentioned in your evidence before the Contracts' Committee that the furnishing of pick-

axes, for instance, had not been made the subject of competition?—Pickaxes, spades, and other intrenching tools were not taken upon the lowest tender; tenders were called for, and the tenders of the leading houses were accepted; such houses as were well known to be the best makers of the particular articles, as Lyndon and Co., for spades and others. Perhaps I ought to state that when another large demand arose for edged tools, I took the opportunity of communicating with five or six of the principal builders in London, and requested them to ascertain from the foreman of their respective shops whose tools were found to work best, and were generally preferred. I found in the various establishments the same names were recommended for particular articles, and in accepting the tenders for the tools that we required, I recommended to the Secretary of State that the tenders of those parties should be accepted who had the highest reputation, irrespective of the question of price.

142. Was that in consequence of the complaint made about the tools in the Crimea?—In consequence of the complaint made about the tools.

143. What articles are there to which the principle of purchase by broker is applied?—To saltpetre, iron, copper, lead, coals, timber, and deals. I do not think to anything else. We have bought cotton goods upon commission; the department had instructions to buy 140,000 or 150,000 yards of cotton for the lining of soldiers' clothing. In that case we have not gone to public tender; but I recommended that Messrs. A. and S. Henry & Co., of Manchester, should be employed to buy that cotton upon commission for the department; we sent them down a sample of what we required, and they purchased accordingly.

144. Would not cotton be a material of which almost an unlimited supply existed in the market?—Undoubtedly, but it would be a material which could be purchased most readily at Manchester. Messrs. Henry also bought some woollen goods, through their Huddersfield house.

145. Was that for the purpose of saving time, or for what reason?—No; I considered it the most advantageous mode of purchasing.

146. The cheapest?—Yes; I considered that we should buy cotton cheaper by buying it through Messrs. A. and S. Henry & Co., than if we issued circulars to London warehousemen, and called upon them to send in tenders.

147. Do you think a demand for such a quantity as 150,000 yards of cotton would have any effect in raising the price?—No; I considered that by buying through Messrs. Henry and Company, we should buy the nearest to the original producer, because they would buy it from the mill where the cotton was made. They charged us one per cent. commission for the service and the cost of the cotton.

WOOLWICH.

T. Howell, Esq.

26th Oct. 1858.

148. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you think if you wanted 150,000 or a million yards of cotton, that anybody connected with the manufacture of cotton would take the trouble to send you a tender, subjecting themselves to all your regulations about inspection and rejection?—They would not submit to it for a moment.

149. Are you not obliged, with regard to cotton goods, to buy like other people, in the open market?—We must buy it simply in the open market, like other people, and be satisfied to pay the same price.

150. Do not you think, any one who was aware that you might possibly through your inspectors reject one half of the goods, from some trifling threads being out, or some little specks, would charge you from 5 to 10 per cent. more, for the trouble they would be subjected to?—No doubt about it.

151. Therefore, the simpler plan was, to take the goods, through Messrs. Henry, like other persons, subjecting yourselves to taking the supply as it was delivered?—We took it as it was delivered. We depended upon the character of the house, and we have had every reason to be perfectly satisfied with what they did. Upon one occasion some cotton duck from Messrs. Henry was objected to; but upon my sending for the pattern of the article rejected, and the article which had been previously passed, I found it was a mistake upon the part of the inspectors, and the whole supply was received.

152. (*Chairman.*) Messrs. Henry's is a first-rate house, is it not?—Yes, first-rate.

153. I suppose the commission of one per cent. which they would charge you, would not raise the price as it might be raised by middle men, or warehousemen?—Certainly not; no middle men would work for the profit which a commission merchant would work for.

154. (*Mr. Turner.*) In the case of a purchase by Messrs. Henry, would you not pay exactly what was paid by them to the manufacturer?—Undoubtedly.

155. They would have no profit whatsoever beyond their commission?—Undoubtedly. That was the understanding upon which they took the business.

156. (*Chairman.*) Is the understanding with all your brokers that they shall charge you nothing but the brokerage?—Certainly, nothing but the brokerage with the addition of lighterage.

157. If any broker made a profit plus the brokerage, should you consider it a breach of faith with you?—Entirely so, and he never would be employed again.

158. You have named several articles, saltpetre, copper, iron, and timber, which are purchased by brokers; who are the brokers for saltpetre?—Saltpetre is bought through Corrie and Co., and through Messrs. Rücker and Co.; but we have imported saltpetre very largely from Calcutta, instead of buying it in the London market; we find it more advantageous to buy it in Calcutta, and we have given instructions to a house of business there, and they have made the purchases upon very advantageous terms.

159. Is not saltpetre an article for which there are comparatively few applicants?—The gunpowder manufacturers are the principal purchasers; it is used for some chemical purposes besides, but not to any great extent.

160. Have not the Government a gunpowder manufactory at Waltham?—Yes.

161. Is saltpetre purchased for that establishment?—Yes, but we always issue saltpetre to the gunpowder manufacturers.

162. To be returned in the shape of gunpowder to you?—Yes; it is part of our general arrangement.

163. Who are your brokers for copper and iron?—We have lately employed Messrs. James and Shakspeare for copper, for iron, and for metals generally.

164. Who are your brokers for timber?—For timber we have employed Messrs. Churchill and Sim for large purchases, and also Cornelius Leary and Co.

165. Are all the parties you have named still Government brokers?—They would be employed at the present time.

166. Who fixes the price that you will give? Do you leave any discretion to the broker, or do you, the Director of Contracts, determine the price which the broker shall give for any particular article?—The duty of the broker is to go to the market to ascertain what stocks are available for sale, and to see what will best suit the purposes of the department, to get the officers of the department to go and see the respective stocks, and ascertain what will be the most available for their service, and then ascertain the cheapest terms upon which the article can be supplied.

167. Am I to understand that you do not fix the price?—We do not fix the price; the broker sometimes reports and sometimes acts upon instructions that he is to buy upon the cheapest terms, and buys accordingly, immediately reporting to the department.

168. Do you ever give the broker a general instruction, "We want so many loads of timber, go into the market and get them upon the best terms you can"?—Sometimes; but it is generally a matter of report before the purchase is concluded.

169. Will you be good enough to furnish the Commissioners with a return of the purchases of timber for the department, the dates, the amounts paid, the quantities, and all the particulars relating to the purchases?—I will. (Appendix, Nos. 1 and 2.)

170. Are the contracts and specifications for such purchases prepared by you?—The specification is prepared in the department requiring the supply; by Colonel Tulloh, by Captain Boxer, or by Colonel Eardley-Wilmot, as the case may happen to be; the contract is the usual current mercantile contract, just the same as would be rendered to Messrs. Baring or any other mercantile house.

171. Have you sufficient knowledge of the timber trade to be able to say to the brokers, you are not to give above a certain price?—I generally say to them, what price do you expect you will be able to obtain such a supply for, and I generally make reference to our previous purchases; the price is a subject of communication.

172. Are those communications recorded with respect to the prices which the brokers tell you they can procure the timber for?—No, they are not; a broker will perhaps call at Pall Mall, and he may say, "I think I may be enabled to buy a certain article at a certain price, or the market may perhaps fall a little lower, if you can wait a fortnight or three weeks, you may be able to obtain the supply upon better terms."

173. Then it is merely a verbal conversation?—A verbal conversation. In any communication with a broker you must necessarily put confidence in him.

174. How are you in a case like that secured against the possible dishonesty of the broker?—The security is in the character, the reputation, and the standing of the broker. If you employ inferior people to do business you may be open to unpleasant consequences; but a large amount of the mercantile business of this country is transacted through the intervention of brokers; probably four-fifths of the importations in the country are sold through the intervention of brokers. It is a large and important branch of business in London, and men of the highest character, ability, and means are taking part in it. We have taken the pains to select those who stood in an eminent position to transact the business for the department.

175. Is there any particular amount of brokerage fixed by the Government?—We pay the usual brokerage, which varies according to the particular trade. On timber we pay a brokerage of one per cent.

176. One per cent. upon the price paid?—Upon the price paid; upon the cost of the timber.

177. Are the Government brokers perfectly well known as Government brokers?—Yes; the trade must know that they are occasionally buying for Government account.

178. Does not a visit from Mr. Leary, Mr. Churchill, or Mr. Sim, followed by a visit such as you have described, of a Government official, notify to the seller to whom he is likely to sell?—The Government

official does not make any communication to the seller. The timber is in the West India Docks, where anybody may walk at any time and see the names of the cargoes against the respective piles. You may see which cargo will suit your purpose best.

179. Is not the Government official known?—He is not known, I believe he is watched by the traders, who hope that he will look at their particular goods.

180. Is the timber bought as it stands?—A pile is inspected in the docks, and from that pile if the pile is taken down, the Government official selects certain logs which are suitable for the department, and certain logs which are not suitable are put on one side.

181. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is that power of selection a privilege generally claimed by the buyer?—The buyer usually buys the whole of the pile as it rises.

182. If any buyer reserves to himself the power of rejection to a certain extent, one-third, for instance, must he not expect to pay a higher price in consequence of that power of rejection?—Certainly.

183. Even if he does not exceed the amount of deduction specified?—It is not always that a contract is modified by a percentage of rejections.

184. Does the Government broker in any case buy a pile of timber, pledging himself to take the whole pile?—We have done so occasionally.

185. In other instances does not the broker reserve the right of rejecting one-third?—In some recent purchases that have been made of deals, the brokers have made this stipulation. When we have purchased the pile as it stood, if in taking the pile down any deals were shaky or damaged, they were always set aside.

186. Is that a usual stipulation, or is it an exception in your case?—I believe the current course of purchase is, that the merchant takes the whole pile as it stands, and takes the chance of what may turn out a little inferior.

187. If the purchaser had the power of throwing out the inferior deals must he not naturally expect to give a higher price?—You must necessarily pay a higher price in accordance with your power of rejection.

188. If you stipulate that a certain amount, for instance, one-third, may be rejected, you must pay a still higher proportionate price for the remainder?—Unquestionably.

189. In some cases even without any stipulation you may reject more than one-third, if in that case you pay an additional price?—Yes.

190. Does not the power of rejection when it exceeds one-third, enhance the price of the quantity that you purchase in a very considerable ratio?—Certainly. It would be very desirable in my opinion if the department could take the pile as it stands in the docks, and use that timber which was not of the very first character for secondary purposes, or even dispose of it.

191. Would not that in your opinion be a cheaper mode of supplying yourselves with the timber which you really require, than paying an extravagant price for selected deals?—I think it would be more economical. I have been anxious to introduce that plan as far as practicable. It is extremely difficult to carry it out at all times, because certain of the manufacturing departments require an article as near perfection as it can possibly be.

192. May you not buy gold too dear?—Undoubtedly; we paid in former times enormously for the additional power of selection, before any purchases were made through the intervention of a broker.

193. (*Chairman.*) The inspection now takes place where the pile stands, does it not?—Yes.

194. Is there any timber sent to Woolwich except that which has been approved?—The timber is generally approved in the docks. I believe in some few instances the power of rejecting in the department has been allowed, but the selection is made as far as practicable in the docks. In former times the whole of the timber was sent to the department, rejections took place, and certain timber had to be removed, and

other timber was brought to replace it; perhaps a second rejection took place, and, consequently, the transmission backwards and forwards involved enormous expense, and we paid most extravagant prices for the deals that we received.

195. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is it within your recollection that you have paid 25*l.* per standard hundred for deals, when the market price was from 13*l.* to 15*l.*, less 2½ per cent. discount?—No; I know that we have paid recently 23*l.* for the purchase of some timber, when the market price was considerably less than that, on account of the rigid nature of the selection.

196. (*Chairman.*) In those cases in which an addition of expense was incurred, did not the actual outlay fall upon the person whose timber was rejected? You have stated that when it was delivered here formerly, and was rejected, it had to be taken away, and there was great expense for carriage?—Yes; consequently the department probably paid 80*l.* or 90*l.* for what was selling in the current market at 45*l.* or 46*l.*

197. The actual expenses of sending backwards and forwards fell upon the person whose goods were rejected, and you paid for it in the increased price?—Yes.

198. Was that timber furnished under the former system, or purchased by brokers?—Purchased by public tender.

199. Have you not given up the system of public tender for timber, and adopted that of purchase by brokers?—Yes, so far as relates to foreign timber; not to British.

200. Is not that rather the converse of the direction which other matters have taken? for instance, open competition has been adopted for cloth?—The old system was open competition for cloth, and that is adopted still. We have adopted the system of purchase by brokers for the particular articles that are bought through the intervention of brokers in the current mercantile transactions of London and Liverpool.

201. Did you find the owners of timber object formerly to tender?—No, they did not object to it, but they made the Government pay most extravagant prices for their purchases.

202. In your opinion, substantially does the Government buy timber cheaper by the brokers than formerly by the system of open competition?—By adopting the plan of purchase through the intervention of brokers, and having the inspection where the timber lies, we have bought it very much cheaper, as I can prove before you by actual evidence.

203. Are the two things necessarily connected? Might not you have the system of open competition, and yet have the inspection where the timber lies?—Undoubtedly; they are two distinct modifications.

204. Can you state, in round numbers, the price paid per annum for timber contracted for by the Government?—Last year the amount voted for timber was only 58,421*l.*; and this sum includes the English timber, which is not bought through brokers, but as before, upon tender.

205. Do you know that letter (*handing a printed paper to the witness*)?—I have seen this letter before.

206. Is it correct?—It is generally correct. It is not the letter that was sent up, but it is so near it that it satisfies me that it can only have been obtained by some breach of confidence on the part of a person connected with the department. That is merely my own impression.

207. It looks like a genuine letter, does not it?—It is a genuine letter; there are a few verbal alterations. It is so close to accuracy that the party who has obtained it, either from here or Pall Mall (I am quite satisfied that it has not been obtained from Pall Mall), must have obtained it through a violation of confidence on the part of some official. I believe Colonel Tulloh was extremely indignant and annoyed to find that a letter of his, written to the Secretary of State, had

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WOOLWICH. found its way surreptitiously into print. You will observe that there is no printer's name to the paper.

T. Howell, Esq. 208. How did the War Office first know of this letter being made public?—The first information which they had of it in Pall Mall was that the editor of a newspaper, or an agent of a newspaper, came to Pall Mall to know if that letter was to be inserted in his paper; it was sent to the newspaper, with a request that it might be inserted, but the party who sent it did not state his name.

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209. Was such a letter sent by Colonel Tulloh to Pall Mall?—Such a letter was sent. It was a memorandum from Colonel Tulloh to the effect stated.

210. Can you give the date?—The 12th November 1856.

211. The War Office authorities were not convinced by its arguments?—No.

212. I need hardly say that it is a most respectful and proper communication, and no possible injury can result to Colonel Tulloh from making it public?—Certainly not.

The letter was read as follows :

"I have had under my consideration the supply of foreign timber to this department during the present year, and it having occurred to me that it was not working so satisfactory or beneficially as might be desired, I gave particular attention to the matter. I directed Captain Farmer to enter fully into the question, and to make such personal inquiry as I deemed advisable.

"I inclose his report, by which it appears that our former system of competition exercised a control over the markets, and was less expensive to the country, at the same time free from any system likely to involve patronage amongst the trade. If it should appear that the trial now made of the present system in its workings, has not realized the results anticipated, or that the department has not benefited in proportion, I have done my duty in bringing this matter under consideration.

"There are two points of great importance in procuring timber for the department—the first is quality and stability for manufacturing; the second is price. The first is of great importance, and should be always secured; with regard to the second the most economical means considered with the proper supply should be employed. Now, by a comparison of the two systems upon both these points, I think it may be ascertained which is the better to pursue. The first is quality and stability of the material. By the broker we are offered goods, at sales effected by him, and take the whole of any particular timber on inspection at the docks, as it stands in the pile. In this it is evident that only the outside of the pile can be seen, which always presents a good face, because the best is arranged for vision, and when these piles have been opened and delivered at this department they have not turned out so well as we could wish.

"Under our former system the timber was delivered at the royal carriage department, and the best only selected, all other rejected. It may be argued that this increased the price of the timber, which perhaps it did, but at the same time it gives such superior choice of the wood, that experience convinces me it more than compensates for the increase of price.

"With regard to cost, the second point for comparison, the broker is made acquainted with the whole quantity required by the department; he proceeds to purchase, after which I am instructed from Pall Mall to receive such goods, purchased at stated prices, on account of the year's demand; now I wish to know how these prices have been ascertained. Are they such as have been offered to the broker by certain importers, or are they the prices of all in the market? If only the former, then it is clear that higher prices may be paid than should, as the goods instead of being forced on the market, which would bring down the price, have as it were a market arranged for them, because they are taken by the broker for the Government, and other importers who have not the same chance of dis-

posal of their importations, must necessarily put them into the market, but at comparative disadvantage.

"Under our former system of competition there was a natural tendency to bring down the price. Our contracts were submitted to the most respectable firms, and whoever held goods of the description required, would tender at the lowest price, the lowest tender, if the party were known, being generally as a rule accepted; and no benefit could arise to any particular firm or trader by this course, and the goods at the same time took their proper position in the market. It would therefore appear, that by the broker, we have a partial price and a most limited selection of the goods. By competition, we obtain the lowest price, and select only such goods as we require, and at the same time encourage a more free importation of goods, which further tends to bring down the price.

"The difference of prices will appear more striking, on perusing Capt. Farmer's report, which shows that competition among importers and merchants could always ensure a fair and reasonable price, and would likewise be a course more satisfactory, both to the public and to them, than the system of the broker. If, however, it should be considered necessary to continue to employ a broker, I would suggest that our supplies be thrown open to all respectable importers and merchants, and the broker also, and then take the lowest tender, taking into consideration the commission to be paid to the broker; but under any circumstances, I should wish most distinctly to state, that I do not approve of having goods sent into me without a satisfactory inspection, which has been the case during the last year, because it has always been admitted, 'that the head of the department is the best judge of the quality and fitness of the different articles for their intended purpose,' and by a cursory vision of a stack of timber, a proper conclusion of its suitability cannot be arrived at.

"It is not intended in any way to interfere with the control of the Director-General of Contracts in the matter of contracts for the department; but I shall be most happy to submit a more extended list of importers or merchants, who might be invited to enter into competition for our supplies; the present list, perhaps, requiring some supervision in that respect.

"Signed,
"A. D. TULLOH."

213. Was your opinion invited upon that question when the letter came?—Yes.

214. Did you communicate your views to the Government?—Yes; I called for a special reply from the brokers upon the points that were raised; the matter was gone very fully into with Sir Benjamin Hawes, and formed a subject of special inquiry.

215. From what brokers did you receive a special reply?—From Messrs. Churchill and Sim, who had been the brokers employed.

216. Was Mr. Leary employed then?—Not at that time.

217. Has he been employed since?—Yes.

218. Is there any objection to our having the report of the brokers in answer to that letter of Colonel Tulloh and also that which Colonel Tulloh refers to, namely, the report of Captain Farmer?—I do not conceive that there is, subject of course to the decision of the Secretary of State. (See questions 613 and 614.)

219. If I gather rightly from that letter there was formerly a list of contractors for timber; something like the list which you now have at Pall Mall of contractors for other articles?—There was a list, and the parties upon that list used to be applied to for their prices, and the lowest was accepted.

220. Subject I suppose to possible objection?—I do not know that any objection was raised.

221. If the inspection were to take place at the spot where the timber lies, so as to avoid the inconvenience and expense of the carriage of rejections, and timber to replace rejections, what is the objection to that system?—The first point that called my attention to

it was a large contract that we had for deals in July 1855. A demand was received from the storekeeper's department at Woolwich for 10,000 deals; 5,000 deals 3 by 9, and 5,000, 3 by 11. Tenders were called for, and the prices offered for proportionate quantities ranged from 39*l.* to 78*l.* for the deals 3 by 9; and from 48*l.* to 94*l.* for the deals 3 by 11. Those offers struck me as being very extraordinary; the difference in price between the respective parties was so very considerable. I sent for Messrs. Churchill and Sim to give me some information upon the subject. From them I learned that the prices that we were paying for the reception of our deals was considerably enhanced by the mode of their receipt at Woolwich; that they could be purchased at a very considerable reduction upon the tenders thus received upon public competition, particularly if they were taken upon a different system. I referred the matter to Woolwich, for the recommendation of the department, as to what they thought had best be done with regard to the deals required, as was the custom at that time, and is occasionally now. They recommended that they should be received from the respective parties at the prices that were tendered; that is, that we should take the 10,000 deals thus:—

2,500, 3 by 9, at	£39 5 0	from Dowson and Co.
1,000, " at	47 10 0	" S. Cross.
1,500, " at	48 7 6	" N. Fuller and Co.
1,300, 3 by 11, at	48 0 0	" Dowson and Co.
1,000, " at	59 10 0	" S. Cross.
1,500, " at	68 0 0	" J. Roberts.
1,200, " at	69 0 0	" A. Iveson.

The lowest offers.

They added, that those prices appeared to be not unreasonable, as we had paid Slee and Bulmer 60*l.* for 3 by 9, and Langton 64*l.* 15*s.*, Newton and Company 56*l.* 10*s.*, and Slee and Bulmer 79*l.* for 3 by 11. I did not think it expedient to adopt that course, and I recommended to the Clerk of the Ordnance, Mr. Monsell, that we should employ a broker to make the purchase, taking from the contractors those that were offered at the lowest price; therefore 2,500 deals, 3 by 9, were purchased at 39*l.* 5*s.*, and 1,300, 3 by 11, at 48*l.* Those were the lowest tender prices; all the rest were declined. I bought 1,000 deals, 3 by 11, from Messrs. Lucas, Brothers, the eminent builders, who happened to call upon me at Pall Mall at the time. Knowing them to be large holders of deals, I asked them if they had any Petersburg deals which they would be disposed to part with. They said they held a large stock, and did not care to sell; but if the Government, who were large customers, required deals, they would sell 1,000. I inquired the price; they named 40*l.* per 120, 12 feet by 11 and 3 inches, and I accepted them. I then instructed Messrs. Churchill and Sim to procure the remaining quantities; they bought 2,500 deals 3 by 9, and 2,700, 3 by 11; purchasing the former at 37*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* and the latter at 46*l.* The cost of the purchase, if made upon public tender, would have been 7,654*l.* 12*s.* 1*d.*; the actual cost was 6,174*l.* 3*s.* 3*d.* Therefore upon this single operation a saving of 1,480*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* was made by departing from the tender system, and buying as a merchant would buy. I will only add, not a deal was complained of.

222. Was not the saving effected not by employing the brokers, but by altering the conditions upon which the deals were inspected? Was not the increased price owing to the fact that the inspection took place here, and that there might have been rejections and expense in consequence of having to take those rejections back?—There was a difference on that account undoubtedly. The two changes were made at the same time. It was part of the arrangement when I came to discuss the matter with the brokers, that we should inspect the piles in the docks, setting aside those that were damaged or imperfect.

223. If that had been a portion of your contract when you submitted it to open competition, do not you think you might have bought deals as cheaply as

you afterwards did through the intervention of a broker?—I do not think that we should have bought them very much cheaper than the terms we had offered. The differences I have quoted are nothing compared with the difference in prices which existed upon the previous arrangement.

224. Why should a man sell to a broker more cheaply than he would under a contract, unless there is something in the mode in which the contract is completed, which operates as an inducement to sell to the broker?—The advantage of purchasing through a broker is this; the broker brings the whole range of the trade to bear upon the purchases. There may be importers who will not take the trouble to look after Government contracts, and do not care about Government contracts. The parties who sought for Government contracts were middle men, merchants who bought the timber and then sold it to the Government, often ascertaining the probable wants of the Government before the wants were made public, providing themselves with that stock which the Government required, and when we went to competition for timber, the consequence was that we paid extravagant prices.

225. Do you mean that the broker would seek out the original importer and save the Government paying the profits of the middle man?—I think you would get a better range through the broker than from the parties who were written to.

226. Does not that depend upon whether the broker chose to go and invite competition?—I assume that the broker does his duty.

227. Are the brokers also sellers for importers?—Yes, in some cases.

228. For instance, are Messrs. Churchill and Sim, or anybody else?—They have certain timber under their direction for sale.

229. Is not that timber almost under their control?—It is under their control.

230. Is not the custom in such a case for the importer to depend very much upon the good faith of the broker in whose charge he places his cargo for disposal?—Yes, but then the merchant knows what is the current market rate of the article he is about to sell; he places confidence in his broker as a matter of course. That must be the case for nine tenths of the produce imported into the port of London, which is sold through the intervention of brokers.

231. Is not it an awkward thing to place a man in the position of broker, both for seller and purchaser?—It is not necessarily the case that he has the goods to sell which you may want to buy, or that he would sell those goods to you at a higher rate than he could buy them of other parties. Occasionally the department has adopted this course:—The white wood trade is a very wide trade; certain importers will employ one broker, and certain other importers will employ another. We have asked two or three brokers to quote prices for white wood, when we have had occasion to buy it, and we have found that Messrs. Churchill and Sim have quoted prices lower than the prices named by the other brokers.

232. Was that in consequence of having goods of that kind in their hands for disposal?—I do not know the circumstances under which the prices were quoted. Mr. Sim would be able to tell you that; and I would suggest that he should be examined.

233. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are there many brokers in the timber trade?—I do not think there are a great many brokers; it is not like the trade in tea or sugar.

234. Or cotton?—No; perhaps there are as many timber brokers as cotton brokers in London.

235. Does not it sometimes happen that the broker may be both the buyer and the seller, as has been alluded to by the Chairman? He may be the seller of the best article which he, as the buying broker, can get for his client?—Undoubtedly.

236. It happens in other articles of foreign produce with which I am acquainted; but the broker in a case of that kind generally feels himself placed in a delicate situation, and in most instances, so far as I am

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aware, explains to the buyer that he has been all round the market, and that in all the articles which he has had submitted to him, and that the buyer requires, he sees none equal to a cargo which he has under his charge. Is that delicacy observed generally by your broker?—I think it is. Mr. Sim has occasionally mentioned that he has not been able to purchase timber more advantageously than timber under his control, in fact he was in a position which enabled him to sell timber more advantageously than he could buy it in the general market.

237. Of course in the case of timber samples are not produced as in the case of sugar, cotton, tea, and so forth?—No.

238. Is the Government official who has to receive and judge of the timber afterwards taken to the different piles and told, "This timber belongs to Mr. So-and-so, and this is my cargo; do not you think I am right?"—I do not know whether that is done; I have never gone round the wharf with the timber master when he has been to inspect timber. Mr. Sim would answer a question of that kind more readily than I can.

239. (*Chairman.*) Do brokers in general take double brokerage if they were employed for the seller as well as the buyer?—I suppose, if a stockbroker had 5,000*l.* consols to sell, and he had an order from another party to buy 5,000*l.*, it would be a question for him whether he would not ascertain the current market price and make the transfer, and he would charge brokerage to each party.

240. In the case of consols, the broker could ascertain the price and charge the same price to the seller?—Yes; he would take care to do justice; and a broker can only hold his business upon the principle of acting with the most perfect integrity and uprightness in his transactions.

241. I am going to put various questions to you, which you will take of course as mere inquiries, and not as implying any belief on our part, but they are matters which must be investigated; can you recollect a purchase of African teak last month?—Yes.

242. Can you state me about the quantity?—I think the purchase consisted of 200 loads.

243. Can you state the price per load which was charged to the Government?—We have been buying Moulmein teak at 10 guineas per load, and we have been selecting from the A and the B piles a small quantity at 10*l.*

244. Was that difference in price in consequence of difference in length or size?—Difference in size; there are four respective classes of teak; the first size is the A pile, which is the largest size, 15 inches and upwards; then there is the B pile, a smaller size, 12 inches to 15; and the C pile, a smaller size still, 10 inches to 12; they must all be of a certain length, more than twenty-three feet long; and there is the D pile also, which is the defective wood of all sizes.

245. What did you pay for the African teak last month?—I should like to refer to the particulars, inasmuch as a very considerable number of prices are passing before me every day, and I should wish to be accurate. I have references to certain prices three or four years ago.

246. Can you call to mind the order that you gave for that teak? was it merely a general order, such as you have mentioned, to buy a certain quantity as cheaply as you can, or was it an order limiting the broker at all in price?—I knew that the market was very favourable to purchase; therefore the broker was instructed to buy, and he reported such prices as had been made as soon as they were made.

247. You mentioned the prices of 10 guineas and 10*l.*?—We have bought some as low as 10*l.*

248. Have you ever paid as high as 15*l.* within the last three months?—Not for teak.

249. African teak?—It all comes from Moulmein. A quantity used to come from the Malabar coast, but I am not aware of any African teak.

250. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is not teak brought from Sierra Leone?—I think not; African oak we buy occasionally.

251. (*Chairman.*) Did you appoint Messrs. Churchill and Sim as brokers?—I recommended them.

252. Did you appoint Mr. Leary?—I recommended Mr. Leary.

253. When you purchase through brokers, does the money go through their hands?—The money is paid to them.

254. Although they may not be brokers for the seller?—The money is paid to the brokers always.

255. (*Mr. Turner.*) You are speaking of your own practice, and not of the general practice?—We pay to the broker.

256. (*Chairman.*) Do you know anybody besides the broker in the transaction?—We always call upon the broker to state the name of the seller.

257. Supposing he does not happen to be the broker for the seller, how are you discharged by payment of the broker?—We are discharged by the current commercial law of the country; a broker is employed to make a purchase, and you pay that broker the amount, after he has delivered the goods, and they are approved. The broker sends a duplicate of his purchase-note to the seller as well as to the buyer, and if the seller does not give you notice that the amount should be paid to him you are right in payment to the broker.

258. Has your broker authority to name the Government as the purchaser on his note?—It is known that the Government is the purchaser because the timber has to be approved by Government officers. If I were the seller of property, and I did not feel confidence in the broker, I should give notice to the buyer that he must pay me; I should not employ such a broker.

259. While these purchases by brokers have been going on, have you had offers from time to time from individuals to supply the articles wanted at a lower price than you were paying through brokers?—I have had offers sent at higher prices, but I know of no instance in which a lower price has been offered for equally good timber. We had an offer the other day of teak at 12 guineas, and another at 11*l.*, but without quoting any particular cargo. When I made inquiry with regard to the offer at 12 guineas, and asked the party who made the offer the name of the ship from whence the cargo was to be delivered, I found that it was a cargo which had been examined by the officer from Woolwich who had pronounced it to be totally unfit for the service, and of course I declined the proposal.

260. If I understand you rightly, you have always so entirely relied upon the broker as never to call for evidence to satisfy you that the timber has been bought at the lowest price?—We have relied upon our broker. If a broker has instructions to purchase, and a party offered any particular cargo, we should communicate to the broker that such a cargo had been offered, and beg that he would see it before he determined upon his purchase; but it would be his duty to see it quite irrespectively of those particular instructions.

261. You say that payment is made to the broker; is it made to the broker in the same way that it would be made to the contractor, or more promptly?—No; in the same way as to a contractor. We endeavour to pay within the time. We pay within a month from the time of delivery; that is the period usually taken. We pay as soon as the goods are delivered and passed.

262. Have you never had such a case as a seller, from whom the Government broker has purchased, calling upon the Government to pay him direct?—I do not recollect such a case at the present moment. I do not think we have. I think there was one case, not in regard to a broker. We have occasionally had a contractor, who would perhaps request that the payments might be made to his banker. The banker might have made advances to the contractor, and taken authority to receive the amount from the War Office.

263. Do you ever pay the broker before the timber is delivered?—No; we always get the goods and approve of them, before any payment is made.

264. (*Mr. Turner.*) Whose duty is it to see that the goods are delivered to you?—The broker makes the delivery, and the department here receives the supplies, examines them, and sends up the certificates of approval.

265. Does your payment depend upon the time of the delivery of the goods here and the acknowledgment of their receipt?—Clearly so.

266. You do not conform to the usual terms of the trade?—What we do, is this; when a contract is made, it is communicated by my branch to the accountant-general; the contract is sent on to him that he may see the original document, and a communication is made to the department that is to receive the stores, that they are to receive certain articles at a certain price. When the articles are delivered, the bills are presented and are certified and approved by the receiving officer, and he forwards them to the accountant-general for payment, and the payment takes its ordinary course.

267. Then you fix the terms of your payment, and do not conform to the terms of the trade; you make exceptional terms of your own?—We make terms of our own. With regard to some purchases we get the advantage of discount; discounts are allowed in the purchase of copper; it is bought at a certain credit, and is subject to 3 per cent. discount, and we get advantage of that discount. The broker secures the same advantage for us that he would secure for a merchant.

268. In the case of timber it is not quite so, is it?—In the case of timber there is a fixed price, and payment within a month.

269. Would those be my terms if I bought timber?—I believe a very large quantity of timber is sold at six months' credit; in fact, I think six months is the current credit in the timber trade.

270. (*Chairman.*) Colonel Tulloh alludes in his letter to one of the effects of competition as encouraging a freer importation of goods; do you agree with that?—The freedom of importation depends upon the advantage the merchant anticipates from the operation.

271. That is only carrying it one step further; does the merchant anticipate less advantage from the system of brokerage?—No, certainly not.

272. Is the importation of timber as free as it used to be?—Quite; it cannot be affected by the question, not the shadow of a shade.

273. May it not, if you leave any discretion to your broker, and the broker chooses to say, I will not purchase timber of such a man?—Whatever mode of purchase you may choose to adopt cannot affect the importation. Take the article of teak, supposing we are going to lay out 10,000*l.* or 15,000*l.* in teak, the mode of purchase will not affect the year's importation so as to make it more or less.

274. Might it not affect the importation of a particular individual, supposing you depute to a broker the right to purchase, and the broker chooses to decline dealing with a particular person?—Then that person will employ some other broker, and find some other means of selling; it would not affect the merchant's operation. If a broker were once to say, I will not buy of any particular party, he would very soon lose his brokerage; he must buy where he can buy the cheapest.

275. I am quoting the opinion expressed by a gentleman who is the head of the department here in that branch, and who gives his opinion that purchase by brokerage does check importation; you do not agree with him?—I do not.

276. Is there any particular description of timber that is used by the Government only?—I do not know what kind of timber that could be.

277. Do you know such timber as African mahogany?—African mahogany cannot be obtained; it was formerly brought here, but of late years it has

not been brought. Messrs. Foster and Smith have been desirous of encouraging the trade; they are African merchants of great means and experience, and they made importations in former years, but they have had no importations lately. African mahogany is only to be had in the interior, and the difficulty of cutting it and bringing it down to the coast is too great to allow of its exportation.

278. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you look sharp after your broker, and see that he does justice in the market?—We do look sharp after our broker, and we believe that he does us justice in the market.

279. I have a good deal to do with cotton brokers, and if my purchases are not made satisfactorily to myself, I consider it part of my business to look very sharply after the broker who makes the purchases to see that he does me justice; and one of my continual inquiries is what cotton is offered in the market generally, and are my purchases as good as my neighbours; am I laying in my raw material as cheaply and as well as my neighbours, otherwise I have not the slightest chance of competition. Is not there some check required, even over the Government broker, to see that he is not led by the temptations incident to human nature or otherwise to deal rather too much in one line, because it suits him from various other business arrangements, when he could do better by searching in the market more diligently, considering him as the servant of the Government, who are his principals?—I consider that he is bound to regard himself as the servant of the Government in execution of their orders, and to search the market most diligently to see that he gets the best article at the cheapest rate; he has been repeatedly called upon and warned that the Secretary of State expects him to exercise watchfulness in this respect. I have occasionally visits from parties who are interested in the trade, and I hear from them the current rates that are paying for the article, and I keep as close a watch upon it as I can; I believe that we are as faithfully and ably served as we can be.

280. Why have the Government brokers been occasionally warned?—Once I had a letter from a Mr. Roberts, who stated that he had a certain quantity of timber which he could have offered, and which had not been looked at. I wrote immediately to the brokers, and desired them to go into every quarter wherever timber was to be met with at all available for the service, and to see the timber that Mr. Roberts had for sale, and to ascertain whether it was suitable, and if it was suitable and the price was advantageous, of course to make the purchases accordingly.

281. Is not that always the *bonâ fide* duty of the broker if he performs his functions properly?—No doubt of it.

282. (*Colonel French.*) Cannot you conduct the brokerage yourself?—No, I have too much to do, and I have not the necessary information.

283. (*Chairman.*) Was Mr. Roberts' cargo to which you have referred looked at by the brokers?—I wrote to the brokers desiring them to see the timber that Mr. Roberts had for sale, and I believe that the brokers made some communication with him, but I believe also that he declined to communicate with them.

284. Did they not report about that very cargo, that it was not fit for the service? Can you give the date?—I cannot. I think it is a year and a half or two years ago. I cannot state the precise particulars.

285. Look at that letter (*handing a letter to the witness*)?—That is a letter written by a gentleman in my branch. "War Office, Pall Mall, Sept. 25, 1856.—"Sir, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant respecting your offer of African timber for service of this department, and I am to inform you that it is stated that the timber in question did not meet the requirements of the service. I am, sir, your obedient servant, R. Gwyn, for D. C.—Mr. J. Roberts, Blackwall."

WOOLWICH.

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286. Do you know whether that timber was afterwards received by the timber master?—I cannot say. I have no reason to suppose that it was.

287. I suppose it will occasionally happen that you are obliged to put up with timber that at one time you may have rejected?—Sometimes such a thing may occur.

288. Have you ever had complaints made to you of the proceedings of the brokers?—I have.

289. By many parties?—Not by many parties. Mr. Roberts has complained once or twice that he has occasionally not been applied to. One other party said that he had some timber, and that he had not been applied to in that case.

290. Did they complain that their timber had not been purchased from?—Not looked at, that their timber had not been taken into account.

291. Do you remember a case not long after that, about two years ago, of some Porto Rico mahogany?—I do not.

292. Look at these letters (*two letters being handed to the witness*)?—Both these letters are signed by me. I recollect this transaction very well.

293. Can you explain it?—I believe some timber was received here, and Mr. Roberts wrote a letter to me to state that certain timber was being delivered which was of inferior quality. I immediately sent his letter down to Colonel Tulloh. Colonel Tulloh answered, saying, that he was a little surprised that any such report should be made; that, in fact, the timber had already been inspected by proper parties and had been rejected.

294. Is any record kept of the rejections which have taken place under inspections in the dock, where the timber is piled?—I do not imagine that any record would be made of the timber that was set aside in the docks. The inspectors mark what they approve, and the rest is put on one side.

295. An officer from this place goes up to make that inspection?—Yes.

296. Have you any means of ascertaining what those rejections have been, because you have paid a higher price sometimes in consequence of those rejections, if I understand you rightly?—I dare say the broker will be able to tell you the proportion of rejections.

297. You still think, as regards foreign timber, that it is the cheaper and better plan to employ a broker?—Yes, I think it is cheaper and better.

298. Wholly apart from the question of where the things are inspected?—Yes, wholly apart from that question. Perhaps I may be permitted to say that upon this very question representations were made to General Peel as to the impolicy of employing brokers; those representations came from parties who had previously been contractors. In consequence of that I wrote this letter to Messrs. Baring, Brothers:—"Gentlemen, Will you be pleased to state, for the information of General Peel, what means of purchase your firm would adopt if you were called upon to obtain and ship for a foreign correspondent 500 loads of teak and 10,000 deals, Archangel or Onega. I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant, Thomas Howell. War Office, July 2, 1858." Messrs. Baring, Brothers, in their answer say, "We should say, that a commercial house would be guided by their knowledge of the market as to the proper time and as to the most efficient broker to select to effect a purchase for a foreign correspondent. Baring, Brothers, and Company." We are only anxious to spend the public money in the best possible way. We have taken great pains, and I am sure we have materially improved the quality of a great many articles.

299. Is there any power of rejection after the selection has been made by the brokers?—Not after the timber has been approved by the officers. The broker brings into competition the whole range of the market. Just as with regard to cotton cloth, there may be certain manufacturers who would not compete for the supply under ordinary circumstances of 100,000

yards of cotton, with our usual terms and conditions, who would supply the commission agent; so the broker is brought into communication for the department with certain importers of timber, who never would have thought of tendering for a supply of timber to the department in the ordinary way.

300. Can you give the names of any of them?—Messrs. Sewell and Company is one house. We have also bought of Cheswright and Sheffield, Boulcott and Co., Mr. Brandt, and others, who never tendered upon competition, though all large importers. Mr. Sim will be able to give you the names much more correctly, but in the return preparing you will find the sellers' names.

301. Do you wish to make any further statement?—I have made reference to the prices that were paid for deals two years before, in 1854 for instance, and I find it stated that on the 14th of March 1854, 4,000 Petersburg deals were bought, which were paid for at 80*l.*, 90*l.*, and 120*l.* per double standard. That was a contract with Mr. Roberts, and if those prices are compared with the prices that were subsequently paid for the same kind of timber I believe they will be found about 100 per cent. in advance.

302. When was the lesser price paid?—In August 1855. The higher rate was paid in March 1854, when the probability of war was very imminent, and 18 months later, when we were in the midst of the war, before Sebastopol was taken, and when the trade had consequently been still more paralyzed, 46*l.* was paid. It is quite right it should be considered that those deals had to be delivered at the arsenal, and to be inspected here, all the rejections to be returned, and to be made up. Consequently something ought to be allowed for the mode of delivery and taken from the difference of price, as well as the alteration in the market between the respective periods.

303. How many kinds of Russian deals are there?—The Russian deals come from three places, St. Petersburg, Onega, and Archangel.

304. Did not other Russian goods besides timber rise in price at the commencement of the war?—All Russian goods advanced in price as soon as the war commenced.

305. Did not hemp suddenly rise in March 1854?—Enormously.

306. Did not hemp rise at that time from 35*l.* to 70*l.*, and during the heat of the war fall to 40*l.*?—I believe it did.

307. Did any trade go on in deals during the war?—There was a certain quantity of deals brought from Russia during the war.

308. Would not the very high price give an impetus to the trade?—Yes; I believe the French and English admirals allowed certain cargoes to come out during the time the war was going on, from certain ports in Russia.

309. There may be a great variety of causes for fluctuation of price; do you think it is safe to attribute the reduction of price to your system of purchasing by brokers, if there is any other sufficient reason for the alteration?—We must not take credit for anything we do not thoroughly deserve; no credit should be given to any change of system which that change of system does not justify; but I am satisfied we have saved large sums by employing brokers.

310. Did not Russian produce generally rise rapidly in price at the commencement of the war, and fall before the war was over?—I believe that was the case with all Russian produce.

311. Might not that be attributable to the fact that in anticipation of the war, the price would rise very much, and a stimulus would be given to whatever importation took place?—It is a very likely thing that prices would be higher at the commencement of the war than six or eight months after. Everything is discounted commercially.

312. At that time, was not there a very small quantity of deals in the market?—I have the current mercantile price of deals at the time; there were

sales of Onega deals made in the month of March 1854, at 45*l.* 5*s.*, and we paid from 80*l.* to 120*l.* for the same kind of deals.

313. Why?—On account of the selection.

314. If deals were being sold at 45*l.*, why should not you have bought them at 45*l.*?—They were sold at 45*l.* to the public, and our contract price for what was received here was as I tell you.

315. Had that higher price anything to do with the question whether they were bought by brokers, or by competition?—If at that time the Board of Ordnance, instead of going to competition for those deals for which that price was paid, had chosen to have employed a broker, they would have bought at the current rate, subject to such additional charge as might have been arranged for the reception and examination of the goods, as we have subsequently done; they would have bought, I have no doubt, at a saving of 30 or 40 per cent.

316. If tenders had been put out for competition with the system of inspection in the docks, do not you think the deals might have been bought at the same price?—Those prices were based upon tenders, upon public competition, and upon inspection upon delivery at Woolwich.

317. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do Churchill and Sim render the name of the seller?—Yes.

318. Have they on any occasion rendered the name of "Sim" as the seller?—Never, so far as I can recollect.

319. Is the name of the selling broker and his principal given?—I do not think they gave us the name of the seller in the first instance. I believe it is not customary for the broker to give the name of the seller in the note of purchase. If you go into Mincing-lane and buy 100 tons of sugar, you may get a note given to you as the purchaser, in which the seller's name is not mentioned.

320. When the invoice comes in have you no intimation of the seller's name?—No, I think not; the broker sends the sold note. I think if you were to employ a broker to buy 1,000 chests of tea, or 100 tons of sugar, he would probably give a note of the purchase which he had made for you, "bought on your account;" he would not give the name of the seller of the sugar, or the seller of the tea.

321. Then you have only his own word that there has been any purchase at all, and that he has not given you his own property?—Yes; but of course before he asks you for the money he gives you the weight notes in the first instance, or the warrants in the second. I thought that the broker ought necessarily to state the name of the seller of any article he bought for the Secretary of State, and it is done.

322. Have you insisted upon it?—We have insisted upon it.

323. Have you had it attended to?—Yes.

324. So that you now know from whom you buy?—Yes, everything; that has been altered a long time ago.

325. (*Chairman.*) Do you know the name of the selling broker?—We have nothing to do with the selling broker; we know that the broker has bought certain goods of certain parties.

326. Whether he was broker for the selling principal or not you do not know?—That we do not know; we pay him a commission for his selection, but we do not know whether he has the particular class of timber unless he mentions it, which Mr. Sim has done occasionally. He has said, "I have had an opportunity of doing better for you than I could have done in the open market, inasmuch as this cargo has been sold for a certain price. It was placed in my hands for sale."

Adjourned to To-morrow at Half-past Eleven o'clock.

WOOLWICH.

Wednesday, 27th October 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq. in the Chair.

Captain WILLIAM BLOSSE examined.

327. (*Chairman.*) You are in the Royal Artillery?—Yes; in the 12th battalion.

328. Are you stationed at Woolwich?—Yes.

329. Have you any statement to make to the Commissioners with respect to clothing?—Under the new clothing establishment I do not think that the clothing has improved in material, or that the soldiers have at all benefited by the system adopted in issuing it out to them.

330. What have been your means of forming a judgment upon that head?—I have to inspect every suit that is issued to the men under my command, about 136 a year, and in no instance have I ever seen the clothes fit.

331. What have been the defects?—The clothing has been generally issued made up by contractors; the buttons did not meet the button holes.

332. Of what period are you speaking?—Of the clothing issued for 1857–58 and 1858–59; issued on the 1st of April, or should be issued.

333. Are you correct in stating that the clothing for the artillery is now made up by contractors?—I have every reason to believe that it is made up in different

sizes. I think there are 12 sizes; it is then issued to the men, and has to be altered. The royal warrant, as far as I remember, states that there are so many different sizes, and it ought to fit without any after alteration; but instead of that I have not seen it fit in a single instance, and it always has to be altered, at a charge of 6*d.* against the man and 6*d.* against the public. In some instances I have known 2*s.* charged against the men; but in those instances the men consented to it, as the clothing was so bad that the tailor could not alter it to fit.

334. We are led to understand that an alteration has been made within the last year or two with reference to the whole of the artillery clothing supplied; will you therefore be good enough to fix the date at which the defective clothing was issued that you complain of?—I am talking of the clothing issued about the end of May or the beginning of June 1858, to last up to the 31st of March 1859. I am also talking of the clothing issued in the previous year. This clothing was issued made up; and I think if the Government were to make it up in their own establishment to fit the individual, it could be issued to him for nothing.

WOOLWICH.

T. Howell, Esq.

26th Oct. 1858.

WOOLWICH.

Captain
William Blosse.

27th Oct. 1858.

WOOLWICH.

Captain
William Blosse.

27th Oct. 1858.

335. Are not you mistaken in supposing that the clothing for this year for the artillery has been furnished made up by contract? We have been told that it has been made up in Woolwich; and we have seen recruits fitted with it?—Recruits may have been. What was served out to me was not made up in Woolwich.

336. You have been some time in the army, and must be cognizant of the old system; what difference is there in that respect?—There is no great difference, I believe; there were different size rolls, and of late there has been a greater number of sizes than formerly.

337. Is the want of fit in the clothing an objection that always existed?—It is an objection that always existed, and I think it is capable of remedy.

338. The misfit does not arise from the present system, as contra-distinguished from the former system, does it?—No. The former system I know very little about, as I was not in a position to see its working.

339. What is the alteration that you would suggest, to secure the fitting of the clothes?—If you take the instance of a gentleman who has a livery servant, whom he clothes; he gives him a suit of livery to fit; he does not take the lining out, and give him no padding, or give him a coat which does not fit him.

340. How is it possible to avoid that, unless you have regimental tailors, and the whole of the clothing is made up at the regiment itself?—If the tunics are sent into a Government store made up it is obvious that the Government must have paid for the sewing of them together, and it would be as easy for the Government to make them fit the men in the first instance as to put them on men they do not fit, and have them altered.

341. Though that may be so if the man is on the spot, is not the case different if he is at Hong Kong? The Royal Artillery is spread all over the world. Can you suggest any mode by which the clothing can be fitted, except by size rolls, which are an approximation to a fit?—The clothes need not be sewn together at all. A great part have to be unsewn before they can be made to fit the men. They might be sent out ready cut.

342. Who is to sew them up?—The tailors.

343. Would you suggest the adoption of the French system?—Yes.

344. (*Colonel French.*) Do not a certain number of tailors go out with a company, and are not the youths employed in altering the clothing, if it is necessary?—Yes.

345. (*Chairman.*) Is the cutting bad, in your opinion?—The cutting is bad, and the greater portion of it ought never to have been passed. The buttons and the button holes did not meet, and the sewing is so bad that it has to be ripped open and sewn over again before the men wear it. I am speaking of the clothing of this year and last year.

346. (*Colonel French.*) Do not you consider the cloth of a superior quality?—I do not see the slightest difference; if anything, I think it is more spongy.

347. (*Chairman.*) Have you seen any clothing that has been made up at Woolwich?—I am speaking of the clothing of my own company when I saw it first put on the men. I had to pass every suit before it was issued.

348. Are you speaking of cloth, or of clothing made up at Woolwich, or of the old contract system?—I had no means of knowing where the tunics which came to Athlone were made, or where they came from. They may have come from the west of England or the north. They were issued in a certain state, I know.

349. Have you never had the curiosity to go over the interesting establishment for making the clothing at Woolwich?—No.

350. It is suggested that there was a considerable quantity of garments furnished by contractors, which, not having been used, might have been issued, for instance, to your battalion when it was at Athlone.

Are you in a condition to state whether the clothing of which you complain was furnished by contractors, or whether it was made up in the Government establishment?—I had no means of knowing, except when it came into my hands. Where it came from I do not know.

351. (*Colonel French.*) What is the opinion of your men with regard to the present clothing? They have worn it for some time?—They have had it on since the beginning of June.

352. What do your sergeants and privates think of the clothing?—The sergeants' clothing is very much improved; it is a different cloth entirely to what is given to the men.

353. What do the men think of the clothing? How have they found it wear?—It wears, but with the least wet it shrinks dreadfully. You will see the trousers get up the legs.

354. How do the coats wear?—With regard to the substance of the cloth, it does not get into holes. I think it is superior to the infantry cloth.

355. How does it wear, comparing it with the clothing that was formerly in use?—I can see no improvement whatever.

356. As your company is in Woolwich, could not you bring before us a sergeant and a private, that we may see the clothing?—Yes. It is none of it very much worn, having only been issued at the beginning of June.

357. (*Chairman.*) Are you able to compare the present clothing with the clothing which was issued five or six years ago?—I can, from memory.

358. Do you think it is better or worse, or equal?—I do not think it is a bit better.

359. Do you think it is worse?—No, I do not think it is worse.

360. What would you suggest as the means of improving it?—I think the Government ought to get cloth in large quantities, cut it themselves to the sizes of the men, and send it either sewed up or ready to be made up by the companies afterwards. By sending it in sufficient time I do not think there would be any inconvenience. I would not employ contractors to sew it or send it in. I think the Government should have the proper material in their possession, and, if necessary, get proper establishments of civilians, so as not to depend upon a number of military tailors; and keep up the proper supply. The Government pay no taxes for their houses, and they can at least compete with the contractors.

361. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is it not somewhat singular that you should be in barracks here, and not know that the very system which you advocate exists?—I am not let into the secrets of the establishment. I only know the clothing that is delivered to me.

362. (*Chairman.*) Have any recruits joined your battalion lately?—Several.

363. How are they clothed?—I cannot answer that. The men are handed over to me on parade, and I take them over.

364. Does the objection which you have stated to the clothing issued to you last May at Athlone apply to the clothing of the recruits who have joined at Woolwich since you have been here?—I know nothing about the late recruits; they are sent down to the clothing establishment, and how they are clothed there I do not know; their things may be either made for them, cut off the cloth, or they may be some old clothing.

365. As a matter of fact, have you noticed any objection to the clothing of recruits when they have joined at Woolwich, or do your observations apply exclusively to the clothing furnished to you in May last when you were at Athlone?—I know nothing about the clothing furnished to recruits; they are not posted to companies till after they have been clothed.

366. When they have been posted to companies, have you found any objection in their clothes?—I have not observed any difference in it. I should think

it was the same, as far as appearance goes, as that issued to the remainder of the men.

367. (*Colonel French.*) Did you say that in the clothing that was issued at Athlone there was any lining?—The greater part of it was ready made.

368. That is the way the infantry get their clothing; of course it is fitted to the men afterwards. Do you mean to say that the lining was not in the clothing?—The lining was in, but there was no padding or stuffing, which the soldier has to put in at his own expense.

369. What does it cost a soldier in your company?—The men that were at Athlone, under me, were charged $10\frac{1}{2}d.$, that was $4\frac{1}{2}d.$ for padding, and $6d.$, the charge allowed by the Government, and there was also $6d.$ more paid by the country.

370. You are allowed to do that in the artillery, but in the infantry we are not allowed to do it. Are you aware of that?—I do not know whether it is allowed. I know it is the habit. Some of the men were charged $2s. 10\frac{1}{2}d.$ I should like to see shoemakers and bootmakers connected with the regiments to do the repairs, in the same way that the French do. When our army went out to the Crimea the boots of the men were dropping off their feet, and there were no earthly means of repairing them, except by some two or three men who might happen to be in each

Quartermaster Commissary GEORGE GRANT examined.

376. (*Chairman.*) What is your office?—I am commissary of clothing for the Royal Artillery.

377. Who is the head of that department?—Colonel Bingham, the deputy adjutant-general of artillery.

378. How long have you filled your office here?—I was appointed in May 1856.

379. Was that upon the formation of the establishment?—Yes.

380. Does that establishment provide clothing for the whole of the artillery?—It is intended to do so.

381. Hitherto for what portion of the artillery has the establishment provided clothing?—Only a very small portion of the artillery has yet been provided with clothing made up at the establishment.

382. I believe there is only one regiment of artillery, consisting of 14 battalions?—Consisting, in the first place, of horse artillery, 14 battalions, of battalion artillery, and a small battalion of invalids.

383. What is the aggregate establishment?—The establishment, I believe, is between 27,000 and 28,000.

384. What proportion of clothing for the artillery has been provided by the department of which you have the superintendence?—When the clothing was removed from the arsenal to the establishment there was a large surplus of contract clothing on hand, which surplus has been issued since the formation of the establishment, and the new clothing made at the establishment is now accumulating for issue next year.

385. Shall you issue clothing for the whole of the artillery next year?—Not quite; there is still sufficient contract clothing to supply a considerable part of the artillery on foreign service next year.

386. Was the made-up clothing furnished by contractors?—Yes; by Stephens and Clark; they furnished a portion made-up, and a portion in what is called a basted state; cut out, but not made.

387. Was that clothing made up at the depôt?—Wherever the troops were stationed who required clothing.

388. By whom was it made up?—By military tailors, generally.

389. Has the custom with the artillery been to have a certain number of military tailors appointed to each troop or company?—Yes.

390. How many?—Always two; sometimes three or four; seldom more than four.

391. Would four military tailors have been sufficient to have made up the clothing, supposing it had

company, and understood the business, and they had no tools to work with. I think also clothing ought to be sent to the soldier free of all charge. I think the Government, conducting the whole business itself, could do it without any extra charge to the public. After all, the charge that the man has by regulation to pay is so small that really with proper management it might be entirely done away with.

371. (*Chairman.*) Unless you had a staff of artisans attached to regiments for actually making the cloth into clothing in the field, what other process than the present could be adopted?—The French were always clothed in the Crimea.

372. Were you in the Crimea?—I was there for a short time.

373. Did you never hear it stated that the French system, which was thought so superior to ours, broke down, and they were obliged to give up making clothing, and contract with a clothier in Paris?—I have heard so; but they had an enormous force out there.

374. Are not emergencies just the times which try a system?—If a break-down took place in the French system you would not have perceived it. The French army was well clothed and well shod.

375. When do you receive your clothing?—About two months before it ought to be issued.

all been basted, as you describe?—No; excepting in places where there was a great number of companies congregated, such as Gibraltar or any large garrison; and in that case they must have obtained the assistance of civilians, which they often had when they required it, and they must have had the clothing at a very early date.

392. Will you shortly state the system by which in future at your establishment the clothing is to be provided for the artillery?—A demand is made out annually, and sent to the War Department by the deputy adjutant-general, for the quantity of clothing materials which will require to be provided for the next year. The cloth has hitherto been delivered at Weedon, where it is inspected, and if it is found equal to pattern it is forwarded to the establishment according as it is required. The whole of the other materials are delivered at Woolwich by the contractors.

393. Are those contracts direct with the Government, or through the intervention of the regimental authorities?—Directly with the Government.

394. Does that include boots?—Yes; everything but cloth.

395. Have you now a considerable quantity of cloth in store?—We have jacket cloth at Woolwich, perhaps sufficient for half the year's clothing; not so much overall cloth; but I believe there is a considerable quantity of artillery cloth in store at Weedon, and we shall get it from Weedon as we require it.

396. Is the cloth henceforward to be delivered at Woolwich?—At Weedon, I presume, until that establishment is given up.

397. Have you any inspectors here for cloth?—None.

398. Are the remaining articles of the soldier's equipments, such as boots, shirts, and stockings, also delivered direct to this place?—Direct to Woolwich.

399. Have you any made-up clothing now delivered by contractors here?—None.

400. You have heard what Captain Blosse has just said. He seemed to find fault with the clothing of last year. Was any portion of that clothing for which you are responsible?—No; that was surplus contract clothing in store, and of course was the first issued.

401. We saw yesterday some cloth, which justified the evidence given, of a spongy character, as compared with the improved cloth which is now in process of issue. Was that coat which you showed to us a fair specimen of the clothing now in store delivered by the contractors?—Yes.

WOOLWICH.

Captain
William Blosse.

27th Oct. 1858.

Quartermaster
Commissary
George Grant.

WOOLWICH.

Quartermaster
Commissary
George Grant.

27th Oct. 1858.

402. The new cloth you think is much better?—
Very much better; much superior altogether.

403. Is the cloth not only finer but more durable,
or as durable?—Quite as durable.

404. (*Mr. Turner.*) I understand that you do not
expect even next year to clothe the whole of the
artillery, and that you have a stock on hand of the
old contract clothing?—Yes.

405. How shall you dispose of that old contract
clothing? I presume you cannot deliver to the same
battalion two different descriptions of coats? Would
not some of the men be discontented if they got the
contract coat, and their comrades had the new cloth that
you are now cutting?—The whole of the old pattern
clothing will be sent abroad, and next year's issue
we expect will use the whole of it up. The battalions
at home will receive the new pattern.

406. Do you think that your establishment will be
able to make arrangements for clothing the whole of
the artillery without contracting for any more gar-
ments?—Yes.

407. (*Colonel French.*) You have stated that the
companies abroad have not sufficient men to make up
the clothing, and that they generally employ civilians
to assist them. How are those civilians paid?—The
companies abroad have always received made-up
clothing entirely, excepting a few suits in material to
fit extraordinary-sized men.

408. Still you have stated that they were obliged to
employ civilians to assist them?—That would refer
rather to the home stations than abroad. In home
stations, under the contract system, our clothing was
always supplied in material, what we call "basted,"
and then the military tailors had to make it up.

409. How were the civilians paid?—The civilians
would be paid from the allowance for making up the
clothing, and what the men would pay in addition to
that allowance; that was the only way that we had
of avoiding the objections which Captain Blosse com-
plained of with respect to the misfitting of the con-
tract clothing.

410. Can you get civilians to work at as low a rate
as the soldiers work? What is the allowance you
give a military tailor per diem?—The whole of our
tailors work by the piece; they get so much for each
garment; they do not work by the day.

411. What do they get?—A portion of the clothing
named in the return was made by the military tailors
and a portion by civilians, consequently that is neither
exactly the military price nor the civilian price. A
tailor in the artillery for making a tunic is allowed
2s. 8d., and a civilian 4s. 6d.

412. (*Chairman.*) The average is 4s., according to
your return?—Yes. (Parl. Paper, No. 398, 1858;
Appendix No. 7.)

413. You have put down the cost of a tunic fur-
nished by Stephens and Clark under their last con-
tract at 17. 4s. 3d.?—Yes.

414. Are you aware whether there was any com-
petition in that case?—I am not aware whether
there was or not; but I am aware that the contract
of Stephens and Clark was extended for a year, on
their former prices; but those are the contract prices
which were established under competition.

415. How do you know that?—I cannot bring for-
ward any evidence to prove it, but I understand that
the clothing of the artillery was put out to the other
contractors some four years, I should say, previously
to the breaking up of the system.

416. Was that at the time when the double-breasted
coat or the new tunic was the uniform?—I believe
it was the coat; but new prices were offered by
Stephens and Clark at the establishment of the tunic.
Whether it was put to open competition or not, I am
not aware.

417. When you are calculating the saving by means
of your establishment, is it not a material element in
your computation whether the price which you con-
trast with it was a price obtained by open competition
or merely by private contract?—I am not aware
whether there was open competition.

418. Of what does your present establishment con-
sist? How many military tailors have you?—
About 120.

419. And about how many civilians?—Say 200.
The numbers of civilians and military fluctuate very
much; but 120 and 200 would be as near the mark as
possible.

420. You have furnished an elaborate return to the
Contracts' Committee purporting to show the expenses
of your establishment, contrasting them with the
former cost. Is it a calculation, or the result of actual
expenditure?—It is the result of actual expenditure.

421. Have you more military tailors than there
used to be employed?—Not one. Although I say
we have 120 military tailors employed at the estab-
lishment, they are only employed about one-third of
their time in making clothing for the establishment;
the other two-thirds of their time being spent in
making and fitting clothing for the non-commissioned
officers and men; so that the establishment is only to
be considered as chargeable with one-third of the time
of the military tailors employed there.

422. Why do you pay the military tailors a very
much smaller sum than the civilian tailors?—Because
they have their military pay. However the military
tailor is employed, he always gets his military pay.

423. (*Colonel French.*) Do you charge the military
pay in the comparison which you have made with
regard to the expense of clothing?—No. Those men
were always employed at tailoring under the contract
system, therefore it would be fair to throw them out
in each case in drawing the comparison.

424. (*Chairman.*) In addition to the price paid to
Stephens and Clark, you had military tailors employed
under the old system?—Yes; to the same number at
least.

425. What were they doing?—They were making
up the clothing which Stephens and Clark furnished
in material or basted, which was the manner of
clothing the whole of the artillery at home.

426. Did Stephens and Clark charge 17. 4s. 3d.
for a coat when it was basted as well as when it
was made up?—No; that is the price for a made-up
tunic.

427. (*Colonel French.*) You must either have a
great deficiency of tailors now, or have had a great
surplus of tailors under the former system; is not
that so?—No; there was more work for the military
tailors to do under the former system than now,
because the whole of the clothing at home had to be
made up by the military tailor, without recognized
civilian help; now the military tailors do not make
up anything like one-third of the clothing; it is an
exceedingly small proportion of the clothing which
is supplied by the public that is made by the military
tailors.

428. Do you think your present establishment of
tailors is sufficient to furnish 27,000 men with clothing
for the year?—I am quite persuaded that we can
always obtain sufficient tailoring assistance to make
any number of suits.

429. Is your present establishment, upon which
you have calculated, sufficient to furnish 27,000 men
with clothing without any additional help?—Perhaps
not quite sufficient; but we have no difficulty in
obtaining more to any extent.

430. When you are calculating the expenses of an
establishment, I am led to suppose that your estab-
lishment is at present complete, and that you are able,
with that establishment, to furnish the whole of the
artillery force with clothing?—What is meant by the
term "establishment" is this: it means those who
superintend and overlook the business; the estab-
lishment is not complete if under that name you include
the working tailors; there would have to be a few
more employed, say 50, but that would not increase
the expense of the working of the establishment at
all, because all the tailors work by the piece; it
would be simply employing 50 more men in making
up that amount of clothing.

431. (*Chairman.*) Do you think it is cheaper to employ civilians than to have military tailors?—Perhaps it would be cheaper, because the military pay of the military tailor and what he earns is perhaps more, in comparison with the amount of work that he does, than what the civilian would do, including everything; but there is a second object in view in employing military tailors; it keeps up a staff of military tailors in the corps. If they were not employed, when they came to the corps they would cease to be tailors, and consequently would not be available for work when they became detached from Woolwich, and their services were required.

432. If you gave up employing military tailors, would you not have to depend upon civilians to a large extent, upon foreign service?—Yes.

433. Now you consider that you have a school for tailors?—Yes; it is in that way we look at it, as a school for tailors. Those who have been tailors are kept up in their work.

434. (*Colonel French.*) When the artillery are stationary abroad, in the Mediterranean or in India, is there any difficulty in finding tailors at a cheaper rate than in England?—I think there is; at Malta especially. We sent a rather large proportion of basted clothing to Malta the year before last, and the commanding officer complained that it was so much that he could not get it made up in time, and his men were very much behind in getting their clothing, and in consequence requested that so much basted clothing might not be sent, and the following year a small portion only was sent.

435. (*Chairman.*) Have you been on active service?—Never on active service.

436. How do the regiments of the line manage with respect to tailors? Have they tailors who are up to their work?—I think there is great difficulty in the line with regard to tailors. I have known it to be so in the 36th Regiment; they had considerable difficulty in getting sufficient tailors to meet their requirements.

437. Was that in Great Britain?—That was in Manchester.

438. I suppose there was no want of power at Manchester; they could get civilians to any extent, could not they?—Yes; but I speak of military tailors.

439. Is the number of men in the Royal Artillery at all increased by reason of the fact that many are employed as tailors?—Not the least.

440. (*Colonel French.*) Is not your getting tailors a mere accident?—Yes, quite so.

441. Have you served in the Mediterranean?—I was never abroad but once, and that was in America.

442. Have you not found that your companies were not always very complete, looking at the casualties, servants, bāt men, and men in hospital, and that the service came rather heavy upon duty men?—Sometimes.

443. Taking the case of a siege, would not a regiment very often be obliged to set all hands at work, and be unable to spare any for tailoring?—We never supposed that the tailoring was possible to be done on active service; it was never contemplated, so far as I have understood, in the British army. It must be borne in mind that the military tailors are, as a class, perhaps amongst the worst tradesmen. It is very seldom you get a good tradesman a military tailor.

444. (*Chairman.*) Are not sewing machines largely used in your establishment?—We are just getting into the use of them. We have only had them a few months, and we consider ourselves learners at present, but we expect to employ them to a very considerable extent.

445. You heard Captain Blosse's evidence as to the misfits. It appears that you have only one depôt for the whole of the 27,000 men in the artillery. They all join at Woolwich in the first instance, do not they?—Yes; all recruits here; come with a few exceptions.

446. And you fit them here by actual measurement? WOOLWICH.
—In the first place with their recruit's dress.

447. They do not have to pay anything for alteration, but start with what should be a good fit?—They start free with a good fit.

448. You fit those who are intended for foot service with clothes adapted for foot service, and those who are to be in the horse artillery with clothes suitable for horseback?—Yes.

449. What number of men can you clothe in a day?—We have kitted and clothed 50 men a day for several days successively during this month, and sometimes more than 50.

450. Have recruits come in at the rate of 50 men a day?—Yes; it is not every day in the month; but for two or three days we kitted and clothed 50 men a day without any difficulty. Of course there was a little overwork for those who had the marking of the kits, but no real difficulty.

451. Will you describe the system pursued as regards the kits?—When a recruit is finally approved at Woolwich he is brought to the clothing establishment, where he has a dress, which has been previously made, fitted on him, a fatigue jacket and trousers; the tailor makes a note of the alterations required to make that dress fit completely, and the recruit returns to barracks in his plain clothes. The second day he comes to the establishment, the alterations have been made in his fatigue dress, and he then receives his kit, which has previously been marked. On the following day he is fitted with regimentals, and he is then ready for service, and completely fitted and equipped to go anywhere.

452. (*Colonel French.*) Does the recruit pay for the alteration of the clothing?—He pays nothing for the fatigue dress, with the exception of the padding; he pays 4d. for the padding, which Captain Blosse spoke about.

453. (*Chairman.*) How many men have you fitted with kits during the month of October?—We have already fitted this month 500 recruits.

454. From your stores, or were any of the kits furnished direct by the contractor to the men?—Nothing was furnished to them by contractors; they were fitted entirely from our own stores. You will distinguish between the clothing which the recruit receives as his kit, that is the fatigue jacket and trousers, and the regimental clothing, the tunic and trousers, which he receives as regimental clothing. There is no difference in the quality of the jacket and trousers which the recruit now gets and the quality of the jacket and trousers that he received before the establishment of the new system; they are the same in make and quality. The improvement that has been made by our establishment is in the regimental clothing.

455. (*Mr. Turner.*) What is the difference between the regimental clothing and that which you are describing?—The soldier receives a regimental suit per year. The kit clothing is what the recruit receives on coming to the regiment, and he never afterwards receives it at the public expense.

456. (*Colonel French.*) How is your store supplied with kits?—By contract.

457. Who makes that contract?—The War Department.

458. (*Chairman.*) Yours is one vast regimental store for the artillery?—Ours is a regimental tailor's shop on a large scale; such as has been in existence in every regiment of cavalry. It is practically the same; perhaps not in all its details.

459. Is your establishment substantially the same as that of Colonel Hudson in London?—No; Colonel Hudson has nothing to do with kits, and he does not pack his clothing.

460. Is that because the regiments for which he makes are at home?—The clothing which he makes for infantry regiments is delivered at Mark-lane, and packed there, whether for home or foreign service.

461. (*Colonel French.*) Are the kits which you give to the men, not as free kits, supplied in the same

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manner by the Government?—There is only the one kit; that is the free kit.

462. After that free kit is worn out the man has to supply himself with fresh articles, has not he?—Yes.

463. Where do those articles come from?—He is allowed to purchase them at my store, at the contract rate.

464. How is the money paid?—If he has the money in his pocket, he comes and pays for the article the same as elsewhere.

465. Does the person who has charge of the store render an account to the Government?—No; it is not a Government transaction.

466. I understand you to say that the whole of the necessities in your store are supplied by the Government?—Yes; but allow me to explain. If the soldier requires any article or any number of articles of necessities, they are supplied to him from the stock in store, and made up afterwards by the contractor.

467. Supposing the soldier gets a shirt, a pair of boots, or anything of that kind, does he pay you?—If he comes with the money in his hand, he pays me.

468. What do you do with that money?—I pay the contractor, who the next month sends in the exact quantity of necessities which have been so purchased, making up the stock in store to its former state.

469. Have you anything to do with the contractor yourself?—Not personally.

470. (*Chairman.*) Are not you the representative of the contractor for that purpose?—For that particular portion of necessities which the soldier requires to pay for himself. Allow me again to explain. If the captain of a company supplies a man with his kit, he sends an order to the store, and in that case the bill goes to the captain from the contractor, and the captain pays the contractor. What I mentioned before is only where the man brings the money in his hand, and purchases a hair brush, for instance.

471. (*Colonel French.*) Is the man allowed to go into the town and buy those articles?—No; unless he gets them of the contract pattern, which it is difficult to do.

472. (*Chairman.*) Have you ever had any difficulty in supplying kits in time to the men?—Any difficulty of that sort has arisen from the contractor not being able to come up to our demands, but it has not extended to anything serious.

473. We have had a great deal of evidence from commanding officers in the line of vexatious delays in the furnishing of things necessary for recruits when they first joined. Have you ever had any substantial difficulty of that kind at Woolwich?—Not to any extent. A very large accession of recruits has sometimes taken us so far by surprise that we have not been able at the moment to complete the men's kits, but notice to the contractor has enabled us to do so in a very short time afterwards. There has been no great inconvenience.

474. Could you always partially furnish a man with his kit?—Always nearly complete; a few articles only have been wanting to complete the man's kit.

475. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were the recruits at Woolwich ever reduced to so low a state as to have only one shirt, and be obliged to be drilled in that one shirt?—Never.

476. (*Chairman.*) You have stated that the recruits were not always completely furnished with their kits. Am I to understand that the contractor who furnishes the kits does not always send all the articles for one kit, but sends a certain number of brushes or towels and other things, and you make them up into kits here?—Yes; he delivers as he can get the things ready, and they are inspected and taken on charge, if equal to the pattern, without reference to their being complete kits.

477. (*Mr. Turner.*) In fitting the men with clothing, is it not your practice to put them into every possible position, in order to ascertain that they are comfortable in their clothes, and will be able to perform all their duties of drill and so forth, easily?—Yes.

In fitting the soldier with clothing he is put into every conceivable attitude which will test the proper fitting of his clothing, and enable those who are fitting him or judging of the fit to ascertain whether in all the various exercises (and perhaps this applies more to the artillery than any other service) his clothing is suitable and properly fitted. Our men in their drills and exercises have to put themselves into almost every imaginable position; and the rapid mounting and dismounting from horses and from guns which our men have, require their clothing to be peculiarly well fitted, or they burst it, as a matter of course.

478. (*Chairman.*) Of course there is one advantage which you have over regiments at a distance, namely, the opportunity of fitting the men here, whereas in the line they can only be fitted by the size roll, and the clothing is afterwards altered by the tailors who happen to be with the regiment?—That refers to the first fit of the recruit; it does not refer to the after fitting.

479. (*Colonel French.*) With regard to the necessities that are supplied to your store, do they undergo the examination of a board?—Yes. Perhaps I might be allowed to explain the process of our examination. When there is a sufficient quantity of materials or necessities in store to warrant an inspection, which is sometimes weekly, but more often each fortnight, an application is made to the commandant at Woolwich for the appointment of two and sometimes three quartermasters, with the necessary military tradesmen, to inspect these articles. There is a list prepared previously, and when they come to the store they go through the articles, subjecting the whole of them to a very close examination, making such remarks upon the quality as they conceive necessary, and putting aside each article which they conceive not equal to the pattern, classifying those articles not equal to the pattern according to the different faults that they may find in them. That operation generally lasts two days, and sometimes three, according to the quantity of articles. When the examination is completed, a board of three field officers is appointed to look over the whole of the things, and inspect them, so far as they consider necessary, and especially to look at the rejections. I have here three or four of the reports of those boards, the report of the quartermasters, which is addressed to the President of the Committee, and the report of the Committee, which is addressed to the adjutant-general (*handing in some papers*).

480. Would it not be better that the quartermaster should have nothing to do with the necessities, so as to place him in a more independent position? In the line the quartermaster has nothing whatever to do with any boards or inspections?—It has always been the custom in the artillery to appoint the quartermasters for the duty, it being understood that they have generally a better practical knowledge than other subaltern officers.

481. Am I to understand that the quartermaster has nothing whatever to do with the appointment of the person who provides the kits?—Nothing whatever; not the slightest.

482. (*Chairman.*) And nobody in the regiment has?—No; it is the Government entirely.

483. The kits which we saw yesterday came from Prater's, did not they?—Yes.

484. Has any officer or quartermaster, or other official connected with the regiment, anything to do with the supply of those articles of which the kits are composed?—No. They are ordered on the authority of the War Department, and supplied here; and the contractor is paid by the accountant-general at the War Department.

485. (*Colonel French.*) Who nominates the contractor?—The Government.

486. Do you know the particular Government authority whose business it is to find the contractor?—In the case of our present contractor, Mr. Prater, he was the regimental contractor previous to the

time that the Government gave the kits, and he has been continued in the supply of kits at a stated price by the authority of the War Department. When kits are required, a demand is made to the War Department, and they authorize the supply of those kits by Mr. Prater, and they pay Mr. Prater on certificates sent in by the adjutant-general, according to the supplies which he has made.

487. Have you sealed patterns by which to judge of every article?—Yes; there are duplicate patterns; one at Pall Mall and the other at Woolwich.

488. (*Chairman.*) Supposing a soldier wanted to make up his kit from having worn out his brush or his shirt, or anything of that sort, he would make it up from your store?—Yes; he would make the kit up himself, if he so chose. If he applied to the captain of his company to supply it for him, it would be made up in the same way from the store.

489. He might possibly in that case go to the contractor's shop at Charing Cross or Pall Mall?—Certainly, when he paid himself.

490. If he got his articles from the regiment, he would get them from the Government store, and not from a store provided by the regimental authorities?—We have no store of the description of the colonel's store, such as they have in the line.

491. (*Colonel French.*) Is it not possible for the quartermaster to keep a little private store of his own, so as to be able to sell articles to the soldiers?—It is not possible in the artillery.

492. Why is it not possible?—The great bulk of the soldier's necessities is obtained through his captain; there are very few men who buy with their money in their hand.

493. Still such a thing being open to the soldier to go and pay his money, might not the quartermaster keep a little private store of his own amongst the Government stores?—It could not possibly happen in the artillery.

494. Is that because of the strict supervision by the commanding officer?—Because the quartermaster has not the slightest thing to do with the supply of the necessities; he is entirely removed from that with us. It is a company arrangement, and not connected in any way whatever with the battalion to which the quartermaster belongs. The quartermaster with us is as much disconnected from any company matter as he can possibly be.

495. If a man came to him, and purchased from him, surely it is precisely the same thing as if he belonged to that particular company?—It is a thing never known in the artillery, and if such a thing was done it must of necessity be known. Being entirely contrary to all orders, it would be immediately stopped.

496. (*Chairman.*) As a matter of fact, was such a thing ever done?—Such a thing was never heard of or thought of in the artillery.

497. I am told that there are gentlemen in the room who do not assent to a portion of your evidence. When a soldier wants to supply any article of his kit which has been lost or worn out, he comes to your store, or his captain gets it from your store, does not he?—Yes.

498. That creating a vacuum in your store, that vacuum has to be supplied by the contractor?—Yes.

499. Does the contractor supply the articles to replace those which have been so sold to the soldier to the captain or to the Government?—He supplies them to the store.

500. Who pays the contractor?—Allow me to explain the process again. For example, we have always a large stock of combs in store. Suppose a soldier comes to the store to-morrow, and buys a comb, for which he pays a price something like 4d.; say that ten such instances occur during the month; at the end of the month a return is furnished to the contractor, stating that 10 combs have been sold from the store during the month at the contract price, and the contractor immediately sends in 10 combs to replace those 10 which have been sold to the soldiers.

501. How does the contractor get paid?—He is paid for the 10 combs sold, if the men brought the money, by me; and if the captain obtains the things the contractor sends the bill to the captain, who pays him, and he replaces the things in the store the following month.

502. Would there be any advantage in allowing either the kits given in the first instance to the soldier or the supplies to replace missing articles in kits to be furnished by the captain from any contractor that he pleased?—That question has been considered. A board of officers sat and took it into consideration, and reported it as their opinion that it is better for the soldier to obtain the things at the clothing establishment at the contract price than to obtain them from any other source.

503. It being substantially a Government store?—A Government store; still it must not be considered that the Government sells the article to the soldier, for the articles are sold out of the stock in store, and made up next month by the contractor.

504. What amount of cloth have you in store now?—I should say at a guess we have from 18,000 to 20,000 yards of jacket cloth.

505. That would not go above half way towards making jackets for one year, would it?—No; but I am not aware of what quantity there is in store at Weedon. I should think there is a very large quantity there; perhaps twice as much as that.

506. Are you in favour of keeping up a sufficient store of clothing in the hands of the Government?—Yes. The advantage of that was shown in the Crimea. I believe the artillery soldiers never wanted for regimental clothing in the Crimea.

507. To what do you attribute that?—To having a good stock in store. I do not conceive it possible that the artillery at the present moment could be taken by surprise with regard to clothing.

508. Was that stock in store furnished by Stephens and Clark, or was it Government store?—It was furnished by Stephens and Clark to the Government, and held in the Arsenal under a storekeeper.

509. It was not in the custody of the contractor till it was wanted, but furnished by the contractor to the Government, and the Government had a store?—Yes.

510. Then so far was the new system for the line an extension of the system which previously obtained in the artillery?—So far as the stock in hand is considered.

511. The artillery have made a further advance by becoming their own tailors as well as their own clothiers?—Yes.

512. What number of kits do you think you have in store?—We have mounted and dismounted kits. At the present moment we have about 1,000 dismounted kits, and perhaps 200 of the mounted pattern.

513. Are you under any obligation as storekeeper to attend to the Ordnance regulations in respect of making requisitions for keeping up the supply?—Yes.

514. What amount of kits do you think you ought to have in store?—We consider ourselves safe at the present rate of recruiting when we have 1,000 in store or under delivery. That is the case now with reference to dismounted kits, but we are rather low in mounted kits, in consequence of the very large arrivals of recruits.

515. Have there been any delays, as regards the artillery, arising from the non-delivery of clothing or of kits?—None whatever.

516. With regard to the clothing for the next year, which should be delivered on the 1st of April, are you in a condition to state what has been done in anticipation of that supply?—The whole of the clothing of the artillery on foreign service is on its passage, and probably some of it has arrived; it has been shipped some time ago. We are now packing clothing for home service; for instance, the clothing for Ireland is packed, and ready to go away, and perhaps will go away in a week's time. We are this day packing clothing for Scotland and the Channel Islands; that will probably go away in a week; and we expect

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before the end of next month to have the whole clothing of the artillery packed and sent away from Woolwich. That we conceive will give abundance of time to get it all fitted and ready by the 1st of April.

517. Your duties are with the artillery; but I should be glad if you or anybody else could suggest why similar foresight is not shown with regard to providing the clothing for the line. Do you know any circumstances distinguishing the system of supply for the artillery from the system of supply for the line, which should account for the fact that yours is all ready in time for 1859, and theirs is much behind?—It arises from the simple fact that we have a stock in store, which, so far as I am aware, never existed with reference to the infantry. When we were supplied by contract, previously to having a stock in store, we were just as badly off as the infantry with regard to time. It was very often October, and generally July or August, before we got our clothing into wear.

518. Do you know whether that arose from the fact that the contractor had not his orders in time, or from what cause?—I believe sometimes it was owing to the lateness of the orders being given. It seems to be almost inseparable from the working of the contract system that it shall be behind; I cannot tell why.

519. (*Mr. Turner.*) I suppose the quality that is required is, as the Chairman has said, a little more foresight, and making preparation in sufficient time?—I doubt very much if the requisitions come home from the regiments in sufficient time to go through the necessary routine, and for the contractor to get his orders time enough to supply sufficiently early.

520. How long do you suppose it might require after a requisition is made for a regiment, to have it examined by the authorities, and a decision come to whether the contract should be at once entered into? Would it require any very lengthened period?—Perhaps; I am not qualified to give an opinion.

521. (*Chairman.*) Is not your inspection, excepting as to cloth, which is inspected at Weedon, substantially a regimental inspection?—Yes.

522. Would there not be much less delay under your regimental inspection than under the Weedon inspection?—Much less. There is another thing to be taken into account with regard to clothing by contract supply; the clothier sends in the regiments' clothing to Mark-lane at the present time, and a very large portion of that clothing may probably be rejected; perhaps not; but we will take the case of a large portion of trousers being rejected; they would have to be returned, and unless the contractor had cloth on hand new cloth would have to be made, and that would all take a very long time; whereas in our mode of operation the cloth for those trousers would have been previously inspected and passed, and the trousers would have come in one by one, and have been inspected as brought in; that inspection is final, and the first pair that came in that was imperfect would of course be sent back to be properly made; whatever the fault was, it would have been detected in its early stage, instead of going on further.

523. Does not that arise from the fact that you are not only inspectors of cloth but makers-up of cloth?—I speak now of a system where things are inspected as they are made. If the whole of the regiment's clothing is made previous to inspection, and a considerable portion is rejected, that throws the whole back till the rejections are replaced, unless the clothing is sent in portions to the regiment, which, I think, is not often the case.

524. Then your judgment, as I understand, is opposed to the system of having contracts for made-up clothing?—Yes. I believe the best method of supplying the army with clothing is our own; I conceive there is nothing equal to it. Four establishments would clothe the army; that is, two for the infantry, one, Colonel Hudson's, for the guards and a portion of infantry, and the one here for the artillery and engineers.

525. What would you do with the militia?—I expect to clothe the whole of the artillery militia, and, if necessary, there might be a fifth establishment; but I conceive that four would quite meet the thing, and then the infantry would be exactly in the position of the artillery with regard to the clothing; and there could not, by any possibility, be delay, if a sufficient stock was kept on hand, and sufficient foresight taken as to the wants of the regiments.

526. (*Colonel French.*) So far as the evidence has gone, with regard to the clothiers, it has been much in their favour with regard to their supplies under the old system?—I can only speak of what I have seen. I received an order to make clothing for the 36th regiment. I went down to the regiment at Manchester, with the intention of seeing what they had previously had, and of seeing some of their men, and getting the men measured, and ascertaining, if possible, the wants of the regiment as to the sizes of the men.

527. When was this?—I think about 15 months back. We measured about half of the 36th regiment, taking their breast measure, their waist measure, and their heights. I saw at that time some contract clothing in store, and I could not believe that anything so bad would ever have been sent to an infantry regiment; I never saw anything so bad in my life as the clothing I saw in the quartermaster's store.

528. What year was that clothing for which you are alluding to?—It was clothing in the quartermaster's store which had not been issued.

529. In what year was it?—It must have been more than 15 months ago, because we made up our clothing for 1858; perhaps 18 months ago. This was clothing received from contractors, as I perfectly well remember.

530. (*Chairman.*) It was probably a contract with the War Office, and not a contract with the colonel?—With the War Office.

531. That clothing which you describe as being so bad must have passed a Government inspection?—I cannot tell where it was passed.

532. (*Colonel French.*) Did I understand you to say, that in the Crimea the artillery was the only corps that was not in any way deficient in clothing?—I believe I said that the artillery were not deficient in clothing; but I do not know that I said that any others were deficient. I cannot state that that was the case from my own knowledge.

533. (*Chairman.*) In the artillery is there any variety of uniform for different battalions, or are they the same?—They are all the same in the battalions. The horse artillery are clothed differently.

534. Have you had much difficulty or inconvenience arising from change of patterns?—None.

535. Have you not changed coatees for tunics?—We changed coatees for tunics, but there was no inconvenience from that.

536. Was the old stock used up?—The old stock was used up.

537. Was there much objection to receiving the old-fashioned articles?—In those cases we always send them abroad.

538. How do the artillery abroad manage to supply their necessaries when there is a deficiency?—The captain sends to the regimental stores here.

539. Are any stores of necessaries kept at the stations?—It would be according to the regulation if there were. We have shipped a great many necessaries for India lately in that way.

540. (*Mr. Turner.*) I observed that sewing machines were extensively used for many operations in your establishment. It has been said that for heavy garments the machines are not to be depended on as well as hand sewing; do you use them for coats?—No.

541. Do you use them for trousers?—We are beginning to use them for trousers.

542. Are you quite sure that the sewing by machine will stand the wear and tear of service as long as hand sewing?—I feel perfectly certain that it will,

when proper judgment is used in the sewing. It is quite as easy to sew badly by the machine as it is to sew badly by hand.

543. Is not there a thread running down the seam along which the stitching goes, and if that gets loose in any way is not the whole seam liable to come to pieces?—There are two descriptions of sewing machines; one is termed the American, in which the objection you have mentioned does exist; and the other is patented by Thomas, in which that objection does not exist to so great a degree; but if the sewing by Thomas's machine is improperly done then that objection does exist.

544. Would not a very slight defect, such as a thread getting broken at one end, more rapidly disorganise a considerable length of sewing than would be the case with hand work?—Not if it is properly sewn. We have tried it repeatedly. It has been an objection to sewing machines, that if you cut a stitch it will all reeve open; when the sewing is properly done that is not the case.

545. (*Colonel French.*) How do you ascertain that the sewing has been properly done?—It is easily done by any person acquainted with it. Proper sewing is when the thread is drawn up into the cloth; if the under thread is allowed to run along straight underneath the cloth without being tightened, and that thread gets cut or is broken, it will reeve out, and consequently the seam will become quite open. There is great care needed in watching the work by the machine. Another objection exists with regard to the machine; if the cloth is sewn too fine, that is, if the stitches are too short, the needle being a large one has a tendency to cut the cloth, and that has been known to be the case. I have known some clothing made up here for the gentlemen cadets by the machine; that was sewn too fine, and when it came to be fitted on, the seam would come open and cut entirely through from end to end; so that there is a great deal of judgment required in using sewing machines. I should say generally that the sewing machine is better adapted for the coarser sort of work, where there is no fear of that fine sewing cutting the cloth, and where you can use a large thread, which of course is a stronger one.

546. (*Mr. Turner.*) Supposing the sewing machine is found to answer with the trousers, do you intend to apply it to coats?—We think it is not suitable to coats, because there is a great deal of preparation required; that is, preparing the materials to be sewn by the machine, and then finishing them afterwards. So far as our experience goes at present, there is not much to be done by the machine with coats or tunics.

547. The advantage of any machine must be the ability to keep it in continuous work, and not having too much after work to do; for instance, in quilting the caps, which we saw yesterday, nothing could be better, because the machine could be kept continually at work performing a uniform operation; there is no stopping to finish off or to arrange. With regard to a coat, I suppose it would be frequently necessary to stop and change the material?—It would have to be changed several times.

548. Then the advantage of a machine is pretty nearly done away with?—Yes.

549. As regards trousers, where you can work continuously in one direction, you can apply the machine better?—Yes.

550. You acknowledge that the machine is only useful where it is very well managed, and that even upon Thomas's principle the work may break down?—I think with ordinary care there is no fear of anything going wrong. At present we have not applied the machines to any extent beyond cap covers and making great-coats.

551. Is there not some part of a pair of trousers that cannot be done by a machine?—There is a great deal of finishing required.

552. What do you save in a garment by doing a portion of the work by machine?—I cannot speak with regard to trousers, but we make cap covers by

the machine at half the price. In the great-coats I conceive that we save, so far as my experience has gone, about 1s. each.

553. You say that the tailors employed get extra pay, in addition to their regimental pay, according to the work which they do?—Yes.

554. Have you, besides your military pay, additional pay for your services as inspector of the tailoring establishment?—I receive my regimental pay as an officer of artillery, and that is all.

555. As the superintendent of this large tailoring establishment, have you no consideration whatever beyond your mere regimental pay?—Nothing whatever.

556. Then you have not even the same advantage that the working tailor has?—I have no additional allowance. I have made an application for an addition, which I hope will be granted. At present I have only my regimental pay, which is 10s. 10d. per day; something under 200l. a year.

557. (*Chairman.*) How do you make out the additional expenses of the working staff of your establishment?—It must be borne in mind that the establishment at the time the return was made had been nine months in operation, and the statement before the Contracts' Committee is the nine months' expenses; not the 12 months' expenses.

558. Are those all military persons who are mentioned as the working staff?—Yes.

559. Being military men like you, do they get no additional pay?—They all get additional pay, excepting the two officers.

560. (*Mr. Turner.*) Your military title is that of quartermaster and commissary?—Yes.

561. Does the title of commissary, which you have in addition to your ordinary military title of quartermaster, carry any pay with it?—Yes; a quartermaster gets an allowance of 7s. 10d.

562. Then there is some difference in your pay for your additional title as commissary of clothing?—Yes; consequent on that rank there is the regulation pay for the particular rank of quartermaster and commissary; but there are other quartermaster commissaries in the regiment who have the same pay as myself. I have nothing beyond them.

563. Those persons have not this duty, or anything analogous to it, to perform?—No.

564. (*Colonel French.*) Have you the rank of captain?—Not at present. I hope to get that too some time.

565. (*Chairman.*) In this very elaborate calculation, which you placed before the Contracts' Committee, it is stated that there is an annual net saving in consequence of this establishment for clothing the artillery of upwards of 15,000l.?—For nine months; about two thirds of the annual supply, and perhaps not even that. (Parl. Paper, No. 438, 1858, page 120.)

566. Were not the buildings which contain the stores erected for that special purpose?—Yes. We have charged ourselves with the whole expense of the buildings, amounting to 12,000l. Now the fact is that a very large proportion of that building is at present occupied by persons who are not at all connected immediately with the establishment; for instance, we had, I might almost call it, a corps of military tailors previously to the establishment being brought into operation, who had shops in the barracks; there was a master tailor for the horse artillery, and 14 master tailors for the battalions; each of those had a number of men working under him, and they all had working shops in the barracks. When they came to the establishment the whole of those buildings in the barracks were appropriated to other uses, so that, although we have paid in our saving for the whole of the buildings, we do not occupy the whole, but only occupy a portion. If you put the large store out of the question, and the two houses—one at each end, then you have left the cutting shops and the workshops, and that is about double the accommodation previously given in the barracks.

WOOLWICH.

Quartermaster
Commissary
George Grant.

27th Oct. 1858.

WOOLWICH.

Quartermaster
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567. (*Colonel French.*) It has been made available for other purposes?—Yes; so that a very large portion of this amount has been paid for buildings which we really do not occupy or do not require in our making up clothing for the corps.

568. (*Mr. Turner.*) There is another rather important matter, if I understand it right; I think you are overcharging yourselves. What did the building cost?—As near as I can ascertain, 12,000*l.*

569. How much have you charged yourself with?—12,000*l.*; and 600*l.* for the year's interest.

570. Do you mean that you have paid off the capital cost of the building?—Yes; in nine months.

571. My operation would have been, with respect to a building which cost 12,000*l.*, to give 1,200*l.* a year, that is, 5 per cent. for interest of money, and 5 per cent. for depreciation. I consider a building of that kind ought to free itself in 14 years. It would be a fair amount to charge 10 per cent. upon the outlay?—We thought of charging what would have been considered a rental for the buildings for a year, but again we thought it better to pay for them altogether, and rub the matter off.

572. Then you have paid off the capital and the interest for the buildings? You are taxing yourself to an enormous extent, I think. Most commercial men would say to you, in building warehouses or mills, or anything of that kind, if you charged the outlay at 10 per cent. per annum you were charging about the right thing, because you charge the interest, and will get the principal back in about 14 years. You are going upon the sweeping calculation that you are to pay the principal off the first year. By the second year you will be rent-free. You do not mean to charge yourselves again with the buildings?—No; that was the reason for wiping off the item at once. Perhaps it would not be out of place if I were to draw attention to the estimate. We made an estimate before we commenced the operation, and submitted it to the War Department, of the saving which we expected to be able to effect; that estimate is printed in Appendix No. 2 to the Report of the Contracts' Committee, Parl. Paper, No. 269, sess. 2, 1857, at page 488. It is here shown that our saving would be 14,233*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* on a year's clothing; that is before we commenced any operations whatever. The next calculation is based upon actual operations, as nearly as possibly could be carried out, and there the saving is considerably larger than we anticipated or estimated for. I know that a statement, which will now be made more public than ever, with reference to our saving, will attract considerable attention amongst the contract clothiers. I have heard an objection made already with reference to our saving, that our clothing supplied by Stephens and Clark was obtained too large, and so much above the real necessary size, when provided by them by contract, that it took up a very much larger quantity of cloth than we now cut. My answer to that is, in the first place, we found it necessary to have our garments so large because they were so badly cut. If we had not provided them large, we never could have got them on the men at all. In the next place, if you will look at the statement, you will find that a large saving is effected on horse artillery clothing, and to that clothing this objection could not apply. It is somewhat curious to know how the horse artillery clothing for years had been supplied. The real practical working of the supply of that clothing was this: The contractor went to the War Department with his tender to supply the horse artillery clothing at such and such prices per garment. As soon as he got his contract, he employed the artillery master tailor to make that clothing, and that artillery master tailor made the whole of our horse artillery clothing under the contractor for many years. Consequently there was the contractor's gain to be got out of the clothing of the horse artillery, and the master tailor of the horse artillery did not work for nothing; he got his gain out of it. Now the Government practically employs that master tailor without the intervention of the contractor,

obtaining their cloth and all the other materials at cost price. That will account for the very large saving in the horse artillery clothing. You will see in our horse artillery dress jacket there is a saving of 14*s.* 10½*d.*, as compared with the contract price, and it is made, practically, by the very identical person who made it under the old system. Then there is a saving in the undress jacket of 13*s.* 5½*d.* Now the objection about the size of the clothing does not refer to them at least, however it may refer to battalion clothing. You will see that the great saving is generally on the horse artillery clothing. It must also be borne in mind that the establishment here inspects and packs the garments at this cost; and if the clothing was supplied by contractors at these prices, there would still have to be a Government establishment where the things were inspected, and there would still have to be the expense of packing and sending away. Now the establishment here packs those things, and there is no additional expense for packing, except the bare cost of the materials used.

573. (*Chairman.*) When Stephens and Clark sent their clothing here, there was an inspection by the officers of the artillery. Was not that substantially a regimental inspection, rather than a Government inspection?—If the establishment yonder did not exist, there would still have to be persons employed to pack the clothing; and with reference to inspection, you could not apply that remark to infantry clothing. Where clothing supplied for infantry is delivered by contract, there is the expense of persons employed to inspect it; but in the artillery we have always inspected our own clothing.

574. In the infantry, formerly, was there any inspection, excepting the inspection of the board of general officers; otherwise was it not a strictly regimental inspection?—Yes; but the great objection to that appears to be that if clothing is sent to Gibraltar or India that is inferior, by contract, the regiments have to take it or go without, unless it has gone through a preliminary inspection. There is another point I wish to draw attention to, namely, that our prices are based on fair remuneration for a day's labour. Were we to give the same prices that a contractor gives for making up garments we should save something like one-third on each garment more than we now save in the low prices, and a similar saving on those where the larger savings are effected.

575. (*Colonel French.*) Are you aware what the clothiers pay their workmen?—I know they give nothing like 4*s.* 6*d.* that we give for a tunic; I am quite aware of that. Taking the point of contention, that we ought to add the military pay of the tailors, and giving up that point, the pay of the military tailors is more than covered by our saving; it will not amount to 2,000*l.* in a year; perhaps it will not amount to more than 1,000*l.*, so that we can easily do it. If we were put to that, we should of course only pay the military tailor for that portion of time which he was employed for our department. If you take the evidence of 100 officers or 100 non-commissioned officers of the artillery, I can venture to say that 90 of them would tell you that there were as many military tailors employed under the old system as under this. It is a fact beyond dispute, known by everybody who knows anything about the matter.

[Sergeant John Osborne and a recently joined recruit of the artillery were called in for the purpose of enabling the Commissioners to see the description of clothing at present issued to the 12th Battalion of Artillery.]

576. (*Chairman to Quartermaster Grant.*) What is the recruit's tunic?—Contract clothing.

577. Did you fit him?—He got the tunic from me, but it was made by a contractor.

578. (*Mr. Turner.*) Has not he another coat, which was made by you?—He has a jacket made at the establishment. The sergeant's jacket is the same cloth as you saw in the establishment; it is gunner's cloth.

579. (*Colonel French.*) Are the soldiers in Captain Blossé's company supplied with coats made of the same description of cloth as that?—Yes. The sergeant's jacket is a gunner's jacket that was sold at a sale. A recruit joined, and afterwards deserted; his kit was taken into the quartermaster's stores, and after two months, when the man was declared a deserter, it was sold; the sergeant bought the jacket, and is now wearing it.

Sergeant JOHN OSBORNE examined.

583. (*Chairman.*) In what battalion are you sergeant?—The 12th Battalion, No. 3 Company, commanded by Captain Blossé.

584. How long have you been in that company?—Two years this month.

585. How long have you been in the Royal Artillery?—Thirteen years.

586. What jacket have you on?—One of the new pattern cloth; the same as the new pattern tunics are made from.

587. Is that the first you have had of that cloth?—Yes.

588. How long have you had it?—About 11 months.

589. In pretty constant wear?—Every day, except Sundays.

590. You must have had an opportunity, during the 13 years that you have been in the service, of seeing the clothing every year?—Yes.

591. Is it worse or better than the former clothing?—This is much better than we formerly had.

592. Your jacket was a private's jacket, we understand?—Yes; I have had it 11 months, and it was not new when I bought it.

593. (*Colonel French.*) Are you a sergeant-major?—No; a company sergeant.

594. (*Chairman.*) Has the jacket worn well? Is it as good as the cloth that the sergeants had before?—I really think it is better than the sergeants used to wear; it does not wear white at all. The cloth used to turn quite a light colour, but this does not; and this jacket has been brushed day after day several times a day.

595. Are the button-holes perfect?—Not one of them is broken out.

596. Do you remember the clothing last year which you had at Athlone?—Yes; the clothing was very bad that we had there.

597. Was the cloth bad?—Yes; and the trousers gave way at the knees, and the buttons gave way. The clothing all came out by the buttons.

598. Generally speaking, do you think the cloth now is better than it used to be?—My company has none of the new clothing; they have all the old clothing, the same as this recruit has on. We are getting now the jackets for the men of this cloth.

580. It is not sergeant's cloth?—No; an improved quality of gunner's cloth.

581. (*Chairman.*) When did the recruit who is here join?—Two months ago.

582. How do you account for his having an old tunic furnished by a contractor?—We are supplying that clothing to recruits. You must distinguish between the tunic, which is the regimental clothing, and the jacket, which is kit clothing.

599. Have you any recruits in your company?—Very few.

600. Is your clothing as a sergeant better than it used to be?—I think our sergeants' clothing is not better than it used to be.

(*Quartermaster Grant.*) There is no alteration in the sergeants' clothing.

601. (*Chairman to Sergeant Osborne.*) Have you had an opportunity of seeing a great many recruits in the new clothing?—Yes.

602. What is your judgment of the privates' clothing in comparison with the former clothing?—The cloth that the recruits have been wearing in jackets is much better than it was some time back; it was very rotten, and gave way. What they are issuing now is much better.

603. Both as to the cloth and as to the make?—Yes.

604. Are you speaking of the jackets or the tunics?—Jackets.

605. Have you had an opportunity of comparing the tunics made here with the old tunics furnished by the contractors?—I have seen some of them. I have none of them in my own company, but I think they are much better than the old tunics.

606. Did you get your clothing in time last year?—Yes. I have been without it two or three months longer than that.

607. When? Under the old system?—Yes. When I was in the west of England I have been three months without my clothing.

608. How long ago?—1847 and 1848.

609. Then you thought, when you got it in May, last year, it was in good time?—We do not think anything of a month after. I do not think I ever had my clothing on the 1st of April, with the exception of when I was at Woolwich once.

610. (*Colonel French.*) Was it the fault of the clothier or the fault of the regiment?—The fault of the system not being there in time, or the fault of there not being tailors to make it in time, I could not say exactly which.

611. You cannot say positively that it was the clothier's fault?—No.

Adjourned to Thursday the 4th of November, at half-past 11 o'clock.

WOOLWICH.

Thursday, 4th November 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

THOMAS HOWELL, Esq., further examined.

612. (*Chairman.*) Are you prepared to put in the return which the Commissioners requested you to furnish on your examination on the 26th of October?—Yes; I have a return showing all purchases of timber for the Woolwich arsenal upon public tender

from the 1st of January 1854, to the 25th September 1855, when the change of system took place; also a return which shows all purchases of timber bought by brokers from September 1855, to October 1858.

WOOLWICH.

Quartermaster
Commissary
George Grant.

27th Oct. 1858.

Sergeant
John Osborne.

WOOLWICH.

T. Howell, Esq.

4th Nov. 1858.

WOOLWICH.

The returns were delivered in (*vide Appendix, Nos. 1 and 2*).

T. Howell, Esq.

4th Nov. 1858.

613. Have you also Captain Farmer's report, which was enclosed or referred to in Colonel Tulloh's letter of November 1856?—I have a copy of it.

The same was read as follows :

Royal Carriage Office, War Department,
Woolwich, October 17, 1856.

SIR,

I have the honour to report that yesterday I proceeded, as I had proposed, to London, for the purpose of making some investigations as to whether it is desirable to continue our present system of buying all our foreign timber through one broker, or whether it would be better to recur to our old system of being our own brokers as it were, *i.e.*, buying straight from the importers ourselves.

I had interviews with partners of most of the principal firms, and they all, without exception, unequivocally condemn the present system, in which judgment, I concur, for the reasons as stated below.

First.—We pay considerably higher prices through a broker than we should if buying ourselves; I will adduce the following examples as proof of my assertion:—

Four months ago we could have bought Onega deals of the first quality, to any amount, direct from the importers, at 16*l.* 10*s.* the standard hundred, which was the price at which they were sold at that time, whereas through a broker we were paying at that time 17*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per hundred, lighterage 6*s.* per hundred, commission 1*l.* per cent. The importers would have delivered it in the arsenal at 5*s.* per hundred lighterage. We therefore gave actually 13*s.* 6*d.* per hundred by buying through a broker more than we should have done if we had bought them direct, besides the 1*l.* per cent. commission. We are now giving, through a broker, for Dantzic 4*l.* 15*s.* per load of first quality, lighterage 1*s.* 3*d.* per load, commission 1*l.* per cent. Messrs. Grissell will deliver THE SAME timber at Woolwich arsenal, free of all charges, at about 4*l.* 5*s.*, being a saving of 11*s.* 3*d.* per load and of the commission.

We are also now paying for mahogany 15*l.* 8*s.* per load, including commission. Mr. Tyrie will supply the SAME mahogany direct at 14*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per load, free of charges.

There is now some fine mahogany in the docks which was offered to Pall Mall some two months at 11*l.* 10*s.* per load, subject to the usual rejections and deductions. It was never referred to this department, but the offer, I presume, was rejected at Pall Mall. We are now paying for mahogany not a whit superior 15*l.* 8*s.*, taking it as it rises, being a loss to Government of 3*l.* 18*s.* per load. For African oak we are now paying, average price, 11*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* a load, taking it as it stands, without having the power of rejection. I was offered on the 15th inst. my pick of 150 loads, lying in the docks, to be selected and delivered at Woolwich, free of charges, for 9*l.* 10*s.* a load, being a saving of 2*l.* 9*s.* per load. Another reason why we should buy cheaper direct is, that each merchant would tender under the pressure of a strong competition, and would therefore tender at his lowest remunerative price, now there is absolutely no competition, and therefore no check whatever on the merchant in whose hands any order is placed by the broker. Again, by buying direct from the importers or merchants, it would only pass through the hands of one firm, who would only require one profit, whereas now, I know that in many cases the timber passes through two, if not more hands, each of whom makes a profit, and each of whom pays a broker's commission, all of which must consequently be added to the original price of the timber. A broker is also paid by a commission on the cost of the articles both by the buyer and seller, and therefore he has no interest in buying cheap, on the contrary, the higher the price the greater his profits. All the merchants with whom I spoke on the subject said that they could supply the Government cheaper direct than they now do through a broker.

Secondly.—In our former system we had the advantage of rejecting timber that did not suit us; that we have now lost, as we are obliged to take the timber as delivered by the broker, good and bad together. I will give an instance. Mr. Tyrie during the past spring tendered to the Ordnance sabicu at 14*l.* per load, 18 inches square, and 12*l.* 10*s.* under that dimension, we taking merely what quantity and size suited us. The Government placed it in the hands of their brokers, Messrs. Churchill and Sim; the result of which was, that instead of selecting what we required merely, we had to take at the same price the whole lot, good and bad together, some of which had been lying in the docks for years; and further, had to pay 1*l.* per cent. commission, which would have been saved by buying direct.

We should also obtain timber far better suited to our purpose by either having the power of rejecting such timber

as we thought unfit, or by sending up a competent person to choose for us, as we are naturally far better judges of what suits us than any broker can be.

Lastly.—It appears to be the unanimous opinion of the importers and merchants that our present system is highly injurious to the trade, without our reaping any corresponding benefit, but the reverse.

The plan I have the honour to propose, and which was fully agreed to by the merchants as being the best, is this,—

Firstly.—That we keep ourselves a list of all the respectable firms in the timber trade, and when we require any timber send a circular round to those houses, stating what we want,—size, quality, and time to be delivered,—and requesting them to send in their terms as to price of A, B, C piles, taking them as they rise, and in deals of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd qualities, taking them as they rise, and also their price, taking such as we may require (at dock measurement) subject to rejections, &c.

My reason for proposing to keep a list of the firms with whom we deal, in the office, to whom we might send a circular, instead of putting it out to public competition is, that it would prevent our tenders being accepted by men of straw, as when put out to public competition they often are accepted by those who are eventually unable to fulfil their contracts, and thereby put the service to great inconvenience. Any firm who might not be known to us and therefore not in the list, and who might wish to be in it, would find no difficulty in having his name placed in it, by tendering according to the 2nd clause, when if we found he fulfilled his contracts, he would immediately be enrolled in the number with whom we habitually dealt. When the tenders were in, we should then send up a competent person to inspect the timber, so that we may then decide which course would be the most advantageous for us to pursue, as also whose tender is the best timber and best suited for our purpose.

Secondly.—I propose giving the merchants the power, when they receive a cargo which they think of the description and size we might possibly require, of tendering it to us before it even goes into the market, stating the description, size, and quality of the timber and its price, giving us the power of taking the whole of the cargo, or such part as might suit us; we could then inspect it, and decide whether it would suit us at the price named or not.

They have all expressed themselves willing to do this, and in my opinion, it would give us the first choice of nearly all the timber imported at the lowest possible price. This plan, I believe, is more advantageous for the public service in every way than the one we pursue, and would be attended with great benefits both to ourselves and the trade in general.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. FARMER, Capt. R.A.,

Insp. Royal Carriage Department.

614. You did not refer those two letters to the brokers, but called upon them to report upon the subject?—I did not refer the letters to the brokers; I made extracts of the points that were raised by Colonel Tulloh and by Captain Farmer, and we called for replies from the brokers upon those points.

The same were read as follows :

LETTERS having been received in this department relating to the purchases of timber made by Churchill and Sim, I shall be glad if that firm will report fully on the following points.

QUESTIONS.

What steps are taken to ascertain the quality of timber or deals required?

REPLIES FROM CHURCHILL AND SIM.

1. We make inquiry at the department in the arsenal, if the terms of the orders are not explicit, as to quality, dimensions, &c.; the various imports are considered with, or often shown to, the acting officers; changes are sometimes suggested for economy either in the time or mode of buying, or in the description of article equally or better suited for the required service, so that the wood may be procured from the first importers, if possible, or in the next best mode, from the timber merchants, who may be the only holders.

Having learnt the quality required, I understand that Messrs. Churchill and Sim carefully examine the stock for sale, and ascertain the lowest prices which will be accepted for

2. As brokers it is our business to know all the imports and all the stock in the public docks, the value thereof, through the public and private sales which are made by us or come under our notice, the quality and dimensions from frequent inspection; we there-

QUESTIONS.

a suitable supply, and purchase accordingly.

Am I quite right here?

Is the full and fair extent of the trade taken, so that as ample a range of competition exists as would have arisen had tenders been called for?

What means are taken that the quality of the timber bought shall be such as will meet the views and approval of the department?

Is the selection of the timber left to Churchill and Sim by the seller?

Do they not make their selection to accord with the choice of the timber master, so that in fact, although nominally the selection is in the name of the brokers, it is in reality made by an officer of the department acting under the direction of Col. Tulloh?

Are there any opportunities allowed of rejecting timber or deals at Woolwich?

Have any instances occurred, to the knowledge of Churchill and Sim, where the inspection at the docks has not proved satisfactory upon a more careful examination after the receipt of the supplies at Woolwich?

It is stated that commissions are paid by the seller as well as by the department, is this so?

REPLIES FROM CHURCHILL AND SIM.

fore buy from the merchants that which we know is suitable for the service at the market price, or the lowest rate which would be given by the trade in purchasing of the importers.

3. In addition to the habitual and known contractors for the Ordnance service, we have found importing merchants, and first-class timber dealers, willing to enter into mercantile contracts with the department under our authority, though the same, and often best qualified sellers, had not previously been contractors, and had not considered they could submit to tender on the unmercantile or one-sided conditions of the form of Ordnance contract. The competition of the qualified sellers in possession of the article required, has thus been more effectually obtained than by tenders.

4. In Nos. 1 and 2 the answer will be found, or in few words, personal intercourse, the inspection with or by the receiving officers, and their approval before or after purchasing.

5. The sellers trust the brokers to select or deliver in the docks from their stock as the contract may define.

But the selection is almost invariably made by the timber-masters; when the brokers choose for them it is for the continuation of the delivery of an article well understood, so that the choice in reality rests with the officers of the royal carriage or the other departments in the arsenal.

6. Sometimes, either if the delivery is so defined by contract, or if the articles delivered are not in accordance with the contract, or in excess thereof; under our selection we have only had rejected one piece of wood out of tens of thousands, this arising on the question of the colour of hard wood. But, mercantile contracts usually prescribe approval in the docks, selection or rejection there, if necessary, and to obviate the necessity of removing from the docks that which is unfit, or would be subject to rejection.

7. In one instance only, where the receiving officer did not like a few Archangel deals, (about 1,000, or a large load,) which were not so good as they appeared to be in the docks, though they were the best import of the hand-sawn Archangel stock, and highly esteemed in the trade. We did not permit any further deliveries of this stock, though the sellers found difficulty in extracting approved deals for this large contract from their importation of the mill-sawn Archangel and Onega, some cargoes having been rejected by us in barges before removal to the arsenal, that the receiving officers should obtain the sorts which were preferred, and nearly 100,000 pieces of all sorts have been satisfactorily received.

8. By the custom of the whole wood trade, the broker employed to sell receives brokerage from the seller for making the contract. (This would be universal unless provided for by any special arrangement, such as buying of another broker or agreeing to forego it.)

In some branches of the wood trade, the broker also receives brokerage from the buyers on mahogany and hardwoods, either as brokerage, or for giving dimensions. The broker employed to buy, charges by custom brokerage to the buyers: this is applicable to public companies, railway companies, &c., or any special orders; the duty resting with the broker to select, deliver, arrange accounts, and procure payment from the buyer, and on these grounds it is charged to the Government.

[The importing merchant usually places the cargo in the hands of a selling broker who always receives a brokerage, and if a buyer, after the examination of the cargo, is satisfied, he settles the price with the broker who passes the contract. In such a case the broker

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They would sell direct at lower rates.

The following examples are quoted:—First, four months ago (June) Onega deals would be bought at 16*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

We paid 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

Lighterage, 6*s.*

The importers would have charged only 5*s.* lighterage.

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hands over an order or delivery, and receives only his brokerage from the seller, none from the buyer; on the other hand, if a broker is employed to buy, he has to ascertain the stocks in the market, prices thereof, and select the most advantageous; in such a case, although he may finally sell a cargo in his own hands for sale he charges a commission, although he may also have a commission from the seller.

At a subsequent period we tried to save the buying commission, but it was declined, unless we relieved the broker from all selection.—T. H., June 29th, 1858.]

9. It is too common in all trades for those who have failed to procure a Government contract, or have had inadequate means to undertake it, to say that they could have done better, or would have done so direct, and a few partial illustrations appear to have been collected, which, on investigation, are fallacious compared with the facts.

We take especial credit for the favourable purchase of Archangel and Onega deals this autumn, by the introduction, for the first time, of the importing merchants, who agreed at 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* to deliver the whole quantity of 8,925 standard, or 3,500 pieces; the saving effected by us in this item, compared with the price paid for the same branch of the service in January and February of this year, amounts to 4,557*l.* 8*s.* 8*d.*; and though we have no returns to compare the prices paid two years earlier, or before the war, we have reason to believe that the saving exceeds in per-centage the sum above stated: an opinion prevails that 90*l.* was given, not three years ago, by tender, for a selection of this description of deals, which same selection for the Royal Laboratory has been made by us this year at 30*l.**

No other merchants imported sufficient for this large supply, and if the terms had not been fixed in June the price would have been raised with the market value, on arrival of the importation in August and September, either by bringing the Government demand into competition with the trade demand, or by adding the dealer's profit, if compelled to buy from the trade as heretofore.

Messrs. Grissell, Brothers, sold Onega deals in June, at 16*l.* 10*s.* for the delivery in London or at the outports of the expected importation; speculatively we may say, for there was much uncertainty as to the safe arrival here, or the fit condition of deals lying for two years in Russia, during the war. This sale was made in conjunction with larger proportions of second and third qualities, and various dimensions, none of which were applicable to the War Department contract. All the best quality which could be selected in London from this contract were valued at from 18*l.* to 18*l.* 10*s.*, and Messrs. Grissell, Brothers, themselves purchased a portion (though not of Ordnance dimensions), while our contractors were fulfilling this contract at 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* of the prescribed quality and sizes.

The expenses of removal are always paid by those who buy wood in the docks, whether it may be lighterage or cartage, and we disburse the charge of 5*s.* to lightermen, who are responsible for the property, and are considered to do the work best. As timber merchants are often large owners, their charge might be less, or the charge might be merged in their profit, but it is actually paid in one way or another.

* This was the case of deals bought of Grissell, Brothers. They were the original importers. The cargo consisted of different qualities of deals, the best only being suited for Woolwich.

Churchill and Sim bought of them Onega deals of the first quality at 16*l.* 10*s.*, and the department was charged 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* by Sewell and Neek; but then the whole cargo was taken, including second and third qualities, which we did not receive. In fact several entire cargoes were bought that the best portion thereof might be sold to us; but for the best portion, and that portion only, it was but reasonable that higher rates should be paid; in fact, Grissell, Brothers, who gave me most frankly every information on the subject, said they would not have sold the best quality only at 16*l.* 10*s.*; vide their letter of the 31st December 1856.

Grissell, Brothers, re-bought part of this very stock at 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, after selling it at 16*l.* 10*s.*

Mr. Sim gave a full explanation upon this matter to Sir B. Hawes personally.

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T. Howell, Esq.

4th Nov. 1858.

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T. Howell, Esq.

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Commission per cent.
1l. 0s. 0d.

2. We are paying for
Dantzic timber,
4l. 15s. 0d. per load,
0l. 1s. 3d. lighterage,
1l. 0s. 0d. commission.

Grissell and Co. state
they would have delivered
the same timber at 4l. 5s.
per load.

5. African oak. We are
now paying 11l. 10s. 0d.
in the pile.

On the 15th inst., the
pick of 150 loads was
offered at 9l. 10s.

Commissions paid both
by buyer and seller.

3. Mahogany. We are
paying 15l. 10s. per load.
Tyrie will supply equal
quality at 14l. 17s. 6d. per
load.

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Say brokerage 1l. per cent., equal to
3s. 4d. per standard, the brokerage is a
unit, the saving in pounds.

Crown Dantzic fir timbers of a parti-
cular importation from the Polish forests
of Zabladousky, has for several years
been of the choicest quality, and the
timber masters have always preferred it
in making their selection. The price
had been 105s. a load and upwards before
we were called in, and this year we were
referred to an offer made direct by one

of your old contractors (vide Z⁶⁶³ 12
229 July) at 105s. to select, or 100s. unse-
lected; we purchased the identical tim-
ber at 95s. per load, leaving the selection
to the timber masters. Grissell, Bros.,
may quote the price of Dantzic fir tim-
ber at 85s. per load, as we should name
75s. or 65s., the range of prices for
timber bearing the same designation,
being as wide as the inferiority of quality,
and none fit for the service; these
gentlemen were not importers or buyers
of this stock, and we believe we bought
highly valued timber at the import cost,
saving 300l. in the several departments
for which it was required.

It has been so difficult to procure
African oak of large sizes, that of late
years tenders were neglected; some
contractors would venture on the chan-
ces of subsequent importation, some
defaulted or supplied the smaller sizes
(which was done easily), and failed in
the large.

In the scarcity we have observed some
brought coastwise and by railway, some
even after rejection at the navy yards,
prepared for the Ordnance contracts,
by sawing off the ends bearing the dock
mark of rejection. It was, therefore,
with some pride that, when commissioned
to buy for the War Department in 1855,
we were able to procure the desired
sizes at cargo prices, by combining the
purchase of large, middling, and small
in one contract, and we repeated the
same operation this year. No other
African oak of large sizes has been im-
ported for sale during the two past years
than that which has been required for,
and through us sent into the arsenal,
the navy contract having absorbed all
similar that was procurable in Africa.

Our last purchase was made at,—

£	s.	d.	Inches
12	17	6	per load for 16 and upwards
11	12	6	" 14 "
10	12	6	under 14

If the smaller sizes had been lower, the
largest and middling would have been
raised higher, or to the value of 16l.,
according to the esteem of the officers
for such wood, and the relative value of
hard woods (reluctantly) taken in sub-
stitution.

The price paid may probably average
11l. 10s. per load. The oak was not
taken as inferred, in pile without selec-
tion, the timber masters having chosen
piece by piece, and that now offered at
9l. 10s. must be the identical timber which
they rejected on surveying the whole
stock in the docks, in consequence of
its unfitness in shape, small size, or
quality, for of subsequent import there
is none.

See answer No. 8.

For this mahogany and sabicu we did
not hold the commission to purchase
until the negotiations had advanced as
far as the survey and approval of the
officers in direct communication with
the contractors, so that our opinion
was chiefly sought, Z⁶⁶³ 16th July,
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Z⁶⁶³ 24th April, by the Director-Ge-
123 neral as to the reasonableness of the
prices stated.

The mahogany was offered at 15l. 15s.
for all sizes, and all we could do was to
reduce the price to 15l. 15s. for 18 to
31 inches; 14l. 15s. for 16 and 17 in-
ches; or the average of 15l. 5s. stated,
or with brokerage 15l. 8s., then ap-
proving the purchase, as we could find
no other similar wood in the market
ready for delivery, and the demand was
urgent. Our memory serves us that
Mr. Tyrie was consulted before we
made the purchase, that he could not

QUESTIONS.

4. Mahogany was offered
at 11l. 10s. per load in
August: we are now pay-
ing 15l. 8s.

6. Mr. Tyrie offered
sabicu at 14l. 18 inches
square, 12l. 10s. under 18
inches; Churchill and Sim
took the whole lot at one
price, good and bad.

I request Messrs.
Churchill and Sim will
annex any observations
they may have to offer to
these inquiries.

(Signed) T. HOWELL,
War Department,
Nov. 22, 1856.

615. At the time that report was written by Messrs.
Churchill and Sim, was the system of selection by the
Government officers in the docks in operation?—In
the first instance I think the Government officers here
had not the same power of selection that they subse-
quently acquired. In the first instance we were
taking the piles as they rose from the docks, but
still putting aside any defective deals; subsequently,
upon the representations of the department here, the
timber masters were requested to attend at the docks,
and they made their choice in the docks.

616. Can you state at all the date of that altera-
tion? Captain Farmer, who writes on the 17th of
October 1856, says that the broker sold the timber as
it rose in the pile, and that the power of selection was
not exercised in the docks. Captain Farmer's letter pro-
ceeds upon one assumption, and the reply of the
broker proceeds upon another; therefore, any com-
parison of the price, without taking that alteration
into account, would be useless?—Perhaps I ought to
mention that when we first made the change of system,
I wrote to some of the large dealers to know what
alteration of price they would make if we selected the
timber at their wharf, instead of selecting it at
Woolwich, and I had a letter from Messrs. Dowson
and Company, in which they stated, that if the timber
they were about to deliver was selected at their own
wharf instead of being delivered at Woolwich and se-
lected here, they would make a difference of 2½ per
cent. This is their letter:—"Princes' Wharf, Lam-
beth, September 15th, 1855.—Sir, with reference to
our letter of the 14th instant, in answer to yours
of the 13th idem, we have since given the subject
further consideration, and we have now to say that
we are willing to make a deduction of 2½ per cent.
from the contract price upon such portion of the
deals as shall be received in the docks, with the
understanding that the selection allowed by the
terms of our agreement is to be made at the time

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then supply it, and named very much
higher prices as the worth of the large
wood, when he might have it. If he
now offers equal quality at 14l. 17s. 6d.,
it can only have reference to another
period, or to different dimensions; in
like manner the offer of 11l. 10s., irre-
spective of size and quality, quoted in
a letter to the Director-General in the
month of August, coupled with various
statements about other contracts which
had been executed, was replied to by us
on the 19th September.

As to sabicu, Mr. Tyrie was himself
the contractor, the price paid was 14l.
per load for 18 inches and upwards,
12l. 10s. under 18 inches, according to
the classification and approval of the
officers, and we could only confirm
these terms on finding no other timber
of the sort in the market.

The statement of our having bought
the lot at one price, good and bad, is
therefore erroneous.

J. Roberts' letter and official ditto,
12th September 1856, Z⁶⁶³ finding
313 that deliveries were making of African
oak, 22nd September 1856, Z⁶⁶³ and
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of Cuba mahogany, he writes com-
plaining that his wood was not taken,
naming the low prices indicated.

His wood offered was surveyed and
none found fit for the service, as might
have been expected from the tenor of
his letter.

Mr. Tyrie was the only importer of
sabicu; he had the market in his own
hands. He did not like the employ-
ment of a broker, and when he found
C. and S. were employed, he raised this
price.

We have annexed our replies and
observations to the questions.

(Signed) CHURCHILL & SIM.

Submitted, 39, Old Broad Street,
December 13, 1856.

"of shipment." That is, when the timber was taken down from the pile and put into the barge.

617. That implies selection in either case?—Unquestionably there is selection; that merely meets the question whether the selection shall be here or in the docks. Timber merchants who thoroughly understood their business, and intended to send goods down here that were sure to pass, or were likely to pass, would run very little risk of additional charge on account of the returns. A house like Dowson's only estimated that charge at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

618. Supposing that there were large rejections here?—Of course the difference would be more. It depends entirely upon the character of the merchant who provides the supply. If a man sends timber down which is sure to pass, and he knows it ought to pass, the expense would be less.

619. I think you stated that the name of Sim did not appear as the seller. Is there any other Mr. Sim, besides the broker, in the timber trade?—I said that the name of Sim had not appeared as the seller as far as my recollection went; upon reference I find that there are two contracts where the name "A. M. Sim" appears as the seller.

620. In the return, from September 1855 to November 1856, when Colonel Tulloh's letter was written, you have stated the names of the sellers; how did you obtain those names?—In order to make that return complete I have sent to the brokers for the names of the sellers of such portions of the timber and deals as they purchased prior to the time at which they were ordered, to send the names of the sellers to the War Department. (Appendix No. 2.)

621. Then this return is made up partly from information furnished by the brokers?—Yes; it is copied from the original contracts in their contract books. I sent a gentleman in my office to the brokers for the purpose of getting the names of the parties of whom purchases were made, of which we have no record in the War Department.

622. The quantities of timber purchased and the prices paid you could make up from your own books, could not you?—Of course.

623. During the time that the brokers have been employed, have there been any purchases of timber direct, without the intervention of the brokers?—Yes; we wanted a quantity of teak upon one occasion, and I spoke to Mr. Leary upon the subject; Mr. Leary said, and it is very creditable to him, I think:—"I tell you frankly, there is but one cargo of teak in the market, which is particularly suitable for you; if there were a considerable number of cargoes I would undertake your commission. I have nothing to do with it, and I recommend you to go to Messrs. Skeen and Freeman, the brokers employed for the sellers of that teak, and make the best bargain you can with them for it." That was the cargo of the "Princess Royal."

624. Is that the only instance?—There have been other instances in which we have made purchases of timber. We have purchased timber from Mr. Roberts and other parties. We do not encourage in the department the offers of private individuals to suit their own views. When the department wishes to buy, steps are taken to procure the timber most suitable for purchase, but we do not encourage merchants in making offers.

625. If you have been buying direct from the importer or the merchant, without the intervention of a broker, concurrently with the employment of a broker, the prices paid under those two different systems might possibly be material, as assisting us in seeing which was the cheaper mode?—We very rarely make the purchase without asking the broker what is the current rate for that particular article; it is very seldom that it has been done. I have a case before me at this moment. On the 14th of August last we received an offer of a cargo of Honduras mahogany ex the ship "Clarendon." It was offered at 12*l.* per load, under 24 inches wide; 14*l.* from 24

to 30 inches, and 15*l.* above 30 inches. We declined the offer at that time because we were not in want of mahogany. Subsequently we required mahogany, and we placed an order in the hands of Mr. Leary, the mahogany broker. He said that a public sale was about to take place shortly, and he would recommend buying the timber which we wanted at that particular sale. It was the same cargo, and was sold on the 28th of October. Mr. Leary purchased for the War Department to the extent of 185*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.* The quantity he bought, which cost the department at a public sale 185*l.* 7*s.* 8*d.*, would have cost 272*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* if we had accepted the offer of Mr. Roberts of that particular cargo, which shows a saving of 87*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*, or equal to 32 per cent., effected by the operation. It was bought, therefore, more advantageously than when the cargo was offered to us. Moreover, it may be stated, that when that sale took place there was considerable excitement in the market at the time; there was an advance of 15 per cent. upon the previous market rates; therefore, while the market was in this state of activity we made a purchase upon which we saved 32 per cent. upon the previous offer that had been made to the department. Our purchase was not a large one, because the broker exercised a very wise discretion in not buying at extravagant rates when evidently prices were being paid which were not likely to be maintained.

626. Have you never known the converse happen, that is, an offer to be made at a lower figure than you afterwards gave for the very same cargo through a broker?—I have never known an offer when the broker has paid more, when we could trace that the offer was for timber of the same quality, the same dimensions, and of the same character as that purchased by the broker. It is a very easy thing to offer timber at a certain price, but everything depends upon the character and quality of the article.

627. When such offers have been made to you by private individuals, have you instructed the brokers to go and look at the timber?—Always, when we were buyers at the time, or soon after.

628. In such a case as that, supposing you direct the broker to look at the cargo, and he reports it not fit for the requirements of the service, and you afterwards purchase it without the intervention of a broker, upon whose judgment do you rely?—Upon the judgment of the officers here. We should not make a purchase of that kind without referring the offer to the department here, and knowing their opinion as to the propriety of the purchase.

629. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is it not rather inconsistent that you should on most occasions go upon the judgment of your brokers, and on others that you should set aside their judgment, and act upon the judgment of your officers? Why do you pursue two systems?—We go upon the judgment of the brokers with regard to price, and we go upon the judgment of the officers with regard to quality.

630. In some of those instances, when the judgment of the officers of the establishment is taken and the broker's judgment is not attended to, do you pay any commission to the broker?—We did not pay any buying commission upon the cargo of the "Princess Royal."

631. If the broker acts *bonâ fide* in the interests of the purchaser, is not his judgment or ought it not to be on all occasions worth the one per cent., supposing that that one per cent. is the only advantage which he derives from the transaction?—Certainly.

632. Then either the broker is entitled to that one per cent. on all occasions or he is not worthy of your employment at all, I should argue?—Exactly.

633. I do not comprehend the system of employing a broker sometimes, and at other times having no broker?—The instance to which I particularly referred was one when we bought a considerable quantity of teak without a broker; and as I have already stated, Mr. Leary, in that case, put before us the position of

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the market; at that time, perhaps it was twelve months ago, he told me "There is but one cargo in the docks, "and it is of no use for me as your buying broker to "interfere. I shall get my commission if you order "me to purchase it, but I tell you there is but one "man who has got the article to sell, and he has got "one of the best cargoes that ever came to the port "of London, and if you choose to make a direct communication in this instance, you will save your "brokerage." I had the assistance of the broker as freely as if I had paid him his usual commission.

634. (*Chairman.*) Is not it a part of the qualifications of a broker to be able to judge of the quality of the timber as well as of the market price?—No doubt about it. If I were buying as a merchant for a foreign correspondent, I should leave the selection as to quality as well as price to the judgment of the broker, but buying for the use of a department, where it is considered of great importance that they should not receive that which would not suit their purpose, the officers are brought in upon the question of quality.

635. Can you state precisely the date at which that power of selection was given to the department?—I believe that more or less the approval of the officers of the department was obtained for almost all the purchases. There was one case in which we took a certain pile of Dantzic timber, in which a part was rejected; it was subsequently re-sold, and replaced. There we took the timber as it rose in floats, but still selecting the floats; the instances, I think, are very few in which the officer has not had a choice with regard to the quality of the material that is sent in. The brokers will be able to answer you more correctly upon that point, because our instructions to the brokers are to put themselves into communication with the officers of the department to ascertain from them precisely what is wanted, and to take care that they purchase that which will suit the purposes of the department.

636. Have you ever known cases in which the same timber has passed through two or three separate hands from the time of its importation to the time it came to you, in each case the sale being effected by your brokers?—The only case in which I know of that is the case of a large purchase of deals, of which a portion was bought of Messrs. Grissell. A considerable quantity of deals was required, and a contract was made with a large contracting house, Messrs. Sewell and Neck, for the supply of those deals. A certain quantity in the market was required to make up the supply sold to the department. Messrs. Churchill and Sim bought for Messrs. Sewell and Neck, of Messrs. Grissell, Brothers, certain entire cargoes containing first, second, and third quality of deals, to be used in part of this contract; Messrs. Sewell and Neck delivering to the department the first quality only at an advanced price. They bought the three qualities at one uniform rate; they sold the best at an advance to the department from 16*l.* 10*s.* to 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, retaining for other purposes the remainder.

637. Have you never known timber advanced in price from being passed through several sales, which were managed by your brokers before it reached the department?—If such a thing were to occur I should think it quite a breach of all mercantile propriety.

638. Have you a list of contractors for timber similar to the lists which you have at the War Office for other departments?—We had a list of contractors at the time the supply was by competition.

639. Did you send round to invite tenders?—We have not invited tenders since the change of system; the purchases prior to that time were all made upon that principle.

640. What are the particular points upon which you rely in the employment of a broker?—We expect a broker to be fully informed as to the position and prospects of the market for the article required, and able to advise as to the best time for purchases. We employ him principally upon the question of price; we

expect him to exercise vigilance with regard to quality; we expect him to take care and place before the observation of the officers of the department the best cargoes of the particular kind of timber or deals that may be required, and to exercise a general superintendence as to the proper fulfilment of the contract during the whole process of delivery.

641. The broker never superseded the judgment of the timber master here, or rather you never depended upon his judgment solely?—We never have received anything when the timber master has said "that is "bad," and the broker has said "it is good."

642. Captain Farmer, in his report, says "In our "former system we had the advantage of rejecting "timber that did not suit us; that we have now lost, "as we are obliged to take the timber delivered by "the brokers, good and bad together." If that is true, that the timber master had not the opportunity of judging of the timber till after it was delivered by the brokers, did not you take the judgment of the brokers as to quality, and dispense with the judgment of the timber master?—I believe that there were very few instances in which the timber was taken, according to the commercial phrase, as it rose from the pile; there were some instances in which we bought complete piles, taking the chances as it would rise. I believe that has not been done to any great extent, and, certainly, not at a recent period.

The following letter from Colonel Tulloh to the Commissioners was read:—

Royal Carriage Department,
Woolwich, Nov. 2, 1858.

SIR, With reference to the inquiry in progress before the Royal Commission on the subject of timber, in which my letter to the War Department of the 12th November 1856 (to which no answer has yet been received), has been referred to, I have to observe that the annoyance I felt on the occasion of the printing of this letter was not that its contents had been circulated among the public, but that a suspicion of a breach of confidence should attach to my office.

In considering the important subject of providing timber for the construction of war matériel in this department, I have little to add to the opinions therein expressed, except that I am more than ever convinced that open competition would in every respect be superior to procuring timber through a broker; for, although within the last few months we have been allowed to select the timber purchased through a broker, which was one of the objections, the others remain in full force.

The broker being both buyer and seller, is subject to be influenced by his own immediate connexions, thus confining the supply which should be obtained openly from the market to a limited number of persons, and therefore a certain amount of injustice is done to the trade at large; as well as to the Government, who pay a higher price in consequence.

On no occasion whatever have we found a broker of any assistance in the selection of timber for our peculiar purpose, that superior knowledge being possessed only by this department.

If any reduction has taken place in the prices since the employment of brokers, as compared with those which previously obtained, it has been from the market price being lower, and not arising from the employment of a broker. Instances, indeed, have occurred where parties have offered timber at a less price, which, although recommended, has been afterwards ordered through a broker at an advanced price, with charges for brokerage and lighterage in addition, as in the case of Messrs. Rolt's fir (April 7, 1858), offered at 4*l.* 5*s.*, which cost 4*l.* 15*s.* through a broker, exclusive of charges. This can be seen on reference to the books at the office.

No doubt other similar cases would have often occurred had not the trade been aware that any application to the royal carriage department would only be simply referred to the director of contracts at Pall Mall.

Instances have also occurred in which timber procured through a broker has been wholly inapplicable to the service, as represented in my letter to the War Department of the 23d of October 1857, by which it will appear that, out of 363 loads of fir timber, under contracts with Churchill and Sim, 120 loads were rejected as unfit, and entailing a loss to the public by the sale of the rejected portion, and

its being replaced at a higher price than the original contract.

Had this taken place under the old system of open competition, the contractor, had he supplied such timber, would have had it thrown upon his hands with all attendant expenses; and, should he not have replaced it within a given time at his contract price, he would have been either fined or the material purchased elsewhere, and the additional expenses charged against him.

Being alone responsible for the articles manufactured, I am particularly interested in the purchase of timber of a suitable quality for the service of the department, and there being only a certain sum allowed each year for the purchase of timber, I am more interested than any one else in getting it cheap.

The instances herein given are merely by way of example of the system of brokers pursued in this department, and can all be verified by the office books. Other instances can also be afforded should the Commissioners desire it.

I have, &c.

ALEX. T. TULLOH,
Colonel Royal Artillery,
Superintendent Royal Carriage Department.

643. (*Chairman.*) Have you any observation to make in contravention of the statement that under the system of competition you would buy timber at a cheaper rate than when you entrusted the selection of it to an individual?—I think there has been a much greater difference in reference to our purchases of deals than with reference to our purchases of timber; if you look in the first instance at the case of deals, the difference is very palpable. We went to contractors for deals in March 1854, when the current market rate for Petersburg and Omega deals was 23*l.* per standard, or 46*l.* the double standard, which we are usually in the habit of purchasing. We paid 80*l.*, 90*l.*, and 120*l.* per 120 for deals at that period. We paid several times 78*l.*, 80*l.* and 90*l.* Therefore, we had to pay the difference between the 46*l.*, which was the current cargo rate, and the 80*l.* and 90*l.*, which was the price that was charged for our purchases by the parties who sold under the system of competition.

644. You re-state a fact which you gave before, but you do not give the rationale. Is not there something behind to account for that difference?—I do not know what it is; I should be very glad to hear it from those who sold the goods.

645. (*Mr. Turner.*) I have not yet thoroughly comprehended what the disadvantages are of the

brokerage system if it is honestly carried out. Is it not the great desideratum to have a thoroughly honest, honourable broker who acts solely for the interest of his employers, and not for his own, except so far as his commission is concerned?—I believe that if a broker executes his orders in the way to which you have alluded, the advantages are palpable and material. Of course no system can be advantageous if it is not honestly and truthfully carried out.

646. The broker ought certainly to be able to bring to bear an amount of diligence and knowledge in the interests of his principal which should be worth his 1*l.* per cent.; but if he is tempted to consult his own interests or the interests of his employers who are the sellers more than yours, the interests of the government suffer, because other interests clash; then I say you had better resort to the principle of competition; but if you can get a man who will act honestly and diligently for your interests I think he is worth his hire?—I agree precisely in your view of the general principle.

647. I apply the observations I have made to what you seem to carry out, and which I thoroughly understand with respect to your purchases in the Manchester market. In order to make those purchases on the most advantageous terms, you must conform to the principle of business and supply yourselves as other people are supplied in the market in which you deal. You must carry that out, in my opinion, in all your transactions. The Government cannot lay down arbitrary rules, and they cannot make exceptions in the mode of dealing in the market for any articles without paying exorbitantly; they must conform themselves to business regulations in mercantile transactions, and they cannot follow any system but that which the trade generally adopt, except at a disadvantage?—That is precisely the system upon which I have ventured to recommend certain changes to the War Department. With reference to purchases which have been made through the intervention of brokers or by commission houses, I have been guided entirely by this question:—If a large mercantile house had to make those purchases, what is the course that they would pursue? And I have recommended to the Secretary of State the employment of commission houses only for those particular articles that are invariably bought in the general mercantile transactions of the country through such intervention.

Captain REGINALD ONSLOW FARMER examined.

648. (*Chairman.*) What is your office?—Captain inspector. My chief business is inspecting timber and harness. I am more particularly employed in the timber department.

649. Have you regimental rank?—Yes, as captain of artillery.

650. How long have you filled the office of inspector of timber?—Since July 1856.

651. From a report which has been laid before the Commissioners, your attention seems very soon after your appointment to have been brought to the question of the best mode of obtaining timber supplies?—As soon as I received the appointment I turned my attention to it. My attention was chiefly drawn to the subject by the many complaints that were made of inferior timber being delivered in the department in 1856.

652. Can you state what the defects were that gave rise to those complaints?—There were complaints about a great deal of foreign timber being sent in to the carriage department, which would not have been taken under the old system.

653. Were you cognizant of the old system?—No, the change was made before I joined the department.

654. Were the complaints which you have mentioned well grounded, in your judgment?—They were very much made from my asking how such and such timber came in. I said, "Surely that is bad timber, how did that piece come in?" The answer was,—"It was sent in without the department having the

"power of rejection. A certain quantity was brought and delivered to us, we had no power of rejection at that time." That was the answer given, when I made those remarks, by Mr. Jones, and by one or two of the assistant timber masters.

655. Are you able to say whether the timber of which those complaints were made was sent in by the brokers, or purchased direct by the government?—At that time all the timber came in through brokers.

656. Can you specify any instances?—The instance that directed my particular attention to it is specified in my report, viz.:—Tyrie's sabicu. I have stated what Mr. Tyrie told me himself upon the subject. I dare say he would state it if he were called upon.

657. Are you speaking now of quality and price?—I am speaking of quality. There is another thing to be borne in mind, we used to make abatements for defects.

658. In July 1856 did you find that you had no power to make abatements for defects?—When the timber first passed through my hands we had no power to make abatements for defects.

659. Did you attempt to make abatements?—We had no option in the matter; the timber was brought and sent in, and we took it as it came.

660. When had you first an opportunity of inspecting timber which had been bought or contracted for?—I cannot exactly tell the date. Not very long after sending in my report, Mr. Howell sent for me and I explained to him, to the best of my power, my reasons;

WOOLWICH.

T. Howell, Esq.

4th Nov. 1858.

Captain
R. O. Farmer.

WOOLWICH.

Captain
R. O. Farmer.

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and shortly after that I was sent up to the docks in several instances to select from the pile such timber as was suitable for the department.

661. Is it your belief that, from the time you joined till the time you had that conversation with Mr. Howell, there was no power of selection or power of rejection by the authorities here?—I cannot call any to mind.

662. Were you never called upon, or was Mr. Jones never called upon, to go to the docks to inspect timber?—If Mr. Jones was called upon to do so he can answer the question. I certainly never was.

663. You have stated that under the former system you had the advantage of rejecting timber that did not suit you, which you have now lost as you are obliged to take the timber as delivered by the brokers, good and bad together?—When I wrote that report, we certainly had lost that power, and we took what was sent in.

664. As to Mr. Tyrie's sabicu, are you aware of the fact that there was no other timber of that description in the market?—Yes; that was very much the reason why Mr. Tyrie felt rather offended at his offer not being taken, and having the broker sent to him, and he altered the terms as I have stated. The original offer was to send in such as was suitable for the service and to reject such as was not suitable to the service; the second offer was to send in the whole, and to give us no power of rejection and no power of abatement, which also makes a difference in the price of the wood.

665. Do you remember saying "Four months ago," (speaking of the time you joined,) "we could have bought Omega deals of the first quality, to any amount, direct from the importers, at 16*l.* 10*s.*" and that you afterwards had to pay a higher price?—I called upon several large houses, Grissell's, Dowson's, and several others, and I took what they said their price was at that time. I said four months ago (which was the time the purchase was made,) what was the price, and I put down what the merchants said they would have delivered deals at Woolwich for at that time.

666. Picked selected deals?—Yes. Many of those merchants were contractors.

667. The whole question turns upon those very points. Messrs. Churchill and Sim say, "No, you could not get the first quality of deals to any amount as you assert; you might have a mixed quality, first, second, and third." Can you undertake to say that Messrs. Grissell were alluding to the first quality of deals which could be had in June 1856, to any amount, at 16*l.* 10*s.*?—I think I can say that that was the price which Mr. Grissell stated for the first quality of deals. I will not undertake to say that it was the price for selected deals; to the best of my belief it was, but I would not state it positively that it was the first quality; I can say positively that was the price Messrs. Grissell would have delivered the first quality of deals into Woolwich for.

668. (To Mr. Grissell.) Did you ever state to Captain Farmer in the autumn of 1856, that in June 1856 you would have furnished the first quality of deals to any amount at 16*l.* 10*s.*?—Personally I never saw Captain Farmer at all; it was either my brother or one of my partners.

669. Do you know whether you could have done so?—We could have supplied a large quantity of Omega deals of the first quality at 16*l.* 10*s.*

670. Did not you sell the three qualities together at that price?—I do not remember what we sold the three qualities together for. I can tell you accurately to-morrow.

671. (To Captain Farmer.) Did you complain of the quality of the deals that were so furnished?—Of those 30,000 picked lot of deals which were supplied in the autumn of 1856, we have a large quantity now in stock in our grounds which are not fit for use in the royal carriage department.

672. (Mr. Turner.) Is that the stack you pointed out the other day with so many defective deals on the outside?—Yes.

673. (Chairman.) They appear to have been purchased from Messrs. Slee and Bulmer on the 18th of June 1856, at 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*?—Yes.

674. Do you mean to say that any of those yellow Archangel deals, for which 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* was paid, were defective?—We have a large quantity now left not fit for use.

675. Do deals deteriorate by exposure? No, not in the stack; those are as good as they can be, they are thoroughly well seasoned.

676. Were they all inferior deals?—No; there was a large quantity. We have been picking them over, and, by taking them out as we want them, we are gradually reducing the number. There are now very few left but what are not fit for use.

677. Can you undertake to say that the authorities had not the opportunity of selecting and rejecting any deals that they might find unfit for the service?—I can.

678. Has any other timber been delivered since you joined, which is inferior or unfit for the service?—No; I think not. We have selected the timber ourselves at the docks since the winter of 1856.

679. What has been done with any timber which may have been found defective, if any such there were?—We worked it up as we best could.

680. Can you give any information as a matter of fact whether there has been bad and inferior timber delivered by the brokers? You say that those Archangel deals were not good; can you give any other instance?—I pointed out the sabicu wood; but that particular question the timber master can answer better than I can. He serves out every particular piece of wood used in the department, and knows what becomes of every piece of wood that comes in.

681. You made a statement in your report that you were paying through brokers 15*l.* 8*s.* for mahogany when the same mahogany might have been supplied by Mr. Tyrie direct, for 14*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*?—That was Mr. Tyrie's own statement. I asked him at the time what he would supply mahogany for, and he gave us the terms. He said I will supply you with mahogany of such and such a size, at such and such a price.

682. Was that simply from his objection to having anything to do with brokers?—He had an objection to deal with brokers, and he said so.

683. You also say, there is now fine mahogany in the docks offered at 11*l.* 10*s.* per load, subject to the usual rejection and deductions. Did you see it?—No.

684. If you did not see it, how can you say you are now paying for mahogany not a whit superior to it, 15*l.* 8*s.*?—I do not know whether Mr. Jones saw it in the docks. I think the timber master saw it where it laid. I did not see it myself.

685. Is that statement made upon the timber master's authority rather than your own?—Yes; I could not have better authority for the quality of the timber.

686. About the African oak:—"I was offered on the 15th instant my pick of 150 loads, lying in the docks, to be selected and delivered at Woolwich free of charges for 9*l.* 10*s.*"?—I was offered that by Mr. Roberts. I remember Mr. Jones going to the docks, and I asked him to see it; he came back and I took his opinion of the quality of the African oak which was there; he said there was a great deal inferior, but we could select 30 or 40 loads perfectly good at that price.

687. Do you happen to know that 306 loads had been already selected from the bulk, and that what you saw were the rejections?—That African oak we did not select ourselves.

688. The brokers say, in the statement which has been read this morning,—"True, you might have bought African oak for 9*l.* 10*s.*, and you may have seen it in the docks, but there was no other African oak excepting that from which we had made a selection at a somewhat higher price, and that was in reality our leavings"?—A certain quantity of African oak was bought and sent down to us. There was also another quantity which was offered. The

timber master went up to inspect it, and his report when he came down was that we could select a certain quantity equal to that which we were receiving.

689. 30 or 40 loads?—I cannot name the precise quantity.

690. You have drawn the deduction that you might save 2*l*. 9*s*. a load, but is that deduction (unless you have anything to add upon the subject) necessarily a correct one?—It is only correct as far as it went.

691. A man has 450 loads of timber; he sells 300 loads at 11*l*., and the remaining 150, he afterwards says, I will sell you at a lower price. Is that any proof that you would have saved in the other supply?—We have no proof that what the timber master saw was left from the other cargo. I have not the least idea, and could not have any. I dealt with it as a *bonâ fide* offer for a parcel in the docks.

692. Do you undertake to say that it was as good as the supply which had been furnished?—A selection could have been made as good as what was furnished.

693. What ground have you for saying that in many cases timber passes through several hands between its importation and its coming to the Government department here, and that upon each of those occasions the broker has a commission?—Mr. Howell will remember my mentioning that to him. My informant upon that point was Mr. Gabriel; he mentioned it to me as a thing known to be done in the trade by brokers. I was talking about brokers, and he said, "Sometimes it happens if they want wood for B they go to A and say, 'I want some wood,' and if you will buy it I will buy it of you." I made rather a strong remark about it at the time, and I pointed that fact out to Mr. Howell, and he made a still stronger remark upon it.

694. You have asserted in your report that such a practice occurred in many cases; such an observation is only relevant if it applies to a supply of timber to the Government. You would not have put anything intentionally irrelevant into your report; do you mean to say that the Government is paying something more than it ought to do by reason of the timber having passed through several hands before it gets to theirs? Do you know any case in which it happened?—I know a case in which it happened with Mr. Hoar. He told me himself that there was an order sent for sabieu wood. Mr. Leary got the order, and he went to Mr. Rolt; Mr. Rolt bought the sabieu of Mr. Hoar; Mr. Rolt made a profit upon it, and Mr. Hoar made a profit upon it.

695. To whom did Mr. Rolt sell?—Messrs. Leary bought it from Mr. Rolt, and Mr. Rolt bought it from Mr. Hoar. My informant was Mr. Hoar; he told me that in the docks.

696. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you mean to say that there was a kind of conspiracy among the brokers to defraud the Government because an order was out for timber? It has been said that the Jews act in a ring in the biddings at the sales, do you wish us to infer that there was a ring of brokers to get a commission out of the transaction?—Not exactly; the wood was a parcel of sabieu. Mr. Leary was told to buy sabieu, and he went to Mr. Rolt and bought it, Mr. Rolt having bought it of Mr. Hoar. If we had had a competition Mr. Hoar would have come forward and said,—"I have got the sabieu, and you shall have it at such a price;" but by going to the brokers to buy it it came through two hands.

697. At what date did this happen?—I understand from Mr. Hoar that the sabieu was sold on the 28th of June 1858.

698. Has that sabieu been received here?—Yes.

699. (*Chairman.*) That transaction appears to have been in this summer or autumn?—Yes.

700. You were stating in your report the result of your inquiries in October 1856, do you know any cases in which timber furnished to the Government (before you wrote that letter) had by reason of an arrangement, we will call it, been subject to brokers' commissions two or three times, the whole of which the Government had eventually to pay?—The only

thing I went upon was Mr. Gabriel's statement. There were one or two other gentlemen in the room, and none of them denied it. I knew that I should give a verbal report upon it, and when I saw Colonel Tulloh and Mr. Howell I explained my reasons, and what data I went upon.

701. Are there not timber merchants quite independent of timber importers—middle men, or whatever you like to call them—who have stocks of timber?—Yes. What I wanted to establish if I could was the advisability on all occasions of going straight to the importer, and saving the different profits of the other parties.

702. Your observation is merely that it is better to pay at first hand, and not to imply any charge at all against the brokers?—No; I wished to come to the conclusion that it was better to go to large houses and get the goods straight, and pass them through as few intermediate hands as possible, so that only one profit should be made on the timber, and not two or three.

703. You spoke to a good many of the principal merchants, and they all said they could supply the Government cheaper; can you give the name of any?—I spoke to Messrs. Dowson, to Messrs. Gabriel, Mr. Rolt, Mr. Meux, Mr. Tyrie, and one or two more in the city. I made a list of as many as I could think of, and took their opinions. Messrs. Grissell I think I have mentioned.

704. Do you now make the selection of timber in the docks?—Yes, in all cases now.

705. Do not you think that that is preferable to having the selection made here?—I think very much so. It saves money both to the Government and to the merchants.

706. Is there the same facility for making a selection in the docks as here?—Yes; several difficulties at first were thrown in our way.

707. By whom?—I think Messrs. Churchill and Sim were certainly against our selecting wood in the docks when that system began.

708. Have you any difficulty in making your inspection in the docks as completely as you would make it if the timber were brought here?—We very much prefer selecting it at the docks; it is impossible to take wood unless you see it thoroughly. Every piece has four sides and two ends, and you must see the four sides and two ends, otherwise you cannot make a proper selection.

709. How is timber measured here?—In cubic feet, by multiplying the length, width, and depth.

710. Is that done by your officers?—We always take the dock measurement; it is measured for duty and several other things.

711. Do you know practically how it is done?—Every piece of wood is measured by the officers in the docks, and the contents are marked on one side, and also marked in red chalk or red paint on one end, and we take those contents. We generally measure several pieces of each load when the timber comes here so as to check the marks, but we have found the dock measurements accord with ours very closely indeed; there may be a few inches over or under, but the average dock measurement is just the same as ours.

712. Have you ever had any substantial reason to complain of the dock measurement?—No, the timber is measured by competent officers.

713. Does the payment take place upon the dock measurement?—Yes.

714. You mean by dock measurement the measurement by the dock authorities?—Yes.

715. For what purpose do they measure the timber?—For customs, for freight, and for sale, in public sales.

716. I believe there are several different brokers' measurements?—Yes.

717. If you were to buy timber at so much a load, and the seller's load were smaller than yours, would not there be a manifest loss to the Government in buying upon his measurement, and not upon your own?—The load is always 50 cubic feet.

WOOLWICH.

Captain
R. O. Farmer.

4th Nov. 1858.

WOOLWICH.

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718. (*Mr. Turner.*) I understand the measurement by the dock officers regulates the number of cubic feet in that timber, which the seller invoices and the purchaser pays for, and the freight is paid by; and there never is any other measurement of that piece of timber than that measurement taken in the docks?—No.

719. And that dock measurement, you say, is very correct?—Yes.

720. You as a general rule adopt it, and are satisfied with it?—Yes, the Government lose nothing by it. We have bought a parcel of mahogany by dock measurement.

721. (*Chairman.*) Can you form an opinion as to whether you get wood as cheap by the present system as by the former, with the right of selection at the docks?—I do not know whether we get it any cheaper. On the 7th of August 1857, we paid 19*l.* 5*s.* a load for mahogany, and the market price at that time was about 16*l.* or 17*l.*

722. Was that bought by a broker?—Yes.

723. On the 7th of August 1857, you bought forty loads of mahogany at 19*l.* 5*s.*; upon what grounds do you state that you could have got it cheaper?—Because it was above the market price quoted in the price-current of the day.

724. Would the quotations in the price-current be subject to the power of selection and rejection at the docks or elsewhere?—No.

725. In such an article as mahogany what additional per-centage would you expect to be charged for that condition?—Not large. I was told by one of the brokers that it had been offered to the Government for 16*l.* a load, and declined. I only quote that for what it is worth. I am quite sure it could have been bought equally good, and that the market price was much lower than 19*l.* 5*s.* The other day Mr. Rolt offered a parcel of fir from the Zabladouski forest, the best fir that comes into the market, at 4*l.* 5*s.*; I strongly recommended it to be taken; the Government refused it, and Messrs. Churchill and Sim bought fir at 4*l.* 15*s.*

726. Was it the same fir?—No; it supplied our demand, but it was not the same fir.

727. Have not Messrs. Rolt had a good many sales through the brokers?—Yes.

728. Have not they had some of the largest?—Yes; the brokers deal with them more than anybody else.

729. Can you give any other instances?—I can mention one instance to show how difficulties arise sometimes from employing the same broker for buyer and seller. Last year I went up to the docks with an order to select from a certain cargo of wood three sizes, at three prices, the largest size was not to be less than fifteen inches square; and on coming up to the docks I saw out of that ship a large pile of very fine timber. I said at once "I shall take this pile, it comes under my contract;" and Messrs. Churchill and Sim's clerk, Mr. Munro, was there. He said, "You are not intended to have that." I said, "I must insist upon having it, it comes under my contract." He said, "If you will let it stand over till Mr. Sim comes the next day he will settle it." When Mr. Sim came he said, "You cannot mean that; your terms are not less than fifteen inches, that would mean not much larger." I said "I insist upon taking this pile;" and after a great deal of difficulty and a great deal of dispute I carried my point and gained my pile. There the Government broker was dealing for the seller and not for the buyer. If we had not been particular about it we should have lost the best pile of that cargo. I took the pile as it stood, and it was the best pile I ever saw.

730. What object could Mr. Sim have in not wishing you to purchase this pile of timber?—I mean to show that when the same broker is employed for buyer and seller he cannot advocate the interests of both buyer and seller, and he must take the interests of one.

731. How did the interest of buyer and seller clash in that case?—Because, in a cargo like this, there

would be a few teaks in size and quality which would be worth very much more than the contractors' price, and if the importer had kept in his hands the pick of the whole cargo it would make a better price. The Government would take the smallest and leave the very finest pile of teak in the docks, which was worth a very long price; of course it would be very much to his advantage to keep it in his hands.

732. The broker desired in that case that the seller should have remaining the eligible timber which he might sell at a higher price?—Exactly; he was the Government broker.

733. In that case you think he allowed the interests of his client, the seller, to override the interests of the purchaser?—Precisely so, because it was just the timber we wanted.

734. Can you state, from your own knowledge, whether the prices of mahogany have fallen or risen during the last year?—To the best of my belief the prices of mahogany came down this summer; I think they are rising now.

735. Have you any other statement which you wish to make?—I wish to make two remarks on what Messrs. Churchill and Sim said in their answer. One was, when they said, of all the timber they had bought there had been none objected to when it came down here. The answer to that is simply that we had no power, and it would have been a waste of words to have made an objection. Secondly, with respect to the selection of timber by the timber master, I wish there to be no confusion between their timber master and our timber master. Several times they said the timber was selected by the timber master; I only wish to point out that he is no timber master appointed by the Government.

736. Do you remember a case of some mistake, or substitution of one wood for another?—Yes; I remember that.

737. Can you state the particulars?—Messrs. Slee and Bulmer had a contract to supply some Porto Rico mahogany, and when it was inspected part of it was wood of an inferior description. Colonel Tulloh wrote to the War Office pointing this out and recommending that the whole contract should be cancelled. On account of this Messrs. Slee and Bulmer came down and showed us clearly, from their bills of lading and other papers, that they had bought this timber in Liverpool as Porto Rico mahogany, and paid for it as Porto Rico mahogany, and that they were not aware of the fact till some twelve logs had been already sent to Woolwich, and then whilst another barge was being loaded they discovered the mistake and stopped the loading; they brought all the papers and effectually cleared themselves. Colonel Tulloh reported to the office that he had gone through the whole thing, and that Messrs. Slee and Bulmer had completely exonerated themselves, and it was an entire mistake.

738. Was that timber sold through a broker?—No.

739. (*To Mr. Howell.*) Up to the time of that new system being adopted, the authorities here had power to reject timber. After the new system of purchase by brokers, Captain Farmer says that they had not the power to reject timber, but were obliged to take it as it came in. Was there any formal order by which that system of brokerage was substituted, and the power of rejection, which formerly existed, taken away?—There was a formal order from Lord Panmure for purchasing by brokerage and delivering of timber and deals at this department, which were to be received as they were bought.

740. Did you notify to the authorities that they were no longer to have the power of rejection?—The circumstances under which the timber was to be received were notified. I do not recollect any special letter being written to the department here stating that instead of buying by tender, we were going to buy through brokers. When a purchase was made by brokers, the fact of that particular purchase was intimated to the department, and of all purchases as they subsequently followed.

Mr. GEORGE JONES examined.

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741. (*Chairman.*) What office do you hold?—I am timber master of the carriage department.

742. How long have you held that office?—About 18 years, since 1840.

743. Had you under the old system the power of inspecting the timber delivered here?—Yes.

744. Was it mainly upon your judgment that the timber was received or rejected?—There was always an officer in the department in attendance with me. I can state the method in which the inspection was carried on. A barge of timber came down; the timber was landed, and a man was appointed to lay the worst side upwards. When there was a defective place he was to bore a hole to ascertain what the defect was. Then I went with officers of the department to make an inspection and ascertain what abatement might be required to make good the defect, or otherwise reject the tree; if there was no defect, we took the whole of the tree. The timber was afterwards measured and carried away to the stacks.

745. In substance, if you objected to timber it might be rejected?—It was rejected by an officer of the department, Captain Clerk for instance, and myself.

746. Were there many rejections under the old system?—A great many at times; sometimes we got a tree that might be defective at one end, and a piece was cut off and an abatement was made in the quantity about to be received of one, two, or three feet. That abatement was made on measurement; if the log measured 50 feet, and there was three feet abatement, 47 feet was carried to account.

747. Did you ever know complaints made by contractors under that old system, of improper rejections?—Not of improper rejections; they would complain of rejection, but on the whole they considered they were fairly treated. They all considered they were hard done by, but on the whole they considered it much better to submit to the abatements than have the expense of removing the timber.

748. Although they grumbled, you never knew anybody object to tender because your rejections were too heavy?—They frequently said that they would never tender again, but when the tenders went out, they were generally in again.

749. I take it for granted that you and the officers you have mentioned had no object but to secure the best article for the Government?—No; the contractors would see that one contractor was not better used than another. They were frequently round the wharf while the inspection was going on.

750. You think they had fair play?—Yes; we had a duty to perform, and it was carried out.

751. Did you ever hear a rumour that anybody was favoured at the expense of another?—No.

752. Are you cognizant of the mode in which contracts were formerly made? Was there a list of who should tender when timber was wanted, and was notice sent round to them to tender?—That was from Pall Mall; I had nothing to do with that.

753. Were the authorities at Woolwich consulted as to what timber was wanted?—We made a demand at a certain period of the year; the orders that were on hand for the next twelve months were calculated, and an estimate was made to ascertain what quantity of timber would be required to complete those orders, deducting what was in store.

754. Have you ever known the work of the department stopped by reason of the non-delivery of proper timber for the work to be executed?—I have at different times known inconvenience from want of timber.

755. Of late years?—I should say something like twelve months ago, some elm.

756. Did that arise from any sudden demand for the article, or from what cause?—I rather think in one case it was from the contractor not fulfilling his contract; I am not certain at the present moment, but you can be informed upon that subject.

(*Captain Farmer.*) Marshall, the contractor, had all our contracts for elm, and he fell behind in his contract, till Mr. Howell bought some timber and charged him with the surplus; then he delivered the timber.

(*Mr. Howell.*) That was under an Ordnance contract with which the brokers had nothing to do.

757. (*Chairman to Mr. Jones.*) When, if at all, did the alteration in the system commence, by which timber was delivered without your having the opportunity of inspecting it, as you used to do?—About three years ago.

758. Had you any intimation of the alteration?—The only intimation that I am aware of was, that we were to receive certain timber from certain brokers. I am not aware of any other.

759. Was it intimated that you were not to object to the timber, but to receive it?—To the best of my recollection I think it was that a quantity of deals was to be received according to the dock company's assortment. I think that was about the substance of it. They were received by the storekeeper, and not by this department.

760. Had you any inspection of them?—I merely went round to count them with the timber master of that department.

761. Not with a view to abatement or rejection?—There is no abatement upon deals; we counted the number, and the storekeeper took them; so many of various lengths were thrown into a lot, and reduced to the standard of 12 feet long by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch by 11 inch. An account was taken of the number, and they were to be received according to the dock company's assortment. We had no discretion as to the quality.

762. What was the quality of those deals?—As regards the quality, there was no fault to find; a great number of them were too coarse and too knotty for the purposes of the carriage department.

763. Are any of those deals now upon the premises?—Yes, there are some on the canal bank, and some in the timber field.

764. Why have not they been used?—In consequence of not having sufficient coarse work; for common purposes we use inferior deal, white spruce, which answers the purpose quite as well.

765. What were those deals wanted for?—The department required them for powder cases.

766. Do these deals remain unused from the fact that the demand for them has ceased, or because they are not fit for the purpose for which they were bought?—They were too coarse.

767. Is that the only reason?—Yes.

768. Have you used other deals for the purpose for which they might have been used?—We have been picking out the best from time to time.

769. Do you think they were of equal quality to those that had been previously received?—As far as quality went, we selected what we could pick out as good. They were of a hard quality, but had a great many knots, as you can see in them. We could not get as long a piece between the knots as we required.

770. How long did that system continue of your receiving timber from the brokers without exercising any power of rejection or abatement?—We had the liberty of making a selection to this extent:—There might be a stack of timber, and, standing in front of it, we selected what we considered good, judging from the ends of the logs. Frequently upon the pile being opened we might find defects which could not be seen. It is almost like telling what a brick might be in the midst of a clump. Take a stack of timber varying from 20 to 40 feet in length, our system in the beginning was to select the most suitable logs. Captain Farmer would put his hammer upon the log that had the best appearance. In the beginning we took the whole tier, or rejected the whole tier (then we altered to making the selection I am now describing); and on arriving at Woolwich it would be discovered that some logs had defects which could not be seen

WOOLWICH. when we were picking from the ends. We had no power of making any abatement. At the present time we select every log, and turn over every log.

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771. When was that power given?—About 1857.

772. As regards deals, you say that you had no power of rejecting that lot that was sent in September 1855?—None.

773. Was the power of rejecting timber ever taken away from you? Were you ever obliged to receive timber purchased by brokers without having the option of rejecting it, or making abatements for defects?—To this extent we may say it was taken away,—we might mark any logs in the stack that we pleased, and leave any, but there was no abatement; therefore, the power was taken away in that case. But some time afterwards we were allowed the power of making certain abatements.

774. Captain Farmer has said in his letter, speaking of timber, not of deals,—“In the former system, before the brokers came, we had the advantage of rejecting timber that did not suit us. That we have now lost, and we are obliged to take the timber good and bad together.” Was that so?—There might be 150 logs in a stack, and we might mark 50, and when they arrived at Woolwich there might be certain defects which might amount to two or three or four per cent. of abatement, which we did not make at that time, whereas it had been made under the old system.

775. You now go up to see the timber in the docks before it comes here?—Yes.

776. What for?—To mark the logs.

777. Did you formerly go up for the purpose of seeing whether you ought to take the timber?—The first time I went I proposed an abatement, and it was refused; we were to mark the logs that would suit us, and leave those that would not suit us.

778. Did it ever happen that this state of things which Captain Farmer describes existed? he says that you were obliged to take the timber as it was delivered by the broker, good and bad together?—That refers to cedar, mahogany, and other wood, whenever cedar might have been delivered within three years of the present time.

779. Was the power of abatement with respect to cedar taken away from you?—Yes.

780. What did you mark when you went to the docks?—Such logs as were suitable for the service.

781. The piles were not in those days turned over?—No.

782. If you saw on the face of the pile, timber which you thought was not good, had you always the power of objecting to it?—No, we always left those logs behind, and only marked such as appeared to be suitable.

783. Was that before purchase?—Before the purchase occasionally. Sometimes the contract was given first, and the selection made after the contract was given.

784. If you saw on the face of a pile in the docks logs that were objectionable, had you not always the power of rejecting them?—Yes; I must confine myself to teak. If we made a purchase of a quantity of cedar, of five, six, or ten logs in a lot, we must take the whole lot, or reject the whole lot. If there were any defects, we had no power of making abatements for defects. I am speaking of sales.

785. I am speaking of purchases through a broker. A broker is employed to purchase certain timber; he sees certain timber in the docks, you go and mark certain logs. What was the use of your examination if you did not reject those logs that you disapproved of?—The cedar I am now speaking of was purchased by brokers. With reference to any other woods, if there were any logs we did not like the appearance of, we marked the best and left the others unmarked. No abatement was made at the beginning, for the first six or nine months; after that, if the logs turned out very defective, then there were abatements made.

786. Were those abatements for defects which you could not see on the face of the pile?—Yes.

787. Had you not always the opportunity of objecting to defects that appeared upon the face of the pile?—Yes.

788. What was done with those that you did not mark?—We left them entirely, and had nothing to do with them.

789. (Mr. Turner.) There was a separation of good and bad?—Yes; the good only was marked in the catalogue.

790. (Chairman.) Do you know whether the logs which you so examined were sold by auction or by private sale by brokers?—Both.

791. Would you in each case, whether the sale was by auction or by a broker, mark the logs as you have described?—I will explain it; a catalogue was handed to me to go and inspect a certain lot of timber for sale. I went down and inspected that lot and marked off the lots that were most suitable, and perhaps there might be five logs, three very good and the other two not quite so good. I selected from the lots perhaps eight or ten out of 100, and when the sale took place they were bought. As regards the selection of others bought by brokers we should make a selection from an end view of the logs most likely to suit us; they would be marked and the others would be left; no abatement was made at the time I am alluding to.

792. When the lots were set apart for sale by auction, supposing there were five logs, and you thought three of them good and two indifferent, did you mark three?—I should mark the lot.

793. You would buy the lot although there might be one or two logs which you objected to?—Yes.

794. Do you think that you have had much indifferent timber delivered in consequence of not having quite the same power of objection and rejection here?—We have had defective timber, more or less, in consequence of not having that power of rejection.

795. Of course the judgment you could form by inspecting merely the ends of a log would not be nearly so good as by inspecting it all round?—Not at all; we could only see one end.

796. Were you ever applied to for your opinion as to the price that should be given for timber?—No, that was not in my department; that belonged to the Director of Contracts.

797. Do you think that any large quantity of bad timber was ever delivered here in consequence of the inspection not being more rigid?—We have had a quantity, more or less; in some cases it might be two or three per cent, it might amount in some cases to ten per cent. that would have been rejected.

798. If ten per cent. of the timber would have been rejected and you got it ten per cent. cheaper, would not that be as broad as long?—That would be an equivalent. I had nothing to do with the price.

799. Have you formed a judgment whether it is desirable to revert to the old system of competition or do you think the employment of brokers is better for the public service?—My opinion is, that competition is the cheapest way of obtaining goods in all cases.

800. Taking into account all the trouble of inspection, and so on, do you still think that it is better to have competition for the timber required in your department?—I think so, for the reason I have asserted as regards the price principally; otherwise it does not matter. If it went out to contract, the broker would have the opportunity of tendering also in competition.

801. (Mr. Turner.) You advocate the principle of competition; is not that exactly what a good broker insures to his principal, by going about in all directions to see where the money can be best laid out?—I should think it is, so far as that goes.

802. (Chairman.) Do you agree with what Captain Farmer said, that the measurement here is substantially the same as the dock measurement?—About the same; one log may be a little over and another a little under.

803. Do you take the measurement that is sent into you by the dock officers?—Yes.

804. Is there ever any variation in the measurement sufficient to make it worth while to call attention to it?—None; we never had any; the cedar is an exception. We receive the broker's measure; for instance, 420 feet broker's measure might be equal to 600 feet of ours.

805. You do not purchase on one measurement and pay on the other?—No; it would be the same thing in the end.

806. Mr. Roberts has mentioned to me, that upon one occasion, of which I believe you are cognizant, the dock measurement for the freight would have been considerably higher than the amount which you would have paid him for, is that so?—That was irregular grown timber that was measured for freight, and I should think it lost quite a third.

807. Can you explain the circumstance?—It was a quantity of walnut tree supplied in planks instead of being parallel pieces; the trees in some cases were irregular in the centre; the outside of the tree at the

root and the top might be 15 inches, and it was hollow in the centre. That did not measure the quantity that was charged for freight; it might occupy that space in the ship, but that was not the real measurement of timber.

808. Should you have paid Mr. Roberts the measurement which had been sent in from the docks?—He would have been paid according to the measurement we made and not by the dock measurement; the discrepancy was too great; if it had been a trifle of half a foot or anything of that kind we might have paid it.

809. Mr. Roberts suggests that you were going to pay him 30 per cent. too much, is that the case?—I asked him for the dock notes myself.

810. Did Mr. Roberts point out to you that to pay him by the dock measurement would be unjust?—He pointed out to me that it was the freight measure and not the measure of the timber which I should have received on measuring it.

811. So far as he pointed out the measurement to you it was against his own interest to do so?—It was.

Mr. JAMES ROBERTS examined.

812. (*Chairman.*) What are you?—A timber merchant, and an importer of timber also.

813. How long have you been in the trade?—More than 20 years,—all my life in fact.

814. I understand that you are desirous of making a statement to the Commissioners?—I have been a contractor with the Ordnance for about 12 years; I have also had Admiralty contracts; I believe I have executed my contracts with general satisfaction. Previous to the year 1856 I invariably received the Ordnance notice to tender for all kinds of timber and timber articles used by the War Department. I have introduced several woods to Government which had not previously been used, and those woods are still in use although I have not been allowed to tender for them lately. The system of employing brokers commenced in 1856; I had, to my surprise, not received any tender papers, and yet found large deliveries of timber and deals being made (some of which you have seen, and, as Captain Clerk stated, will never be used). I therefore wrote to the Director of Contracts and received in reply letter Z, $\frac{25}{24}$, 19th July 1856; but it was difficult for me to comply with the condition of the letter, *i.e.*, to apply to the brokers, as I did not know positively who they were, or the authority they possessed, their names never having been gazetted or publicly known. There was no *competitive examination*, nor could I ascertain when supplies were required, as usual from the Government notice addressed to me, nor in any other way, and up to that time, although a constant contractor, I was completely shut out from competing; and, as it will be seen, it was the broker's interest to keep all information secret, as he then virtually became the sole contractor at such prices as he chose to dictate or arrange with the Director of Contracts, with power to reject any one's goods, although he was from his short period of service quite unaware of what was suitable for Government purposes, as is proved by the wood that is now on hand and useless, which you have seen. On one occasion an offer of mine to Government was declined, as per letter Z, $\frac{25}{24}$, 25th September 1856, as unfit for the service, and yet it was eventually, upon inspection by the Woolwich authorities, proved to be fit for the service; as I after great trouble and correspondence obtained an order for the wood and was paid for it. I knew from my experience that it *was* fit for the service, and it has been used up. How was it possible that any broker could be aware of the requirements of the service, with I may say, a few days' experience? They begin to understand things better now, as they now allow selection by the Government officials. I have during the last two years frequently made offers and at less price than the price given. I have made my offers sometimes to Colonel Tulloh and his reply to me was, that he had no

power. I have then offered to the Director of Contracts, and I generally received a reply that "none was required for the service," or "that my stock would not be lost sight of," and in a few days afterwards have seen large deliveries being made, but no application to me, nor did I ever hear any more of the promise. I can mention others who have been treated in a similar manner. I would remark, with reference to the letter of Colonel Tulloh, published in the journals, that I can hardly understand how a gentleman not brought up to the timber trade could have entered so correctly and so minutely into every effect and particular connected with the system of brokers. I agree with him and with every word in his letter. The present system is a loss to the public in quality of from 10 to 20 per cent.; a loss of measurement (because no abatements are made for defects) of from 5 to 6 per cent. I believe there is also a loss in the measurement because it is not measured by Government officials, and the price paid has been even higher than during the war (except for teak and deals), while the market price of timber generally has fallen at the least 30 per cent.; and in the case of deals, Petersburg gromoffs, first quality, fetched 10l. 10s. only per standard, as per catalogue taken at the sale. The system of employing brokers by Government tends to stay importation, because all have not an equal advantage. The Government broker uses the Government purchases to bring him more clients; it is only last week that one of the Government brokers endeavoured to obtain the clients of Mr. Lawrence, the broker, by promising to give those importers the benefit of his position as a Government broker, so that eventually a Government broker would get the business away from the other brokers, and the appointment of a man as a Government broker is at once making him the principal man in the trade, because the Government requirements are larger than those of any individual, and the Government purchases exercise a very considerable influence on the whole trade. The system of brokers would then eventually exclude the general public, the system filling the pockets of the brokers and his immediate connexion at the public cost. It also leads to an indifferent supply, the stock they select from being smaller; and, again, how would brokers obtain supplies if the wood was not imported? whereas a contractor is bound to deliver and must import if he cannot otherwise fulfil his contract. The brokers also confine their purchases to the London market, whereas contractors would buy in the markets of the world, including Hull, Liverpool, Havre, &c. and thus equalize the price in all. I cannot see either why one British subject should have advantage over another. If I were to obtain a large deal contract to-morrow, what is there to prevent my importing my

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own deals from St. Petersburg and save all charges. If I had a contract for deals to-morrow, that is the plan I should adopt, and I should be happy to supply 20,000 or 30,000 at a very large per-centage from the prices now paid. I would deposit a reasonable amount as security for the due performance of the contract. The system of employing brokers opens the door for an unreasonable price. For instance, Churchill and Sim sold to Government, or rather received their order, on the 8th June 1858, to buy a quantity of African oak at the prices of 15*l.* 10*s.* and 10*l.* 10*s.* per load, these prices being named; there was at that date little, if any, in London (yet plenty in Liverpool); they did not then complete the order, but a vessel was about to arrive, and at the end of July the "Madras" arrived, laden with a cargo of this timber, the property of Captain Hilbery, who, as had been his usual custom for many years previously, and placing implicit reliance in those brokers, placed his timber in their hands for sale for his account in any way they should deem best for his interest, so that they obtained the best price of course for his benefit. Captain Hilbery is well off and in no hurry to press a sale; but a few days after the discharge of the cargo he received from Churchill and Sim the legal document closing a sale of the cargo at about 8*l.* per load, usual trade conditions, which are discount 2½ per cent., or 6 months credit, all charges for brokerage, &c. (which is generally 2½ per cent.) to be deducted. That price was a little under the market value. Where does this wood find an immediate outlet? Why Captain Hilbery found that a large proportion of it was delivered a few days afterwards to the Royal Arsenal in the name of those same brokers, and discovered that the prices were 15*l.* 10*s.* (or 15*l.*) for the large size, 10*l.* 10*s.* for the next size, and, I think, 5 or 6 pieces 9*l.* 10*s.* per load. The former price is a monstrous one at any time for that wood, and more particularly at this state of the timber market, and with reference to the quality, the wood is now in the Royal Arsenal and visible; you have seen it, and I assert that a portion of it would have been rejected under the old system, and this fact was admitted to me by one of the timber inspectors.

The next case is one of a similar nature, Churchill and Sim are the brokers for Frith, Sands, and Co., the large East India house (this firm imports large quantities of East Indian teak). On the 5th November 1857, or thereabouts, C. and S. had an order given to them to purchase teak for the War Department, at these prices, viz.:—

£	s.	d.	
11	7	6	} Nett cash, adding brokerage 1 per cent. and lighterage 2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per load.
12	7	6	
13	7	6	

At this very time I am informed that these same brokers held in their hands for sale several cargoes, the property of Frith, Sands, and Co., but they did not return a sale to them until the 2nd December 1857; on that day, the panic being at its height and money 10 per cent., they sent in a sale note for the teak timber.

	£	s.	d.	
Ex. Cotfield, at	11	2	6	} Less discount 5 per cent. and DEDUCTING commission, &c.
" "	11	12	6	
" "	12	15	0	
Ex. Solo, at	8	0	0	
" "	11	5	0	
" "	12	0	0	
" "	12	15	0	

Soon after this (a few days), a large quantity of this very timber was slipped into the Royal Arsenal at the first prices. The difference in price here is also very great; the dates and facts, being verified by the Government books, will speak for themselves.

It will be understood that brokers have had entire control over the property of their principals, and it would also appear of the Government money, each relying on their sworn obligations. Other brokers, Messrs. Leary and Co., have also been employed to

purchase foreign timber, and, out of several instances, I need for the present only select one of a late occurrence. Messrs. Leary had orders to purchase cedar some months since (offers were refused from several parties), and at last a cargo arrived belonging to Messrs. Bernard Hall and Co., of Liverpool; it was the cargo ex "Fleetwood." First the cedar was sold to Messrs. Cheswright and Sheffield; it was then put up to public sale by these brokers. The price bid for the different lots, and which were the market prices, are on the catalogue, and can be vouched as correct as taken at the sale; the prices ranging from 4*d.* to 5½*d.* per foot, brokers' measurement, which would be 7*l.* to 8*l.* 10*s.* per load about. It was, however, knocked down by the selling broker, Mr. Leary, in the name of himself, at 5½*d.* to 6*d.* per foot, about 9*l.* to 10*l.* per load. Afterwards a large quantity of the wood so bought was sent down to the Royal Arsenal by these very same brokers, and the price charged, and paid for immediately, was 12*l.* 5*s.* per load, or about 7½*d.* per foot, which is an advance of nearly 40 per cent. on the market price bid for it, and more than ever I knew cedar to be sold at. It would be easy to obtain the exact cost of the logs, as they are still in the arsenal, and can be recognized by the marks and numbers, and therefore it would be easy to obtain the broker's measurement against each number, and also the measurement at which it was paid by Government in the same way. The question suggested then, is, who reaped the benefit? or, rather, who really sold the wood to the Government, the broker, the importer, Cheswright and Co., or who? remarking that during all these changes of ownership, I am informed the broker held an order to buy cedar at his discretion for the Government. Formerly there were several inspectors, and it was the custom to examine and turn over every piece of timber taken into store at the Royal Arsenal (turning over every side); for every defect an abatement was made, and every bad piece was rejected. It was also the custom to weigh all wood bought by weight, and to measure all wood bought by measurement; now it is entirely altered; the wood, notwithstanding the market is so low, is taken at higher prices, (with the exception of teak and Russian deals, which, at the time of the Russian war, sold naturally at an extraordinary price), and is sent in at the measurement marked on the piece by the merchant measurer, with all faults; and the wood sold by weight, such as ebony, was actually taken at the broker's invoice weight; and yet it was paid for at full weight, by special order from Pall Mall, and contrary to the rules of the service. It is sometimes the system to measure specially for freight, and then the difference is very great to that of sale measure. Very lately I was delivering some timber which had been measured for freight, and not for sale. I was requested to hand in the dock notes of measurement, as an order had been given that all timber was to be paid for at that measurement. I stated that I was quite willing to do so, and I did so, but at the same time I informed the inspectors that it would not be just to the Government, and I requested them to measure the timber in the usual way; they did so, and I incurred a loss of nearly 30 per cent. in measurement. With reference to the enormous deliveries of deals and timber by C. and S., it was formerly the custom to examine every deal. I have frequently, after a most careful personal selection of my deals, to avoid the expense attending rejections, (which were all borne by the contractor,) had hundreds rejected, and I have no doubt that the deals referred to by Mr. Howell, when he quoted a market price at the time I had the contract at 80*l.* to 100*l.*, were nothing but my rejections, which I generally put up to public sale, and at that time there were no deals in the market, or I should have bought them at a higher price than he named; so scarce were they that I brought mine from Hull, and other outports. Deliveries under contract are very different to those by the brokers employed, as they delivered

what they chose; and as for damaged goods, they are always sorted and lotted separately, and therefore cannot be found amongst the first quality deals, so that Mr. Howell's notion as to the damaged deals being left out, is an absurdity. No damaged deals are included in piles of first quality under any circumstances; the dock company would not allow it. The Government require a selection from the first quality. Deals are piled first, second, and third, and damaged. C. and S., in 1856, delivered what they pleased; but although there are now in the Royal Arsenal thousands of deals which can never be used, still I do not think C. and S. would ever dream of sending in what are termed damaged. I also should like to be informed why a merchant should be compelled to intrust his goods and money in the control of the broker; it is much safer to deal direct with Government; but it is hard to be compelled to trust one man whom the Director of Contracts may appoint, and for whom he has acknowledged he is not security. A very important question is, the practical working of the system by brokers in procuring supplies. There are four woods much approved of by the authorities from their enormous strength or resisting properties; those woods are, sabicu, pedoak, African oak, and African mahogany. Now at the present time the Government are quite aground for those woods, the importers have ceased to import; so scarce is African oak, that the brokers employed for the purchase thereof considered themselves warranted in charging 15*l.* 10*s.* per load. If tenders were issued, there are plenty ready to take the contract for any quantity; Mr. Chapman supplies the Admiralty with thousands of loads annually. Sabicu is so scarce that a parcel of very inferior quality, ex "Cyclops," which had been offered again and again in the market at 9*l.* 10*s.* per load, and no sale, was taken by Government at 14*l.* or 14*l.* 10*s.* I am informed, the wood now lies in the arsenal, and formerly such timber would have been rejected in the barge, and not been allowed to be landed. How will the broker manage to get supplies now? If tenders were issued, they would soon be taken, as Mr. Tyrie supplies the Admiralty with about 1,500 loads annually. The same remark may be made with regard to pedoak wood. Then with reference to African mahogany, Mr. Howell says it is well known it cannot be procured. I say anything on the face of the earth can be procured, with diligence and perseverance, and I am prepared to send for that wood, provided I know I have a fair market for it, but certainly not if I have to depend on the caprice of a broker. The broker is always a gainer, the contractor often a loser. Honduras mahogany was, I understand, purchased by a broker at 19*l.* per load. The contract used to be taken for such wood at about 10*l.* to 12*l.*, and the wood delivered was never worth much more. In the time of the Honourable Board of Ordnance, I never heard of any act of unfairness with respect to contracts,—the lowest tender was invariably taken, if the party was known, and the contracts were generally fulfilled. One great point is, that the broker also obtains payment much more rapidly. I think it can be fairly presumed, that were the contractors favoured as brokers have been, by the whole of the timber being received and none rejected, at their own weight or measurement, and for their own specification, for immediate payment, with no compulsion to deliver at all unless it suited their convenience, the price of tenders would be very much altered. Nothing but fair and open competition will ever be found to work well or profitably to Government in the purchase of timber, so that all have an equal chance to import, to complete contracts, or to vend their importation. My opinion is, that taking the market prices into consideration, most of the wood now supplied is at higher price, inferior quality, and questionable measurement. Upon examination it will appear that at the outset the brokers acted with some degree of reason with respect to prices, but that these prices gradually increased. In the statement which I have now made, my desire has been to expose the errors of a system

which I believe to be most injurious to the public interests, but I was anxious, so far as may be consistent with duty, to screen from public odium the names and characters of individuals.

815. Will you take that return of timber which has been purchased for this department in your hand, and make any observations upon it that you desire?—In the particular case I stated on June the 8th, Churchill and Sim had an order for African oak at 15*l.* per load. The price for the "Madras" and the "Pursuit" appears to be here 15*l.* 10*s.* per load,—10 guineas, and 9*l.* 10*s.* as I before stated. The cargo of the "Madras" is the one I referred to, and that cargo was imported by Captain Hilbery, and Captain Hilbery stated to me that his contract price was about 8*l.* per load; it appears here that that timber was purchased from Messrs. Cheswright, Messrs. Dowson, and Mr. Chapman.

816. Have you any observations to make as to the prices being too high?—I say that 15*l.* 10*s.* is a monstrous price at any time; the wood is not at all worth the money; and if a contract had been issued for that wood, 20 people would have been glad to have tendered at a much less price than that.

817. Have you seen the wood?—Yes; some of it, positively, would not have been received under the old system.

818. Could the department have got as good wood at a less price?—If tenders had been issued, of course there is plenty of wood at Liverpool, and rather than have paid 15*l.* 10*s.* for the wood, we should have brought it from Liverpool and paid the freight; the freight is only about 10*s.* a load. With reference to the rejections some time ago, the "Pursuit" has been selected and re-selected five or six times over. The "Pursuit" was originally my cargo; about four years ago I had a contract for it.

819. You say that 15*l.* a load for 50 loads of African oak, ex "Pursuit," was too high a price?—Far too high; the very uttermost you could have got for the best of the timber was 12*l.*; and certainly this timber was not worth above 7*l.* or 8*l.*

820. And that is charged 10 guineas?—Yes. With respect to the sabicu, Mr. Hoar will inform you upon that. Here is a large cargo by the "Elizabeth." Messrs. Begbie and Company made several offers to the War Department of this teak, at the time the "Elizabeth" was purchased.

821. From whom did you receive the information?—From Mr. Begbie himself. He told me that he was the importer of it, and that he had sold the cargo for 10*l.* or 10 guineas, and here it is delivered to the government on April the 7th at 12*l.* 12*s.* I do not know who bought it; but Mr. Begbie told me he had been offering the timber at the time. He is a very large importer.

822. Was that purchased by Mr. Leary?—I do not know any thing about the broker; he told me it was bought by Rolt and Company. About the time they were offering it to the Government, I think you will find that one of the firm of Begbie and Company was offering the teak at a price, and they did not succeed in selling it, and they sold it afterwards at 10*l.* a load. These are small quantities of wood, but when you come to a very high price it makes a very great difference, and if it was put up to public competition, one would be vying with another who shall obtain the order. The Government supplies have a very great effect, and the Government selection of timber is not considered in the trade the best. For instance, in the cedar—they selected, as Mr. Jones happened to say to me, the hard wood. The hard wood is the very thing we do not like; we prefer soft-grained cedar, and if a man were to select the hard, the remainder would be worth more than it was before the selection.

823. What follows from that?—If a man buys a large parcel of cedar, he should not pay a high price if he selected what the dealer is glad to get rid of. In the case of mahogany, the department does not mind if there is a knot; although they do in deals,

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824. Do you mean to say that the brokers do not know what the Government requires?—Perhaps they are getting to understand it now; at first they could not. The Government use is totally different from trade uses, and you might give them much finer timber than there is any necessity for, and much more valuable.

825. If they wanted knotted mahogany instead of mahogany without knots, do not you think the intelligence of the broker might be equal to that?—Yes; it is only a question of experience. Here is an instance of teak bought at a public sale at 11*l.* 3*s.* a load, February 10, 1857. The brokers bought it in a legitimate manner, and delivered it at 11*l.* 3*s.* a load. You will not find that you have teak delivered at that price, when it is bought by brokers from private individuals.

826. Is that a purchase through Leary and Company?—Yes; you will find it seldom the case that the brokers purchase from the original importers. By tracing all their purchases of wood, you will find it has generally been purchased after it has passed through one or two hands, and not purchased direct from the importer.

827. Have you yourself sold to the brokers?—Never; I always declined to do so. They once refused my wood when I knew they were wrong in doing so, and I said, “No, I will not submit to it; I will rather do without the Government business.”

828. Have you from time to time offered timber to the Government?—Yes.

829. I think you mentioned one case in which you had offered some mahogany, which you were told was not wanted, and that, I understand you to state, was subsequently purchased for the Government?—I saw a lot coming in here directly afterwards.

830. Was that in September 1856?—I could not really call to my mind the dates, I have made so many offers. I have heard of timber being bought at 19*l.* 5*s.* a load, when I would have sold it at 15*l.*

831. Did you make an offer to the Government of African oak?—I did.

832. Was that timber afterwards purchased for the Government?—I got an order for it, and it was afterwards sent in to the Royal Arsenal.

833. Not through a broker?—No; it was sent in and accepted. It was not a large quantity. I had sold a good deal of it between the time I offered it and when I sold it to the Government.

834. Do you know how much was sent in?—About 20 loads.

835. What was the price?—9*l.* 15*s.* 6*d.* I think it was.

836. Was that as high as the price at which you had first offered it to the Government?—I think I offered it lower and lower to induce them to take it.

837. Did they afterwards give you a higher price than what you had offered to take for it?—I do not recollect that; I think it was lower. They said that my timber was not fit for the requirements of the service; I knew very well that it was the very wood they wanted, and they might have had 100 loads.

838. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you know what your original offer was?—I think my original offer was 10 guineas. They were taking it at the same time at higher prices, 12*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* and 10*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* They were small sizes. I had some large size at the time I offered it. I had some 22 inches; and there was one piece of timber Mr. Jones came into the docks and asked to whom it belonged. They had told him somebody else. He told me he had been trying to get that piece of timber, and could not find out whose it was. It was a large piece of unusual size, which belonged to this parcel. They were in anxious want of it, and they could not get it.

839. (*Chairman.*) Why should not you sell your timber to brokers, if you get a fair price for it?—They told me my timber was not fit for the service, when I knew it was.

840. Why should not you sell to the brokers if they are willing to buy it?—There is another difficulty; you tell a broker all you are doing. We do not want the brokers to know all our business. An instance occurred to me very lately. I was importing wood from Spain, and I heard of my importing this cargo about 48 hours after I had offered it to the War Department. I was the only Englishman who had been in that part of Spain for business purposes. I was cutting timber in that portion of Spain, and it was very annoying to me to find two or three days afterwards that my offer was publicly known in the trade, and I did not like it. The fact is the timber business is like every other business,—we want to be as secret as we can possibly be. We do not want to make known our operations to everybody, and if we do business through brokers they know our business better than we want them to do.

841. Is not there the same publicity in dealing with the Government?—No; those are exceptions to the rule. I have tried very hard in every sort of way to find out when wood was required, and I could not.

842. Is your objection to the system of brokerage because it is substantially against your pecuniary interest, or a matter of feeling?—Not a matter of feeling at all; but I do not think it is exactly fair that we should have one man to rule over the trade. If there was a Government official solely appointed to determine the parcels of wood or pieces, or anything else, and we sent tenders to that Government official, that would be a different thing, and there could be no objection in the world to it.

843. (*Mr. Turner.*) As a matter of fact—is the Government business in timber so very extensive that it gives the Government broker, as you have hinted, the command of the market?—You would be astonished to know the power that it does give the broker. It gives him so much power that it is quite inconceivable.

844. Is it a fact that the Government business is so extensive as to give that power?—It may not be so very extensive in amount, but it is extensive in its effects.

845. You have stated, I think, in the former part of your evidence, that the reason is because the Government buy more than any individual can; is that the fact?—Yes; more than any individual.

846. Are there no individual merchants who buy more than the Government buys?—Not for consumption.

847. Does it make any difference in the market whether a man buys for consumption or buys as a merchant?—Yes; we know if that wood is on the market, and the price goes down, he must sell, whereas the consumer is the man we must all look to.

848. (*Chairman.*) Are you speaking of purchases by the War Department?—Yes; I am not speaking of the Admiralty; that is all carried on by open competition in a very straightforward manner.

849. (*Mr. Turner.*) We have been told that the timber purchases for this arsenal are not more than some 46,000*l.* a year?

(*Mr. Howell.*) The whole of the timber purchased amounts to 58,000*l.*, from which the English timber

has to be deducted. The English timber is bought by means of public tender. It is only the foreign timber that is bought by brokers.

850. What is the amount of the Government business in foreign timber?

(*Mr. Roberts.*) I should think upwards of 60,000*l.* according to my idea.

(*Mr. Howell.*) I cannot think it is more than 35,000*l.*

(*Mr. Roberts.*) It is so material that any timber merchant would rather have a Government contract than any other contract.

851. (*Chairman.*) Do you furnish the navy with timber at all?—I did about five years ago. I did not get a contract the last time. I tendered three weeks ago.

852. Does it not strike you, as a matter of pounds, shillings, and pence, that a man would probably like that system which gave him the largest profit?—I should not prefer a system which was unfair, whether it gave me a large profit or not; the one would only be a temporary thing, which would be upset in a very little time, and by the other we should go on quietly, steadily, and reasonably. I think public competition would at all times ensure the Government fair prices, and would ensure a fair chance for every man in the trade either to import or to sell what he has got.

853. I rather gathered from what you said that you would tender or offer to contract for timber, although you had not got the timber in your possession?—I do not want to put my head in the fire. I should have to pay for it. I was fined once for not completing a contract, and I sent a check the same day for the fine. I do not want to do that every day in the week; of course I would import the timber.

854. Did you state that the system of open competition would be advantageous in this respect, inasmuch as the broker must go and look at the thing he is going to buy, whereas, by a system of open competition, a man might tender, although he had not got the article in his possession, and he would trust to getting it when the time came?—He would know where to get it before he tendered.

855. Did you never know such a case as a man fail-

ing to complete a contract?—Yes; I failed to complete a contract, but only once in twelve years. WOOLWICH.

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856. Did that arise from your not having the timber in your possession?—No; the reason was that I had such a lot of timber lying on the banks that it was physically impossible to measure all the timber at once. I had so many contracts that I was delivering the timber very fast. They were not measuring it; they were very busy at that time when the war was going on, so that they could not measure it all as fast as I sent it in; it laid there as much as six weeks without being examined, and I delayed my deliveries, and all of a sudden, when the contract was expired, Mr. Howell cancelled the contracts, which they never had done before. If we had petitioned the Board of Ordnance we should have got an extension of a month's time. I have, at this present moment, some of the timber on hand which I provided for those contracts. I was fined because I did not complete my contract.

857. Do you mean to say you were fined because the timber could not be received?—That was one reason. I was in fault and I paid for my fault. If they were to give notice that those who did not complete their contract should be struck off the list, all the contracts would be completed.

858. Was not your name struck off the list for a time?—Never, that I am aware of.

859. Were not you struck off the list of contractors in consequence of your failure to complete your contract?—Not that I am aware of.

860. Did not you receive a letter to this effect:—"I am directed by the Secretary of State to inform you that you were not applied to for the present supply of ash felloes, in consequence of your failure in a recent contract"?—They say I shall be applied to in future. I have never been applied to since. I have some of those felloes in my possession which I procured to complete the contract which was suddenly stopped. It was quite unusual; but when Mr. Howell first came into office he stopped the contract in this sort of way, which was quite unusual to us. Of course, I thought I should have another fortnight or so to complete the contract.

Captain FRANCIS HILBERY examined.

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Francis Hilbery.

861. (*Chairman.*) Are you the importer of a cargo of African oak by the "Madras"?—Yes.

862. Will you shortly state the facts connected with the sale of that cargo?—I have imported African oak for many years, and I imported a cargo in August which I put into the hands of Messrs. Churchill and Sim, as I usually do. About September I accidentally met Mr. Roberts. Mr. Roberts inquired the price I got for my timber. I said I never told any one what I got for it. He then said that my cargo had been sold to the Government for 15*l.* a load; did I get that price? I said no. He then asked me, if he recovered for me the difference between the price I got and the 15*l.* a load, would I give him half? I said no. Would I allow him to recover it for me in any way that he thought proper? I said no. If he recovered it what would I give him? I then said I would not bind myself to use any information he gave to me. I did not communicate to him the price I obtained. I never have to any one. Messrs. Churchill and Sim have sold for me five cargoes in five successive years, and I have never told any person what they realized. I am satisfied with the price that Messrs. Churchill and Sim have obtained for me year after year, and there the matter ended as far as I was concerned. I am also satisfied with the prices obtained this year.

863. Knowing the prices at which 100 loads of timber was sold to the Government?—No; I considered I had no right to inquire, as the contract was not made with the Government. Messrs. Churchill and Sim sold the cargo to Mr. Chapman, as they stated, at a price

which I was agreeable to sell it at. Afterwards there was a part delivered here, and a part has been delivered at Deptford. Mr. Roberts and I had a dispute about a cargo that he wanted of mine in 1854, and I declined selling it to him. I did not like to do any business with him, and I had not met him to speak to him for years before. We accidentally met in an office in the city, when this communication was made to me. I then promised him not to use his information; but if I did use it, he should have one-third of the amount he caused me to recover. I was then led to believe that the whole cargo was sold at a uniform rate of 15*l.* or 15 guineas a load, and knowing that that was a much higher sum than I had, I felt considerably annoyed.

864. (*Mr. Turner.*) You say that you did not wish to interfere with the price at which Messrs. Churchill and Sim might deliver African oak to the Government, but did not you expect that you had the advantage of whatever price they sold your timber for, as your brokers?—I expected that, and I know I got it.

865. Are you perfectly satisfied that you obtained a fair price for your timber that was delivered to the Government?—I am satisfied; I should not have been satisfied if I had found that Messrs. Churchill and Sim, as Mr. Roberts represented to me, held an order to buy African oak, and they had given me a smaller price than 15*l.*, if they had the power of using my timber; but as I believe they only had the power of using a small proportion of the whole, if the whole were to have been culled, the remaining 208 loads would have been left as rejected timber, and I could

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not have offered it in the market possibly for more than five guineas a load after the Government had selected the best and the finest which suited them. I would not have allowed them to have selected the 100 loads for 15*l.* a load.

866. (*Chairman.*) What was the cargo of the "Madras"?—308 loads.

867. How much was sold out of the "Madras" by Messrs. Churchill and Sim for you?—They sold the whole cargo for me.

868. Have you any objection to state what price you had?—Not at all—that is the contract (handing in a paper). I have here a paper in Mr. Robert's handwriting, in which he wishes to hold power to recover for me in any mode he likes.

869. (*Mr. Turner.*) I do not see anything like 15*l.* in this contract?—I could not expect it.

870. Where is the contract for that portion which was selected?—I have not that; I treated with the whole cargo, being the importer. After it left me it went into the hands of what I call dealers.

871. Your brokers, Messrs. Churchill and Sim, appear to have rendered you a sale note of 100 loads at 11*l.* 10*s.*, 58 loads at 9*l.* 10*s.*, 116 loads at 8*l.*, 10 loads at 8*l.* 10*s.*, and 5 loads at 7*l.* 10*s.*, ex the "Madras" How came you to be satisfied that part of your cargo ex the "Madras" should be handed over by Messrs. Churchill and Sim to the Government at 15*l.* 10*s.*?—I would not allow my cargo to be turned over, and the best timber taken for the Government. If that had been done, the dealers would say that what was left was Government rejections, and no dealer would buy that of me or any portion of it. If I break my cargo on arrival, and sell any portion of it, the dealers call it a broken cargo, and object to buying of me.

872. I cannot look upon Messrs. Churchill and Sims as brokers, when in their sale note to one principal they sell at 11*l.* 10*s.*, and in their capacity as brokers to the Government they hand a portion of that timber over to them at 15*l.* 10*s.* I consider them dealers in timber?—You will observe that this contract is made with Mr. Chapman.

873. Here I have the broad fact that Messrs. Churchill and Sim are brokers for the seller and brokers for the buyer, and that the prices are extremely different?

(*Mr. Sim.*) That sale note is the sale note for account of Captain Hilbery, and the bought note corresponding with it is for account of Mr. E. H. Chapman, who bought the cargo entire. There is a contract in the department here which shows that Mr. Chapman permitted the sale of that timber for Ordnance purposes at an extra price, in consideration of the selection of the small quantity picked out of it.

874. 100 loads came to the War Department at Woolwich?

(*Mr. Sim.*) Yes; on account of Mr. Edward Chapman.

875. And 200 loads went to Deptford?—Yes; that was Mr. Chapman's operation, with which I had nothing to do.

876. Do you know what it sold for?—I have no idea; it is not a matter in which I was concerned.

877. Is it the fact that you delivered out of this cargo ex "Madras," 20 loads bought from somebody, and charged it to the Government at 15*l.* 10*s.* on the 8th of June?—It is correct; but it was not out of the same cargo—it was another cargo of a former year.

878. Are those loads part of the sale note?—No; not forming any part of that cargo.

879. You bought from Mr. Chapman?—The purchase made for this department was bought from Mr. Chapman, who had previously bought Captain Hilbery's cargo entire.

880. Was not it a portion of Captain Hilbery's cargo that you purchased for Mr. Chapman?—Yes; the whole of it.

881. And then you purchased it for Captain Farmer of the War Department?—Certainly.

882. When did you deliver this quantity?—Before the arrival of the "Madras" this year. It was the same ship, but a different voyage.

(*Captain Hilbery.*) It could not be this present year's cargo. I have imported in the same ship a cargo these seven years.

883. (*Chairman.*) What time did your ship come in?—The 2nd of August.

884. (*To Mr. Sim.*) You purchased that cargo from Captain Hilbery for Mr. Chapman entire, and at the prices here mentioned?—Yes.

885. Did not you afterwards purchase from Mr. Chapman a portion of that same cargo this year for the Government at 15*l.* 10*s.*?—Yes; and the prices that follow were according to the selections. The cargo delivered 116 loads of the small size at 8*l.* The Government selected of that 116 loads, 20 loads at 9*l.* 10*s.* There was 30*s.* a load profit for picking it. The pile B, delivered at 10*l.* 10*s.*, was sold for Captain Hilbery at 9*l.* 10*s.* The Government selected 25 loads out of 58. There was a profit of 1*l.* for selecting. Of the A pile, the largest sized oak, the cargo delivered 100 loads, and Government selected 40 loads, all of 18 inches square and upwards, and for that they gave 15*l.*

886. (*Mr. Turner.*) In this transaction, so far as the Government had any of the timber, you had three principals to deal for—first of all Captain Hilbery, then Mr. Chapman, and then the Government?

(*Mr. Sim.*) Yes; but Captain Hilbery would not allow his cargo to be divided.

887. Of course you got three commissions?—Two commissions. The commission we receive from the Government is not exactly for the buying, we have so much more to do.

888. Had you not two 1 per cent. commissions, and the Government commission besides?—Yes. The Government commission includes the delivery. The task for which the Government paid 15*l.* was bought of Captain Hilbery at 11*l.* 10*s.*, and the Government selected all at 18 inches and upwards, very few cargoes being that size.

889. I cannot quite understand why you could not give Captain Hilbery that price?—He would not allow the cargo to be divided. He would have had 200 loads left, and he would have made a worse price. The navy contract is for 10,000 loads, spreading over three years. They take the best and the longest. I may further say, that the selection for this department is essentially for straightness in African oak. We had to make special bargain with Mr. Chapman when we bought that cargo. We only sold it to him on the condition that the Government officers might select it, and Mr. Chapman, when concluding the bargain, said he was very loath to let any of it come here, even at the prices we gave him. We have his authority for using that statement. As we knew the requirements of the War Department were urgent, we would not make the bargain unless Mr. Chapman would let the Government officer pick the timber.

890. (*Chairman.*) Did not you recommend Captain Hilbery to take 9*l.* 10*s.* all round?

(*Mr. Sim.*) It averages a little more; the price he got for it all round was 9*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

891. Was not the price the Government paid for it a great deal more than 9*l.* 10*s.*?—I think it is something like 2*l.* a load profit for allowing the Government to select the fine and prime timber; they took one-third, and left two-thirds, which, instead of being worth 9*l.* 10*s.*, would probably be worth only 6 guineas or 5*l.* 10*s.*

892. If the 200 loads sold at Deptford realized any thing like 11*l.* a load, did not the Government lose 600*l.*, which might have been saved, if the Government had taken the cargo all round at 9*l.* 10*s.*, which is about what Captain Hilbery got from Mr. Chapman?—The Government would not buy the cargo from Captain Hilbery; we offered it to them two months before it came; we told them we would sell it at 10*l.* a load all over. I have seen African oak divided between the navy and this department, when this

department was straitened to get those large sizes. I remember an instance in which the navy department did deliver a portion of large size here rather than this department should be straitened.

(*Captain Hilbery.*) After Mr. Roberts gave me information that my cargo was sold for 15*l.* I went to Deptford for the purpose of ascertaining what quantity was delivered there. I felt considerably annoyed that I should hear that the cargo was sold for 15*l.*, when I only got 9*l.* 10*s.* At Deptford, to my surprise, I saw as I considered nearly 200 loads of it lying there. Knowing that neither I nor any other importer could place African oak in the navy department, I saw at once that the sale was the best that Churchill and Sim could make for me.

893. (*Chairman.*) Why could not you place it in the navy department?—I had no power; the residue of this cargo, after the 100 loads had been selected here, would have been obliged to have been sold by dealers to shipwrights 5, or 10, or 20 loads at a time, and it might have occupied a year or 18 months in working off, and that would not have suited my interest as an importer; hence, I felt considerable satisfaction at the sale, because I would not have allowed it to have been selected.

(*Mr. Sim.*) As I have stated, the Government had an opportunity of buying that cargo entire at the market price. I offered it myself, and Mr. Howell said the department must have the privilege of picking, therefore we were obliged to find a person who would allow it.

894. (*Chairman.*) Mr. Chapman was going to be the purchaser. Mr. Chapman is under contract to the navy to deliver 200 loads of African oak; he knew that the Government broker engaged in this very transaction, as between him and Captain Hilbery, wanted 100 loads for the War Department; what was there to prevent your arranging that Mr. Chapman should buy the 200 loads which he would still have been glad to take for navy purposes, and letting Captain Hilbery have the benefit of the increased price?

(*Mr. Sim.*) He declined to do so. He said:—"I cannot take the small pieces if you take the large sizes." After abstracting for this department the 50 loads of the large size, Captain Hilbery's cargo was so denuded

of timber of the largest dimensions, that the navy delivery fell into what we term the second class size, instead of being what we term at the docks the large class size; therefore I believe the purchase instead of being valuable to Mr. Chapman fell off so much in the selection that it was a losing operation. However beneficial the Ordnance price may appear upon paper, it was a bad transaction instead of a good one. Mr. Chapman has since stated that he should have got more for the cargo if the department here had not touched it, because the large class timber was taken out.

895. Would Mr. Chapman have got more by selling the pile in the lump?

(*Mr. Sim.*) He would have done better if the pile had not been denuded of the largest timber. The balance left of the A pile was reduced in the navy yard to the B pile. It was reduced down to the second range of prices.

896. (*Mr. Turner.*) Does not it place the broker in very considerable difficulty to have the interests of three clients to adjust?—No, not at all; we must put the first seller out of the question, because he would not allow the division. He will sell his cargo in A, B, and C piles at a price.

897. Whenever the Government depart from the usual custom of the trade, must not they pay extravagantly for their fancies?—In this case the price was not extravagant. It was very cheap for a fine article.

(*Captain Hilbery.*) Last year I obtained 2*l.* higher for my cargo than this year; but the quantity of East India teak rules the hard wood market. I considered it was a very good price. Of course I should have been glad of a higher price, and last year it was very much better sold; but I thought I must put the good with the bad. I should be glad to deliver the entire cargo next year, and I would make a contract with the Government to do so on the same terms I had this year with Mr. Chapman.

(*Mr. Sim.*) What Mr. Chapman sent down to the navy yard was not rejected teak. The War Department selected pieces only for size and straightness. There was not a single stick of that timber, according to my impression, which would not have done for this department with a slight loss of measure.

Mr. JOHN SIM examined.

898. (*Chairman.*) When were you employed as a broker for the Government?—Principally from April 1856 to March 1857, and subsequently.

899. How long have you been a timber broker?—Nearly all my life.

900. Is timber generally sold by brokers?—Almost invariably.

901. Had you any instructions beyond general ones in the first instance, as to what was expected from you as Government brokers?—It may save the time of the Commissioners if I place before them a statement which I made after executing the contracts for the revenue year April 1856 to March 1857. I drew up a statement of the original appointment we had, the apparent reasons to me of the appointment, the mode in which the whole system was worked, according to the view we took of it, and the changes introduced by the new system. I have continued that statement by reciting the various purchases that have been made for the different departments here, and carried out with those items the amount that was paid for all the goods.

902. When was that statement drawn up?—In December 1856, shortly after the execution of the large orders with which we had been entrusted. They were larger than any others we have been entrusted with since. (See App. No. 3.)

903. Pray read from it any extracts you please. Was that statement drawn up about the time of Captain Farmer's report?—I think this report fol-

lowed Captain Farmer's. There was another statement which I placed before the Government, and this may engraft some part of it.

904. (*Colonel French.*) Does the statement show that the Government have been saving by purchasing timber through you?—I think a great many thousands of pounds; I have one or two illustrations that are very striking. From April 1856 to April 1857 what we spent for the Government amounted to 43,000*l.* for foreign wood, and the value of the English timber was somewhere about 20,000*l.* In the course of dealing we became aware of the prices previously paid to some who again expected to receive as much. We readily ascertained that 5 per cent. was the minimum profit, that 10 per cent. was more often made, 20 per cent. frequently, and 30 per cent., and upwards, in certain cases which will be cited. Proceeding with the order of purchases for the royal carriage department, the first item of 14,553*l.* (which is the one alluded to of Onega and Archangel deals, both without official selection here,) is given as an illustration of the saving effected in one purchase. As soon as we were in possession of the order, in the month of June, we purchased the whole of these Archangel and Onega deals, to be delivered, on arrival during the autumn, by the only merchants who were about to import sufficient of these selected valuable deals, and the contract price was 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per standard. We had bought for the War Department earlier the same description of deals at 22*l.* 10*s.*, and this quotation, in all probability,

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would have formed the basis of calculation if an Ordnance contract had been promulgated. Whoever had entered into contract must have been supplied by the principal importing house. The small stock of other merchants or importers might aid in commencing a contract, but in completion the contractor would have been entirely dependent on the chief importing house. We think it is evident that the difference between 22*l.* 10*s.* and 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* has been saved by the introduction of these importing merchants for the first time as contractors with the War Department.

905. Who were they?—Messrs. Sewell and Neck. The sum, instead of being 14,553*l.* would have been 18,500*l.*, exceeding 25 per cent. gain, without extending the comparison to the old system. I may, perhaps, observe here that 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* and 22*l.* 10*s.* were both prices taken, without selection, within a few months of each other. If we could look back to the prices which were paid in 1853, and before the war, the friends of the old system would perceive that 45*l.* was frequently paid, and that nearly 60*l.* was, we have heard, once the contract price, or 225*l.* per cent. over and above that at which our recent contracts have been faithfully executed. 14,553*l.* would, in such an event, be increased to 47,000*l.*, and upwards. I know it is a contested question with the officers here whether in paying the exceedingly high price for selection, the department is not better served than by taking the quality as imported at the lesser price. I think it will be apparent to any one, that if in this large delivery of deals only one-third of the whole had been found equal to those which used to be sorted out for the service, the remaining two-thirds would have cost nothing; for the whole quantity we delivered cost 14,500*l.*, and that sum would not have paid for one-third of the quantity under the old system.

906. (Mr. Turner.) You are assuming the market price to be the same at both periods?—Yes.

907. Was that the fact?—Yes. I am taking 1853, before the war, and the prices subsequent to the war, quite overlooking the interval of the war.

908. (Chairman.) Did not the prices materially vary between these periods?—I think the 45*l.* was paid several years in succession, and at that period the market price was not so high as when we bought the deals at the docks at 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; at that period the war had just terminated, and there was great uncertainty as to the supply from Russia. It has been alleged that if this contract had been divided some saving could have been made in buying cheaper a few Onega deals; this we have already, in lengthy correspondence with the Director-General of Contracts, proved to be a fallacy. To have divided this contract would have raised competitors, and in so doing the London market price; it seemed to be enough to have gained the point of supplying the Government at the merchant's price; after this was secured the same description of deals fetched a higher price than that paid by the Government during the whole of that autumn. I then proceed to some smaller items, and afterwards I allude to the difficulty of obtaining African oak, before a question like the present had arisen. We bought 3,052*l.* worth of African oak. This is a contract of more difficulty than any other, and has been left unfulfilled on more than one occasion before we were employed. Timber of large sizes was so scarce and valuable that 50 per cent. more than the prices at which we bought was paid for it. In 1855 we assisted the Government in providing all that could be got, when a contractor was in default; likewise in 1856, having the disposal of the only importation which contained the desired sizes, we were enabled to select what were required. If the sum of 3,052*l.* had been increased 25 per cent. in the submission of proposals, we believe that it must have been paid in the appreciation of this wood, and in the difficulty of substituting any other for the construction of gun-carriages. The officers of the arsenal value the wood very highly, and whatever the price was for this large wood, I should have felt justified in paying it, provided I could get the selection the officers desired

of those sizes, which I beg leave to say are only imported in one or two cargoes every year. Large as the wood market may appear, the Government demand absorbs the whole of those particular sizes that have been brought into the London market. Capt. Hilbery's cargo, and a cargo that came in the spring, were the only cargoes with the large wood.

909. (Colonel French.) Is any broker employed for the navy department?—The Government make contracts for the navy. There is a special importation for the purpose, and, as a general rule, no timber is received in the navy yard except by direct importation. It is only received otherwise when the quantities are short in delivery, and when difficulties arise in getting timber of certain sizes.

910. (Chairman.) Was the African oak much dearer in 1856 than it is now?—In 1856 African oak was dearer. I may mention generally in respect to the purchases of African oak, we bought oak for this department in 1855, 1856, and 1857, and now in 1858, and every year this has been a transaction of difficulty. In dealing with Captain Hilbery's cargo annually, we have tempted in each year one of our principal dealers to purchase his cargo entire, with a view to doing what importers are always reluctant to do, namely, permitting the Government to abstract the preferable sizes and sorts. In the first year we operated in this way by tempting one of the large dealers and contractors, the house of Langton and Co., to buy it. They tried the execution of this contract at the price of 11*l.* 10*s.*, that meant, according to this paper, all the different sizes together, instead of two or three prices for relative sizes. These gentlemen executed the contract at 11*l.* 10*s.*, that having been Captain Hilbery's mean price for the cargo in the year 1854, and in 1855 some was remaining on hand. The sellers of this timber made deliveries at some loss, with the view of trying to meet the Government requirements consistent with the market rates. The selection was made by the Government officers, and down to this time we have never delivered any African oak except by selection piece by piece.

911. Was African oak dearer in 1856 than in 1857?—I am not quite prepared to speak upon that; it is impossible to fix the market value upon the large-sized timber. I am alluding to 1855. In that year we delivered to this department, for account of Messrs. Langton and Co., African oak timber at 11*l.* 10*s.* per load. I think I am right in saying that that was the price for the various sizes put together. 150 loads was the order, but 180 loads were delivered at 11*l.* 10*s.* I happen to have a record here that, in the year 1854, these same gentlemen who had delivered under that contract, gave Captain Hilbery 11*l.* 10*s.* for his cargo A, B, and C piles together, and tried the delivery to the Government in the year 1855, a year afterwards. I must presume in consequence of the market being lower in general, they sunk their profit, and made the delivery to the Government. The same house bought again of Captain Hilbery in the year 1855 this cargo by the "Madras," at 10 guineas all round. This second purchase, in conjunction with the purchase of 1854, enabled them to deliver to the Government the timber all round at 11*l.* 10*s.*, subject to a careful selection at the docks. In the year 1856 we had an order in June for 300 loads of African oak. We executed it at prices from 12*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* for the largest size, 11*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* for the middle size, and 10*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* for the smaller size. We executed that contract for the Government with some difficulty, failing to get our friends, Langton and Co., the contractors, to buy the cargo again, because they had burnt their fingers in doing it two years before. Messrs. Joseph Dowson and Co., on that occasion, bought Captain Hilbery's cargo at 10*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, all classes together, and permitted the Government to select it by getting the same price that they gave Captain Hilbery for the small, getting a profit of 1*l.* and 2*l.* 10*s.* upon the middle and largest size. These gentlemen had another cargo at the same time from which they had

the opportunity of delivering some more small sized timber; but when the cargo was denuded of the preferable timber, it was difficult to sell in the market, and the result of it was another bad operation for the intermediate dealers. A third year, 1857, the cargo was again in the market, and we continued to recommend Captain Hilbery to sell his cargo entire at the best price he could make, and not to permit this system of selection, because we had seen the difficulty the buyers had in working off the rejections. The cargo was sold that year for 11*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to another contractor. I think Mr. Williamson bought the cargo, and he made a delivery of this large sized timber to the department at 15*l.*, to try if a larger price would equate his loss upon the lesser sizes, and the small at the same time was 10 guineas. I think we made a previous purchase of an intermediate size at 11*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* That delivery again arrived at an unsatisfactory result. We assisted Mr. Williamson through the market as well as we could, and I remember selling the bulk of it to Mr. Wigram at 9*l.* 10*s.* I have only to say that the system of selection in this department obliges the broker in almost all cases to seek an intermediate buyer between the importing principal and the Government. The system of selection rigidly carried out, as it is, for this particular article of African oak (and it applies to teak and to most of the hard wood and furniture wood) obliges the broker to see who will place himself in the position of intermediate buyer, studying those large dealers in the trade who have an opportunity of working off the surplus. The price given is apparently large, and that has been the premium that tempted several to undertake the transaction, but it is a premium that generally ends in dissatisfaction in selling the surplus. I have seen that clearly, and I stated to Captain Hilbery in my letter that the sale of his cargo to an intermediate buyer between him and the Government was the true course to enable the importing merchant to make the best price of his cargo. Let the intermediate buyer who has the means of working off the rest to different trades make his profit out of the best selection, and he must trust to his own resources for disposing of the culled or rejected timber. I do not mean to say that Mr. Chapman would send anything to the Government that was not fit for use; it is merely rejected for size or shape, but it places it on the scale of low class timber.

912. (*Mr. Turner.*) You do not know the balance sheet of Mr. Chapman's transaction?—No.

913. (*Chairman.*) Supposing the Government could have made available the lesser sizes, would you, in the performance of your duty, have bought the whole lot for them without the intervention of a middle man?—I cannot have a better buyer than the Government.

914. You would only have got one commission; you cannot object to the principle of a middle man, such as Mr. Chapman, who pays you a commission for reselling for him?—Clearly, I should have sold that cargo to Mr. Chapman quite irrespective of the Government order; but having the Government order, and knowing the difficulty to execute it, I particularly stipulated in making the sale, that the War Department should not be deprived of the power of sorting that cargo; my belief is, if I had not imposed that obligation upon the seller, there would have been none of the proper sizes to be found.

915. In any cases where you have been broker for the importer, and the cargo has gone through various hands before a portion, or possibly the whole of it, has finally come into the hands of the Government, have you ever multiplied those transfers from one to the other, with the view of getting a profit yourself?—No. I should be ashamed of it. Nearly all transactions pass from the importing merchant to the large principal dealers in the trade, first; it is almost the common course of matters, except when a department like the War Department will take a cargo in the imported condition. We began with one or two importing merchants, who were in a position to deliver the goods according to the dock classification and not according to the classification here. In this

department particularly it has been enjoined by the Secretary of State for War in the instructions to buy, to follow the further instructions of the receiving officers as to the mode of selection of the particular article desired in dimensions, in description, and in classification, and they having insisted upon a particular classification for this department, I have had very little alternative but to look to the stocks, not in first hands, but in second hands. At the same time you will see by the statement drawn up by the Director of Contracts, that the sellers are principally those leading timber merchants who under the old system used to take the contracts.

916. Assuming that the officers of the department must exercise the power of selection, do you think they would get their timber cheaper by competition than by buying through brokers?—My opinion is quite opposed to that; I believe they would pay an enormous price for the submission of their contracts again to open tender. I think the price would rise to that extremely high rate which, I believe, induced Mr. Howell to try the system of buying through brokers from the uncertainty of selection and rejection when goods arrive here, and from the expenses attending the operation.

917. Might not the system of competition be combined with inspection at the docks?—My opinion is that the system of buying through brokers is by far the most economical.

918. Apart from the question of where the goods are inspected?—Yes; a larger number of dealers have been introduced to the Government by this system than ever entered into competition for timber before.

919. Strong opinions have been expressed as to the one-sided character of Government contracts—have you found timber merchants object to deal with the Government in consequence of the stringency in the regulations in those contracts?—I think under the old regulations nearly all the principal dealers began to object to tender for Government supplies, because of the stringency of the regulations.

920. (*Mr. Turner.*) If they tendered at all, did not they tender at a price equivalent to the risk and trouble to which they were subjected?—Yes; I have had long discussions with the officers of the War Department upon the policy of buying a cargo as it was, leaving them to distribute the different classes of timber to the various branches of this establishment. My full belief is, that it is to be done. When we began to purchase for the Government, this great establishment was all under one head, the general storekeeper. I think the deals that were bought were in a great measure distributed in the different departments, according to the relative wants of those departments. Now they are subdivided. I can agree with Captain Farmer and Captain Clerk, that it is difficult to use deals that are not so perfect as they like to have them; but if those gentlemen expect to find deals without knots, they may just as well look for trees without branches. The deliveries made to them have been very good, and so far as I can judge of the supplies here now, they are worth the price that was given for them. If the deals are slightly affected by exposure to weather, against that there is the advantage of seasoning. It is quite an error to say that they are not applicable to the best uses. We have dealings with some of our largest builders, shipbuilders, engineers, constructors of railways, carriage builders, and railway companies, and we have no customers who expect anything better than the classification which is made by the dock companies for the importer. Therefore to bring the War Department into harmony with the market system is the most difficult thing the broker has to do. When it is said that this trumpety brokerage is any inducement to place the cargo in a middle man's hands in order to get a second advantage, I should like the Commissioners to see the time and trouble taken in attending the selections of the officers. They complain of their valuable time being abstracted, and we complain of the time that it takes to deliver 1,000 deals;

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921. Do you find the different military gentlemen who are the heads of the departments at Woolwich, jealous of each other in their selections? Will one take what another has rejected, or does one head of a department object to another head of a department having the first selection?—I dare say there is that feeling in this department, and in the laboratory they feel the same.

922. Is not there also between the War Department and the Navy Department the same feeling that they do not like that one should have the pick, and the other take the remainder? May not the country be suffering very materially in the price given for the articles which each particular department fancies, and do not you think it would be better that a cargo of African oak, for instance, should be purchased, if on the whole it is a good cargo, for the Government account, and that Captain Farmer, or whoever may be supposed to require the very best timber, should take out that which he thinks will best suit his purpose, that another head of a department should take out what will suit his purpose, and so on, and that the navy should endeavour to deal with the remainder, so that the country may only pay that moderate price which Captain Hilbery got; the different departments using up everything that is available, a small balance remaining to be sold perhaps after all at 9*l.* a load, or something of that kind?—I think it would be impossible to carry it out.

623. Is it impossible from the jealousy of the departments?—From the common feeling that one of the departments would not get the best of everything. The navy contract is a broad question, not in any way applicable to the wants of the War Department. One or two observations were made in Captain Farmer's

evidence, in which I think he was wrong about the broker being favourable to the seller, in restricting him from picking the finest timber, or taking the finest pile of timber. My view of a broker's duty to the seller and the buyer is to establish as a middle man, perfect equity, without which I think a commercial contract should not be entered into. I have a duty to perform to the seller, although I may be broker for the buyer; to see that the buyer does not take more than his contract permits.

924. (*Chairman.*) Is it the universal custom in the timber trade that the same person should act for both?—Always; there is no other course. There is no such thing as seller's broker and buyer's broker.

925. When you receive instructions from Mr. Howell to purchase, does he give you any direction as to price?—He leaves it to our responsibility. I have occasionally consulted him when I thought the price was more than I was justified in giving; any deviation from the instructions I have thought it my duty, as a broker, to place before him, and he has generally deferred to the department for a decision upon the article they required, and left the responsibility as to the price to me.

926. You do not communicate with Mr. Howell necessarily before you complete a bargain?—No, unless I think there is anything dubious about it that I should like to take counsel upon.

927. Have you ever declined to deal with particular men?—I have not. I have had instructions from the Secretary of State, through Mr. Howell, to extend the competition of sellers as much as possible, so that no one should feel aggrieved, and that every body should have a fair chance in the market. I have ventured on my own responsibility to adopt this plan, always to avoid applying to any speculative dealers, who were not in possession of the desired stock, and I have scrupulously avoided disseminating a knowledge of the Government demands, because, had I not done so, I should have raised the market against me.

Adjourned to To-morrow at half-past 11 o'clock.

WOOLWICH.

Friday, 5th November 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

WOOLWICH.

Mr. J. Sands.

5th Nov. 1858.

Mr. JOHN SANDS examined.

928. (*Chairman.*) You are a partner in the firm of Frith, Sands, and Company?—Yes.

929. Are you timber merchants or timber importers, or both?—We receive teak from Moulmein, on consignment from our foreign correspondents, to sell in this market.

930. How should you describe yourselves?—East India merchants or agents.

931. Were you in the habit, under the old system, of tendering for timber to the Government?—We had nothing to do with timber at that time; it is only recently that we have had to do with timber, commencing with the early part of 1857.

932. How have you disposed of your timber generally?—Through brokers.

933. Is that the ordinary course?—Yes.

934. Have you ever volunteered to sell cargoes to the Government?—No, we have not.

935. A case has been mentioned to the Commissioners, in which you are said to have been the seller

of teak, in November 1857; was that the first cargo you sold through Messrs. Churchill and Sim?—That was the first through Messrs. Churchill and Sim.

936. Have you the particulars of your sale?—I can put in the contract for the cargo, ex "*Cotfield*," by Messrs. Churchill and Sim (*handing in the same*). You will note that that is the contract by Messrs. Churchill and Sim to us; but I do not think the whole of that timber was sold to the Government.

937. Do you know who the purchaser was?—We do not know. We had a great deal of discussion before agreeing to the price. Perhaps I may read the contract; it is dated the 2nd of December 1857:—177 loads of pile A, 12*l.* 15*s.* per load; pile B, 164 loads, at 11*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; pile C, 77 loads, at 11*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*; planks, 35 loads, at 12*l.*; the piles of No. 2, or short, between 33 and 34 loads, at 10*l.*; all the damages and ends, 8*l.* To be received where it lies, according to the dock landing assortment, and the measurement taken; payment equal to six

months, with one month for delivery, or, cash with discount, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum; that being the market rate at the time. I may mention, perhaps, what those prices will give, net cash. The average date at which we received the cash was the 26th of December; for pile A the price would be 11*l*. 18*s*. 2*d*.; pile B, 10*l*. 16*s*. 10*d*.; pile C, 10*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*.; planks, 11*l*. 3*s*. 10*d*.; No. 2, or shorts, 9*l*. 6*s*. 6*d*.; and all the damages and ends, 7*l*. 9*s*. 3*d*. That is the net after allowing the brokerage of one per cent., which would have been given if there had been no guarantee; we did not know the purchaser, and of course we preferred it being guaranteed.

938. (*Mr. Turner.*) What commission did you pay for guarantee in addition to the brokerage commission?—The brokerage and *del credere* were 2½ per cent., one per cent. brokerage, and 1½ per cent. *del credere*.

939. (*Chairman.*) When did you place that cargo in the hands of Messrs. Churchill and Sim?—Early in November. My experience in selling teak had been very limited previously; but I had heard a good deal about the difficulty of placing cargoes of teak, and, as we always pay our own freight (the freight amounted to nearly 3,000*l*.), and require no advances, I put the cargo free into Messrs. Churchill and Sim's hands, so that every advantage to be obtained I expected to receive, and, I suppose, have received. Early in November Mr. Sim called upon me and recommended my taking somewhere under 11*l*. 10*s*., long price, for the average. On the 13th of November I had a note from Messrs. Churchill and Sim, stating, "On further consideration of the teak cargoes since seeing you, we would venture to suggest that you set the prices of the 'Cotfield's' cargo at 12*l*. 10*s*. for A pile, 11*l*. 10*s*. for B pile, and 10*l*. 10*s*. for C pile, which would raise the planks to the medium of 11*l*. 10*s*. also; usual deductions on short and damaged. This would bring out an average of 11*l*. 15*s*. on all the classes A, B, and C, which exceeds the last sale effected, while almost all wood has since failed to sustain its value. At the same time, if you see grounds to hold back from selling, or have positive offers of more, or are effecting any sales of or from your other cargoes, it will be our duty to do as well for you in holding on meantime, doubting if real business is to be done on the footing which you were led to expect, and less so with delay." That offer I declined. The next note is the 28th of November, from Messrs. Churchill and Sim: "It is questionable whether we cannot secure an advance in price on the cargo of teak per 'Cotfield'; but our only chance is in being first provided with your authority to close if the terms which we now name are attainable, for our buyers decline to bid again in the uncertainty at what they are aiming, after two or three unsuccessful attempts to buy this cargo. We likewise fear that, unless we can negotiate to-day, some slender chance of meeting the demand for a small portion under inquiry will pass us. Possible prices assumed to be for A pile, 177 loads, 12*l*. 10*s*.; B pile, 164 loads, 11*l*. 10*s*.; C pile, 77 loads, 11*l*.; planks, 35 loads, 12*l*.; usual allowances on short and defective. The equation of the proportions would yield 12*l*. if a deduction on the smallest were allowed, and within 3*s*. thereof, small included. Would you take a market buyer at seven months' credit for the B pile at 12*l*. per load? without our responsibility; not because the firm is otherwise than respectable, but as our account is large enough at 3,000*l*. or 4,000*l*., and therefore not to be increased in these times." On the 1st of December we had this note from Messrs. Churchill and Sim: "We have now the pleasure to advise the sale of your cargo of teak per 'Cotfield' at prices rather exceeding 12*l*. per load for the four classes indicated, viz.: A pile, 177 loads, 12*l*. 15*s*. per load; B pile, 164 loads, 11*l*. 12*s*. 6*d*.; C pile, 77 loads, 11*l*. 2*s*. 6*d*.; planks, 35 loads, 12*l*.; short lengths, 10*l*.; ends and

damaged, 8*l*. Cash, 5 per cent. discount on; one month allowed for delivery."

940. Do you now know who was your buyer?—I think Cheswright was the name. WOOLWICH.
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941. What was the total quantity of the cargo that you sold?—The total quantity was about 540 loads. 5th Nov. 1858.

942. With the exception of the No. 2 or shorts and the damages and ends, you got rather more than 12*l*. for 453 loads?—Just about 12*l*.; that is the long price. I do not know whether six months is allowed to Government.

943. The whole cargo, ex "Cotfield," is 540 loads; 453 loads are sold to Mr. Cheswright, and out of those 190 loads came in to the Government. Now supposing 190 loads of the very best timber out of the 453 loads came in to the Government, would there be anything extravagant in the Government paying 12*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*.?—I cannot pass an opinion unless I see either the invoice or the contract to the Government (*a paper was handed to the witness*).

"Ex Cotfield, over 15 inches in siding, 104 loads; ex Cotfield, 12 to 15 in siding, 47 loads; ex Cotfield, 12 to 15 inches square, 39 loads."

944. Supposing those 190 loads of the sizes there described were sold to the Government at 12*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*., have you any right to complain?—It depends upon how the Government would pay. My contract is seven months credit. It depends upon whether the Government take off 5 per cent. discount.

945. Suppose that the Government pay prompt?—That makes a material difference.

946. Would you have divided your cargo?—That depends upon the price we could obtain for it. We would allow any selection if we were paid for it.

947. Did not you receive, in fact, from Messrs. Churchill and Sim, for 177 loads, 12*l*. 15*s*. per load?—It makes all the difference, whether it is net money or other money; the 12*l*. 15*s*. is long price. I cannot compare that with the short price; I must put the two on the same foundation; for the 177 loads, allowing 1*l*. per cent. brokerage, I receive 11*l*. 18*s*. 2*d*. on the 26th of December; you ask if I would take 12*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*. for that, allowing a selection, I presume; no, I should not.

948. Assuming that the Government paid 12*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*. for 190 loads ex "Cotfield," of the description of timber specified in the invoice, is 12*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*. a price which you would have taken if the Government had bought the timber direct from you?—I would require to know what that 190 loads consisted of, whether it was pile A, or pile B.

949. Supposing the timber to be the very best that the Government could select?—They may take the very best out of one pile and the very best out of another pile. If they take the whole of the first pile and the very best out of the second pile, then the case would be different. I would require to know, before I could answer that directly, how much of each pile the Government took.

950. (*Mr. Turner.*) Of course they only took that which suited their purpose; would you out of that cargo have allowed them to select 190 loads at their own discretion, giving you 12*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*. for whatever they chose to select?—It would depend a good deal upon my knowledge of the wants of the Government, and what they usually did.

951. If the Government had said to you, "Give us power to select 190 loads, and we will select exactly what we wish," would you have sold 190 loads at 12*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*. per load?—To that question I should say no.

952. The person to whom you sold the cargo did allow the Government to have that selection at 12*l*. 7*s*. 6*d*.; are you thereby injured?—That I cannot tell.

953. Some one is willing to supply the Government out of this cargo, ex "Cotfield," at a price which you say you would have refused; have you therefore anything to complain of?—I am not complaining at all.

954. Have you any reason to complain?—No; I do not think I would complain at all. I require to know

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whether it was pile A, or B, or C, that was sold at 12l. 7s. 6d. The Government require from each pile; they would never think of cutting down pile A, or pile B, for purposes that pile C would answer for; they require every description.

955. (*Chairman to Captain Farmer.*) If you were ordered to purchase teak, 12½ inches by 14½ inches, is that order fulfilled by the purchase ex "Cotfield"?—Yes, rather better. A pile is about 15 inches, B pile is between 12 and 15 inches; C pile is below 12.

956. Is the A pile better than the B pile?—Yes.

957. (*To Mr. Leary.*) Would the 104 loads purchased for Government have come from pile A or pile B?—Over 15 inches from pile A.

958. Would the 86 loads have come from pile A or pile B?—Pile B.

959. (*To Mr. Sands.*) It appears that 104 loads came from pile A, and 86 loads from pile B?—Of course every one acquainted with timber knows that there are always a certain number of shorts, large-sized timber, over the 15 inches, and between 13 and 15.

(*Mr. Leary.*) That is in pile 2, not in either of those piles.

960. (*Chairman to Mr. Sands.*) I ask a perfectly simple question, which requires no knowledge of timber. You have a cargo of 500 loads, would you have allowed a broker or anybody else to have picked out from any pile 190 loads at 12l. 7s. 9d.?—I believe there is no such contract made.

961. Assume that it may exist; if you had a cargo of 500 loads, and anybody had come to you and said, I will give you 12l. 7s. 6d. for 190 loads picked out from any portion of that 500 loads, would you have let him do it?—No such application could possibly have been made by any person in the trade.

962. Why not?—Because they would quote the price for each pile.

963. Supposing the possibility of such an offer, would you have accepted it?—Of course I should not, because I should expect that that person would take the whole of pile A. In this case the whole of pile A was not taken, so that the knowledge of what the Government actually does would have regulated my answer.

964. Having seen those figures, do not you think you have had a fair price?—I have a very fair price if it is 12l. 7s. 6d. In answer to your first question, if it is for pile A, 104 loads, and pile B, 86 loads, with the chance of some of that being shorts, it may perhaps alter the question.

965. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you settled in your mind whether you are content with the price you received?—I cannot say that till I know what the Government paid.

(*Mr. Howell.*) We paid 6,366l. 11s. 2d. for that purchase altogether, including brokerage and charges. 6,323l. is the equivalent of 12l. 7s. 6d. for 511 loads; therefore, in real truth, taking off the brokerage and expenses of transmission, the actual cost for the whole purchase was under 12l. 7s. 6d. (See Appendix No. 2, Nov. 1857.)

966. (*Mr. Turner to Mr. Sands.*) You have not made up your mind whether you have a complaint, but if you have one is it not against the broker for not doing you justice in selling your cargo at as high a price as he had power to do?—Yes; of course I did not know that the broker had any contract for the Government, nor was he entitled to tell me.

967. Was not your broker bound to do the best that he could for your interest in the market?—Yes.

968. For that you paid how much?—One per cent.

969. Did your broker hand you in the name of the buyer?—He did not.

970. Then how could you decide whether it was worth your while to pay 1½ per cent. *del credere*, in addition to brokerage?—Because he mentioned that I would require to take a bill at six months for the amount, and that at once let me know it was not the Government. For seven months' credit we should be satisfied with paying the *del credere*.

971. Do you pay 1½ per cent. *del credere* without inquiring whether the buyers are Baring Brothers or some other house of undoubted respectability; do not you think it worth your while to ascertain the fact who is your buyer?—Not always.

972. Is not that valuable information?—We just rely upon the broker.

973. If the brokers had made a sale to the Government of this timber on your terms, and not rendered to you the name of the buyer, would it have been quite fair in them to have charged you the *del credere* commission of 1½ per cent., knowing that the money was perfectly safe?—Certainly not.

974. Why did not you ascertain that fact?—Because it was six months' bills, and that at once told me it was not the Government.

975. Is there no one in the city of London worth credit at six months without paying 1½ per cent. *del credere* commission?—I named two or three parties whose bills I would be glad to take, and neither of those were the buyers.

976. Why did not you ask, whose bill am I to take?—All I can say is, I did not do so in this case; I expected, and I suppose that Messrs. Churchill and Sim did the best for me; by refusing the first offer they made to me, I got an advance of 10s. or 15s. for the cargo.

977. Is not it valuable to you to have the information I have been hinting at?—Most decidedly.

978. Why did not you require it from your broker? would not he give it to you?—Not generally. With regard to this transaction, notwithstanding all that has been said, before I can answer the question whether I would take this Government contract or not, I would require to see a copy of the invoice giving the lengths and sizes of the timber, ex "Cotfield," received by the Government, and when I have done that I shall answer the question; but until I know what the Government actually received, I am unable to do so. Messrs. Churchill and Sim being employed by my firm as brokers, I considered should have placed me in the best position with their purchasers. They may have done so, but I cannot tell that they did until I see what of the "Cotfield's" cargo was actually taken by the Government. I should have thought nothing of it if they had had no contract at the time, but it appears that they had a contract to buy for the Government. The reason I used the word contract was, presuming that there was a contract existing between the Government and Messrs. Churchill and Sim at the time of this transaction. If Messrs. Churchill and Sim had stated to me how much of this cargo, ex "Cotfield," the Government would take, and the prices they would give for it, I should then have been in a position to have replied whether I would have taken it or not. I conceive that I was entitled to be put in that position, employing Messrs. Churchill and Sim as brokers to sell my timber.

979. The broker is agent for the Government in buying, for the importer in selling; and between those two clients he introduces a third, to whom the timber is sold; he takes 2½ per cent. commission from the importer, a commission from the intermediate buyer, and a commission from the Government; in whose interest is he acting in those three transactions? No information appears to have been passing between the three parties?—I did not get any. Before I can answer the question that I am satisfied (at the risk of being thought stupid), I must have the data.

980. Would you, knowing what portion of your timber was taken, have accepted from the Government the price of 12l. 7s. 6d., which Messrs. Cheswright, who bought it from you, did accept?—I am unable to answer the question until I have made the calculation. We employed Messrs. Churchill and Sim as our brokers to sell our cargo. If they had put the question to me, whether I would allow of this selection, and the prices they would give for it, I should consider I had been fairly treated.

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981. (*Chairman.*) You think the broker for the buyer ought not to be the broker for the seller?—I do not say that.

982. Is not the duty of the broker for the buyer to get the timber as cheap as he can, and the duty of the broker for the seller to get as high a price as he can. Are you able to explain how those two duties can be reconciled in one person?—I do not see why I should not have the option to decline selling to the Government.

983. Did the brokers give you the outside price they were able to obtain?—I never had any application from Messrs. Churchill and Sim to sell the cargo in detail. We employed Messrs. Churchill and Sim as our brokers, and they were brokers for the Government also.

984. Did not you know that they were brokers for the Government?—Yes.

985. Did not you expect that a portion of your cargo was going into the hands of the Government?—I had not the most remote idea. If the option had been put to me whether I would have sold any portion of my cargo to the Government, I should very likely have taken it. It was never brought before me, and that is the ground upon which (not that I complain, because I may be better off,) I want to be thoroughly satisfied what the Government actually did pay, and how much of that timber they did receive, before I can answer the question.

986. (*To Mr. Howell.*) Why should not Messrs. Churchill and Sim have said to Mr. Sands, we have got an order from the Government for so much timber; I cannot tell you the price they will go to; what will you sell it for, giving them the power of selection?—My opinion is that that is an inquiry which the broker should always make; Mr. Sim would be able to give the reason why.

(*Mr. Sands.*) In this case we as sellers of the timbers require to know why we did not supply the Government, and the Government as buyers of the timber require to know why they did not buy from the importers.

(*Mr. H. E. Munro.*) I am clerk to Messrs. Churchill and Sim. The original contract between the Government and Messrs. Cheswright and Sheffield was made on the 13th of November, whereas the contract for Messrs. Frith and Sands was not made till the 2nd of December. Messrs. Cheswright and Sheffield bought the "Cotfield's" cargo to make good the quantity

for which they were under contract. It turned out that there was not enough in the "Solo's" cargo suitable for the Government supply, otherwise they would not have bought the "Cotfield's" cargo; and I think if Messrs. Cheswright and Sheffield had not bought the "Cotfield's" cargo they would have been money in pocket, for they have a quantity of that cargo on their hands at present.

987. (*Chairman.*) If that is so, Messrs. Churchill and Sim were not acting for the Government in any sense, even indirectly; they were acting for Messrs. Cheswright when they bought that cargo of Mr. Sands.

(*Mr. Munro.*) Yes; they had no contract open for the Government. We looked to Messrs. Cheswright and Sheffield to complete that contract.

988. (*Chairman to Mr. Sands.*) Are you aware of the practice, stated to be universal in the timber market, that one broker acts for both parties?—Yes; it is not confined to timber; it prevails in a great many other articles of produce in London.

989. Mr. Munro's statement is an answer to the question why you should not have known the Government contract because it was completed by Messrs. Cheswright's acceptance of the offer, and Messrs. Cheswright having to make up their contract bought your cargo?—That explains it. If Messrs. Churchill and Sim had an order from the Government to buy timber, and sold my timber in execution of that contract to the Government, I should then have had good grounds of complaint. It appears now from what Mr. Munro states that they had no order from the Government to purchase, because it was completed.

990. Did Churchill and Sim ask you to break the cargo at all?—No; seeing that the order of the Government is dated the 5th of November, Messrs. Churchill and Sim had the "Cotfield's" cargo in their hands, as selling brokers for us, and I think the "Cotfield's" cargo ought to have gone from me to the Government direct.

991. (*Mr. Turner.*) What is the practice in the city of London about brokerage? Does not it strike you as rather singular, and open to a good deal of suspicion, that the same broker is employed three times in one transaction?—It is very frequent; it is the practice not in one article of produce only, but in a great many. In this transaction, upon the whole it appears to me that we have got, as far as the figures put before me show, a fair price for the timber, and that the Government did not pay too high for it; if the figures be as they are stated to me.

Mr. CORNELIUS LEARY examined.

Mr. C. Leary.

992. (*Chairman.*) Are you a Government broker?—Yes.

993. How long have you been so?—About 18 months.

994. Are you a Government broker for anything but timber?—No.

995. Have you acted as broker for the seller in the cases in which you have bought for the Government?—I believe in two or three cases only.

996. Who has been broker for the seller?—I have dealt with the seller direct for account of the Government for goods not under my care for sale.

997. Has any other broker been engaged?—No.

998. In such a case as that have you received the seller's brokerage?—Yes, as is customary.

999. Although you are not the seller's broker, is it frequently the case that you get the brokerage, because as the buyer's broker you find a customer?—The sellers always pay the broker.

1000. Are you not in the habit of having cargoes placed in your hands for sale?—It has happened that my transactions for the Government have been of another character. I have had only three transactions under my contracts for Government in which I have been the selling broker beforehand.

1001. Have you ever been a party to the transfer of a cargo from the importer to an intermediate man before that cargo, or a portion of it, actually came to the Government?—Not without previously submitting the cargo to the Government.

1002. Has the Government in such cases bought the whole of a cargo, or always exercised the right of selection?—I think, subject to reference, they have invariably exercised the right of selection and rejection.

1003. Has that been exercised by Government officials?—Entirely.

1004. Has your judgment never been called in as to rejections?—It has never been supreme. Captain Farmer has generally been the superior officer who has made the rejections. My opinion has been taken occasionally.

1005. You are practically acquainted of course with the timber business?—Yes.

1006. Does the Government now pay for timber by the dock measurement?—Yes, for goods which are purchased upon that measurement.

1007. Will you explain shortly what broker's measurement is?—It is a measurement which is in our discretion; furniture woods are measured by brokers

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upon a system which permits of allowances being made for faults, defects, knots, shakes, malformations, and other such things; furniture woods are supposed to be charged at the quantity manufacturable, and, therefore, the system of taking the contents by the Queen's calliper does not hold in the furniture wood market; in that respect our power is supreme; with us there is no appeal from the broker's measurement.

1008. Have you purchased any furniture woods for the Government?—We have.

1009. When you say that the broker's measurement is supreme, do you mean that it is supreme over the Government measurement here?—The Government pays upon the broker's measurement when we buy by it.

1010. In those cases the Government measurement is not applicable?—No.

1011. Is whatever measurement you purchase upon paid for, whether it is broker's measurement or dock measurement?—Clearly, and the same is accounted for to the seller.

1012. That is a question apart from selection?—Quite.

1013. Captain Farmer would select what he pleased, and then if broker's measurement were applicable to the parcel selected, it would be purchased and paid for upon broker's measurement?—Yes.

1014. Have you records with you of most of the transactions in which you have been engaged for the Government?—Of all of them.

1015. Were you auctioneer of a sale of timber from the "Fleetwood" on the 9th of September last?—I was.

1016. For whom did you hold that cargo?—It was placed in my care for sale by a Liverpool house, Messrs. Bernard Hall and Company. I was the selling broker for that house.

1017. Had Messrs. Cheswright anything to do with it?—We sold the parcel of cedar to Cheswright and Company.

1018. When?—I have not the date of our sale to Cheswright and Company.

1019. Do you remember what the quantity was?—287 loads. I am able to give it in loads, because we callipered it for freight, otherwise I should not have that information.

1020. Can you give the prices at which you sold the cedar to Messrs. Cheswright?—Mr. Hall sold it at per foot, broker's measure, equal, I think, to something under the price at which we offered it to the department at first as a whole.

1021. Was the offer to the department as a whole declined?—The cedar was offered to the carriage department, as a whole, at 9*l*. 15*s*. per load, but the experience they had acquired from their previous purchases of small *lots* in public sale had determined them to decline not only *parcels* but even purchasing *lots*, that is, a cargo divided into small lots for public sale, and in future to regulate their purchases upon *logs* entirely. I brought this parcel under the notice of the officers of this department. Captain Farmer looked at it as a whole.

1022. (To Captain Farmer.) Do you remember that circumstance?—I remember perfectly going up with Mr. Leary to look at the cargo.

(Mr. Leary.) Captain Farmer looked at it as a whole, and two days afterwards I had an interview down here again with Captain Farmer and Captain Clerk, and they will doubtless remember saying that they could not entertain it as a whole; that their requisition for cedar was of that special character that they must have it *log by log*, and they could not even take it any longer lot by lot, still less as a whole, and they declined it. I so reported it to my importer, Mr. Hall.

1023. Did Mr. Hall prefer not to break his cargo?—He refused to break the cargo, and sold it to the Messrs. Cheswright, Sheffield, and Co., who were timber merchants. I was obliged to avail myself of the intervention of a dealer to allow the War Department to pick their logs out of that parcel.

1024. Had you the seller's brokerage upon that transfer from Mr. Bernard Hall to Messrs. Cheswright?—From our importer we had certainly.

1025. Had you buyer's brokerage also?—Certainly, as is customary in the furniture wood market.

1026. I understood you to say that Mr. Hall sold the cargo himself?—Yes, but not to our prejudice. I introduced Mr. Sheffield to Mr. Hall after having explained to Mr. Hall the requisition of the Government, and Mr. Hall preferred to sell the parcel, which he did himself to Mr. Sheffield, both of them knowing of the existence of this order.

1027. Did Messrs. Cheswright afterwards instruct you to sell any portion of that cargo by auction?—The whole cargo was prepared for public sale in conformity with the catalogue which I have here.

1028. Do you know what price was paid all round by Messrs. Cheswright to Mr. Bernard Hall?—I think it was either at 5¼*d*. or 5½*d*., I am not quite clear which, per foot of our measure; 5½*d*. per foot, we estimate, is 9*l*. 15*s*. a load; it gave 417 feet of our measurement to the load.

1029. Did you officiate at that sale, being salesman for Mr. Cheswright, and holding at the same time a Government order to purchase certain cedar from Cuba?—Yes, but the Government had previously selected all their logs in that catalogue; not lots but *logs*.

1030. (To Mr. Howell.) When the department is going to purchase parcels of a cargo which is to be put up by action, is the catalogue sent to the department to mark the lots that are wanted?—I always send the catalogue to the carriage department; they inspect the entire cargo, and mark the lots; and then the broker is instructed to purchase those lots.

1031. (To Mr. Leary.) Had you instructions from the Government as to the price to be paid?—No; that was left to my discretion.

1032. In point of fact, did you upon that occasion purchase altogether 64 loads of cedar?—I did.

1033. What price did you pay for the cedar?—12*l*. 5*s*. per load, less 2½ per cent. discount.

1034. Was that an unusual price to pay for cedar?—It was a high price to pay.

1035. Was it known that you held that Government order to purchase by the persons in the room or by Messrs. Cheswright?—I concluded the transaction, for the selection which the Government had made, with Messrs. Cheswright, before the cargo went to public sale.

1036. Were the lots bought in?—The great bulk of the cargo was necessarily withdrawn, because of the selection made by the officers of perhaps one log out of eight, or one log out of seven. I believe we sold perhaps twenty lots, but we were obliged to withdraw almost the whole.

1037. (Mr. Turner.) Do you mean that the selection of the 64 loads spoiled the sale?—Entirely. The necessity of executing the Government order involved the withdrawal of nine-tenths of the timber.

1038. (Chairman.) Was there no bidding for the lots against which your name is put?—I am not prepared to say at this moment. There was very little disposition to purchase any of the timber, because it was known that the Government officers had been to mark the timber.

1039. I see your name is put against a large number of lots?—Naturally, as having withdrawn them from sale.

1040. Against some of the lots there appear to be figures, as if there had been biddings for them; the suggestion is that you gave an unnecessarily high price for those lots?—I quite understand that. I have had three orders from the Government for cedar, two of which I have partially executed by purchases at public sales held by other brokers; one by Thomas Edwards and Sons, one by C. and G. Shadbolt, and one by Skeen and Freeman. The date of the first order is November 3, 1857. I bought lots, and for some of those lots at Edwards' sale I paid a higher price than I paid here, as the average. The average

of my purchase at Edwards' sale is lower, being 10*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* per load.

1041. By the return it appears that on the 3rd of November you bought 100 loads?—I bought under that order 93 loads at the first sale, and I gave an average of 10*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.*; the second parcel, of inferior character, cost 9*l.* only. There was only nine days difference between the date of the two public sales. The public sale at which I paid 10*l.* 16*s.* 4*d.* was the 2nd of November, and the other the 12th of November. There was a difference of 1*l.* 16*s.* in the average price. I was not the selling broker, I was the buying broker.

1042. Had you made any arrangements beforehand?—I took them in lots then as they were marked in the catalogue, therefore I was able to go into the public sale room and purchase them. In the last case logs were taken out of lots. The timber master did not select lots, but selected special logs in the lots.

1043. Did the remainder of the logs in those lots remain upon Messrs. Cheswright's hands?—Yes; and they are upon Messrs. Cheswright's hands now, very unsatisfactorily.

1044. You paid the higher price for the pick, did not you?—Yes; for the pick of the logs in the lots. There were 287 loads, from which they selected 64 loads. There was a small balance of 15 loads attached to the order, but they did not take the 15 loads out of that cargo. They could not find in the 287 loads sufficient to please them, and they declined to take any more than the 64 loads.

1045. (*Mr. Turner.*) For that selection the department paid 12*l.* 5*s.* a load, or 2*l.* 10*s.* more than you had offered the whole cargo for?—Yes.

1046. And they spoiled the sale of the 287 loads by selecting 64 loads of superior timber?—They did.

1047. And the seller has now a very considerable portion of that cargo on hand?—He has a large portion of it.

1048. What is the value of it?—I should not think it is worth more than 9*l.* a load.

1049. Were some few lots besides what you bought for the Government sold at that sale?—Some few.

1050. Deducting 64 loads from 287, there would be 223 loads left, how many of those 223 loads were sold at the sale do you suppose?—Perhaps the 23.

1051. Are the 200 loads still on hand?—I do not know; we have not had an opportunity of executing any orders for Messrs. Cheswright.

1052. Are not you their brokers?—We had charge of this cedar for sale; but Messrs. Cheswright represent themselves very much in the market, and sell for themselves. If we had an inquiry for cedar to-day, we should have to go to them to know how much is left, because the sold and unsold get mixed in the docks.

1053. The department abstracting the 64 loads deteriorated the sale, according to your statement, to the extent of 200 loads, and upon that you say there has been a depreciation since of 15*s.* a load?—That is about what it is worth to-day.

1054. Then they depreciated the cargo apparently to the extent of 150*l.*, and paid 160*l.* for their pick, so that they paid somewhere about what they ought to pay?—I thought so when I negotiated the transaction.

(*Mr. Roberts.*) We should have been very happy to have furnished as good cedar at 9*l.* for that very same order.

(*Mr. Leary.*) Cedar varies very much indeed in quality. Some has been sold within a month from the present time under 6*l.* a load.

1055. (*Mr. Turner.*) Mr. Roberts says that he would have supplied you as the Government broker at that time with as good cedar at 9*l.* a load as that cedar for which you gave on Government account 12*l.* 5*s.* a load. Is that the fact?—Mr. Roberts has said so.

1056. Ought not you as the Government broker, in the performance of your duty, to have looked round the cedar market at that time for the purpose of seeing who could supply the Government through you

on the best terms?—I had done so. My last order from Government was dated June the 8th.

1057. Why did not you look at Mr. Roberts's cedar?—Mr. Roberts had no cedar to sell.

(*Mr. Roberts.*) You do not know that.

1058. (*Chairman to Mr. Roberts.*) What cedar had you?—I must explain that Mr. Leary had the order six months before to execute, and if I had had that order at the time Mr. Leary had it, I would have executed the contract at 9*l.* per load.

1059. I asked you what cedar you had?—I would have delivered cedar out of the "Susan" if I had had an order for it.

1060. What cedar have you actually had in your control for disposal since the 8th of June?—I had at my disposal the whole of the cedar in the market.

1061. Do you mean that you could have speculated in it?—I could have bought anything in the market; that is what Mr. Leary does. When you have a Government order you can buy anything in the market.

1062. Had you any actually in your control?—None on that day in my actual control.

1063. At any time between June and November were you the owner of any cedar?—I had been the owner of cedar.

1064. Of how much cedar were you the owner?—I cannot say exactly.

1065. About how much?—I was not the owner of a very large quantity. I think I had 15 or 20 logs.

1066. We are talking of an order for 79 loads?—If a man gets an order for cedar he can compete as well as Mr. Leary. He can go to the place where it grows.

1067. (*To Mr. Leary.*) Do you make public the orders that you receive from Government?—We do not; we keep them as secret as possible.

1068. Had you any instructions as to the price in the case of the cedar?—I had none.

1069. I perceive in some of the notifications of the orders which Captain Clerk has shown us, that the price is limited?—That has been the case with me occasionally.

1070. In this case you had absolute discretion to get the cedar that was wanted?—To do the best I could for the service after the different officers had inspected and approved of the timber. That has been done in every transaction I have had for the department.

1071. In pursuance of your duty as a broker, did you go to the parties who had the cedar?—This was the only parcel suitable. There was another parcel in the market which the officers looked at and put aside, giving this the preference: that was a parcel by the "Speed."

1072. Who were the holders of it?—Rolt and Co.

1073. (*To Mr. Jones.*) Do you know of any cedar in the market from June this year, which would have served the purposes of this department, excepting that which was purchased out of the "Fleetwood"?—There was the "Laura Campbell," that was not equal to the "Fleetwood." The selection made from the "Fleetwood" was log by log of the larger size, and hard wood, admitted by the trade to be the best.

1074. (*To Mr. Leary.*) Did you buy any cedar out of the "Laura Campbell"?—That was in May.

1075. If you made a contract with a person who had not cedar in his possession at the time that the thing contracted for was wanted, what security would you have for the performance of his contract?—None.

1076. If the wants of the Government are urgent, as they very often are, can a fine or anything of that sort make up for the disappointment arising from the non-fulfilment of the contract?—Nothing can compensate it.

1077. As far as your experience goes as a timber broker, taking into account that the officers of the Government make those rigid selections for the pur-

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Mr. C. Leary.

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1078. Do you generally take *del credere*?—It is occasionally availed of in our market.

1079. Do you sell for your principals on the terms of guarantee?—Occasionally we do.

1080. Do you ever give a guarantee when the Government are the purchasers?—Never; we always declare the principals on both sides.

1081. Does that apply to bought or sold notes?—Our contracts are duplicate; the buyer's and seller's contract correspond exactly.

1082. (*Mr. Turner.*) The buyer and seller know each other?—Yes.

1083. (*Chairman to Mr. Munro.*) Do you in your bought and sold notes declare the buyer or seller?—When they are not guaranteed we do; that is to say, when the *del credere* is not charged, then they know each other; otherwise we do not give the names, except in Government contracts.

1084. In Government contracts you say "bought for Government;" does that note show from whom the purchase is made?—It does; it is put on the original contract; on the duplicate and triplicate it is not put.

(*Mr. Leary.*) We invariably insert the principals in the original, and the duplicate and triplicate.

1085. How soon are you paid by the Government?—Generally within the month prescribed for payment, occasionally a little later, according to circumstances.

1086. Have you ever been paid before the goods were delivered?—Never before the goods were delivered.

1087. What is your arrangement with your sellers when Government is the buyer?—We declare the principals to them, and we state a month after delivery for payment; if the payment is not made within that time we report the circumstance to our seller, who has to tolerate the delay till we get the certificate: but where we purchase at public sale, we do not declare the Government as the buyers; we pay for the goods ourselves, either on claiming the delivery orders or at the prompt, as may happen, and we then have to bear the inconvenience of any delay in payment on the part of the Government.

1088. The money does not rest in your hands at all, therefore you are not advantaged by the most prompt payment?—No, not the least in the world. When we get an order to draw (it is a seven days' bill), we generally draw the bill at once, and specially endorse it over to the seller, and send it to him to get it accepted.

1089. Have you ever been consulted by the Government as to private offers which have been made to them, by merchants or others?—I have; that is to say, I have been informed of such private offers having been made, as had reference to orders with which I was at that time entrusted for the service.

1090. Was that with the view of ascertaining whether it was desirable for the Government to accept those private orders?—For the purpose of informing me of any channels of supply which might have escaped my attention; that I might know exactly what other houses so tendering were disposed to supply the department at.

1091. Have you considered those communications confidential?—Certainly.

1092. You have never made them known?—We do not make them known.

1093. Do you remember Mr. Lawrence making an offer of teak at any particular price?—Yes.

1094. Did you communicate to anybody the fact that Mr. Lawrence had made an offer for teak at 11l. 7s. 6d.?—No.

1095. You consider all such information, if received by you from the War Office, as secret?—Yes, as confidential communications.

1096. Is it one of your rules not to look at cargoes in the hands of another broker?—It is my rule to report to the service the entire stock in the market; the officers make their survey, and then it is for me to take my instructions after their survey.

1097. What happens in this case? Mr. Lawrence, as a timber broker, has a cargo in his hands; you look at it; you think a portion of it will suit the Government, and you make an offer; if it is accepted, do you get the seller's brokerage in that case?—No; it is quite understood that there is no brokerage between broker and broker.

1098. In that case would Mr. Lawrence be paid by his own seller?—Yes; and I should be paid by the Government. I do not operate until after the Government officers have selected the stock regardless of whose hands it may be in.

1099. Even the inducement of double brokerage does not practically, in that case, induce you to limit your selection to cargoes over which you have control?—It happens with regard to teak, I may say, that I have no exclusive control over any cargo; I represent no sellers of teak, to the exclusion of other brokers. I am essentially the Government broker for teak, therefore I take care that whatever cargoes are to be sold shall be surveyed by the Government officers, regardless of whose hands they are in, and then I negotiate for the cargoes selected by the officers.

1100. Have you anything to do with the selection?—Nothing.

1101. (*Mr. Turner.*) What is your commission?—One per cent.

1102. For which you give your best judgment disinterestedly on behalf of the Government?—Entirely. I am constantly reporting to Mr. Howell, as I might to Baring Brothers in Bishopsgate Street.

1103. You are broker for other parties?—Of course.

1104. Have you any objection to state the amount of brokerage which you may have received during the last twelve months in your capacity as Government broker?—Perhaps 200l. or 300l.; not more, I should think.

1105. I suppose there is something in the name of being a Government broker?—So far as I am concerned, I consider there is very much in the name of being a Government broker.

1106. It is not only the direct emolument I suppose, but indirectly the *status* which it gives?—Yes.

1107. (*To Mr. Lawrence.*) Have you ever sold teak to the Government?—Never. I have very often offered cargoes of teak to the Government, but they have always been very politely declined. Mr. Howell has always been very courteous and prompt in his reply.

(*Mr. Howell.*) Whenever you have made any offer, I have desired the broker to look at your teak to see whether it was at the market rate, and suitable for the wants of the service.

(*Mr. Leary.*) I think I can explain it. I applied to Mr. Lawrence on one occasion with regard to a parcel of teak, which I understood was in his hands for sale, and his answer was, if it was for the Government he would not allow it to be picked at any price.

(*Mr. Lawrence.*) I said I would not allow the picking at any price, and the Government always do pick it.

1108. (*Chairman to Mr. Leary.*) Do other purchasers pick the timber in the same way that the Government do?—Very rarely; they generally take it in parcels. We have had some fastidious continental buyers who pick the timber,—continental buyers. I had an order to execute very recently for 5,000l. worth of timber; I showed timber belonging to Mr. Duncan Dunbar, and other parties, in the docks. The "Cotfield," of which mention has been made, was surveyed on that occasion, and they paid a price to have their pick, That timber was for exportation.

1109. Was it bought for a continental Government?—No; for the execution of some Government orders

in the navy department. It was bought by a private shipbuilder.

1110. Would not saying that you must pick, be equivalent to saying that you were concerned for the Government?—Exactly; that is one of the disadvantages under which we constantly suffer. The fact that we are obliged to stipulate for a selection is at once divulging for whom we are acting; we cannot help it.

1111. (*Mr. Turner.*) Whenever the Government or any other buyer departs from the regular custom of the trade, they must pay necessarily very considerably above the market price for that which they purchase?—They must pay a premium price.

1112. Does not the premium amount to something very extravagant?—Occasionally it does.

1113. Can the prices of cargoes to be taken all round, without that power of selection, ever be compared with the prices paid when that power of selection is exercised?—Never. Nor does it often happen that a cargo, as imported, will suit the service of the department, as I am instructed by the department.

1114. (*Chairman.*) Your name has been mentioned by Mr. Hoar through Captain Farmer, and the statement made was, that in June this year you were instructed to buy sabicu wood for the War Office; that sabicu was held by Mr. Hoar; that you got Messrs. Rolt to purchase it of Mr. Hoar, and then you purchased it from Messrs. Rolt for the War Department. Do you wish to offer any observation upon that statement?—I wish to be informed when Mr. Hoar parted with the custody of his goods to Messrs. Rolt, as having a bearing upon the date when the Government bought the timber, after it had been inspected by the officers.

1115. The order was given to you on the 8th of June; when was it executed?—In that particular case on the 16th of July.

1116. Was the timber purchased by you from Messrs. Rolt?—Yes.

1117. Had you anything to do with the transfer of that cargo from Mr. Hoar to Messrs. Rolt?—Never, until it came into Messrs. Rolt's hands.

1118. When did it come into Messrs. Rolt's hands?

MR. WILLIAM FRANCIS LAWRENCE examined.

1124. (*Chairman.*) How long have you been a timber broker?—About two years.

1125. Were you in the habit of tendering under the old system for the supply of timber to the Government?—No.

1126. You have had no experience of the system of open competition?—No, I know nothing of it.

1127. Have you ever offered to the Government timber, with the option of selecting from it?—Never.

1128. Have you ever had any communication with Mr. Leary as to the wants of the Government in respect of timber?—I had a communication with Mr. Leary; I am not clear that he mentioned the name of the Government in the matter.

1129. Did I rightly understand you to say that you told him you would not have your timber picked?—Yes. Referring to a particular parcel, I said I would not have it picked if he gave 20*l.* a load.

1130. Are you willing now to have your timber picked if you got 20*l.* a load?—No; I would not have it done.

1131. Do not you therefore voluntarily shut yourself out from supplying the Government?—If that regulation exists I do. I was not aware of it; I thought they took entire parcels. I have seen entire parcels go to the Government yard without selection at all.

1132. When?—Within the time I have been a broker.

1133. What description of wood?—Teak. I allude to teak in all my answers. I never had any other wood.

—I do not know; I want to know. We purchased the timber of Messrs. Rolt on the 16th of July.

1119. If you had nothing to do with the purchase by Messrs. Rolt, Captain Farmer must have been misinformed?—Unquestionably.

1120. The statement is, that you got Messrs. Rolt to purchase it of Mr. Hoar, and I understand you to deny that?—Entirely.

(*Captain Farmer.*) I quoted word for word what Mr. Hoar told me at the time.

1121. (*Chairman to Mr. Leary.*) Were you aware that the sabicu was in Messrs. Rolt's possession?—I was not; I had an order to execute for sabicu timber on the 8th of June; on the 26th of June I executed that order in part from another parcel of timber; and Mr. Hoar must have known on the 26th of June, as it is patent when the officers go into the docks, that I was a buyer of sabicu: it could not be kept a secret. When the timber master selected and marked the timber, it was patent to the trade that the Government were buyers of sabicu. Unfortunately, it gets known too soon; it is part of the infirmity of the system that cannot be cured, I fear. If Mr. Hoar had sabicu to offer, he might have sent it direct to the War Office, or he might have sent it direct to me. In the middle of July, this parcel in the hands of Messrs. Rolt was the only parcel in the market; the necessities of the service were urgent, and I was obliged to buy it. I found it in the hands of Messrs. Rolt, and up to that time I had nothing to do with it in any shape or way.

1122. Was not that first parcel that you bought in June out of the "Louisa Kilham" and "Calypso"?—Yes; it had been previously offered to the department as a whole, and declined on the ground that many of the logs were not fit for their service; the importer refused to allow it to be picked, and we were obliged to get the intervention of a dealer.

1123. (*Mr. Roberts.*) Was Mr. Hoar the importer of the wood?—Yes; he held it for about six months; it was offered to the Government by Skeen and Freeman, the brokers for him, at 14*l.* a load.

(*Mr. Leary.*) The Government paid 14*l.* for it, less 2½ per cent. discount.

1134. Do you know whether the right of selection existed in that case, although it might not have been actually exercised?—I have no power of knowing that.

1135. Was that teak sent to the dockyard?—That I do not know at all. I do not even know the officers.

1136. Do you think that the extra price which appears to be paid in consequence of the Government officers claiming the right of selection is higher than it ought to be, taking that circumstance into consideration?—I do not know what the Government pay.

1137. What per-centage do you think should be put on, supposing the Government requirements to be somewhat rigid and fanciful, if you could be induced to deal upon those terms at all?—It would depend entirely upon the quantity they took.

1138. Supposing you had a cargo of African teak worth 10*l.* a load, taken all round, and the Government were to say, we will not give 10*l.* a load for the cargo all round, we will take as much as we want and no more; what would you let them pick 50 loads out of 200 for?—I would not let them do it at all.

1139. At no price?—No. Because I should be prejudicing the interests of the importer. It is almost impossible to get rid of the balance of a cargo when it has been once selected.

1140. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you think the Government is better supplied on the present system of dealing through brokers, or would the Government, in your opinion, be better supplied under the old system of competition?—My impression is, that the old system of competition was far the best; not under

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1141. I am not putting a hypothetical case, but the way in which the Government formerly supplied themselves, in comparison with the way in which they now supply themselves; which, in your opinion, is the best?—Open competition, decidedly.

1142. (*Chairman.*) Do you know what that system of open competition was? Half of a cargo sent down here might be sent back; instead of picking it in the docks they had it all down here, and sent back what they did not like?—Rejecting half of it would be an extraordinary case.

1143. Supposing they did exercise, under the old system of open competition, the power of rejecting any timber that did not come up to the standard, would you still prefer that system to buying through brokers?—I am still of opinion that open competition would be the best. I am concerned now for parties who are delivering a cargo at Woolwich dockyard, and out of that cargo, I think there were only seven or eight pieces, out of 400 loads, rejected.

1144. Supposing an unlimited power of rejection to exist under a system of open competition, would that in your opinion still leave to the system of open competition a superiority over the brokerage system?—Yes, because the system of rejection works its own cure, inasmuch as a man knowing that, would only send such wood as he was morally sure would be received.

1145. (*Mr. Turner.*) What price would he charge?—It would not make a material difference in the price.

1146. (*Chairman.*) The contractor must pick the timber in that case, must he not?—We should

import such wood as was suitable for the Government requirements.

1147. (*Mr. Turner.*) When I put my question to you upon this subject I assumed that the Government broker performed the functions of a broker, and went round the market to put into competition the different suppliers one with another. Would not the Government have the principle of competition through the broker if the broker honestly performed his functions?—Clearly.

1148. Do you assume that the broker does not do the Government justice?—Without wishing to assume that, I must take as the basis of my argument the fact that I have at the present moment about 500 loads of teak in my hands, and I have no chance of supplying the Government at all upon any terms.

1149. Is not that because you object to the broker selecting from your cargo?—That was only with reference to a specific parcel that Mr. Leary spoke of.

1150. I understood you to say generally that you would not submit under any circumstances to 50 loads of timber of a peculiar shape and size being selected from a cargo under your care at any price?—I would not allow it.

1151. Have you not therefore given a sufficient reason why you are excluded from supplying the Government under the existing system?—I think I have given you a reason for it.

1152. (*Chairman.*) May not the right of rejection be equally well appended to the system of competition as to the system of brokerage? Government may say, we will not take anything but special wood. Is not that in reality a rejection of all that is not special wood?—Of course.

Capt. H. Clerk.

Captain HENRY CLERK examined.

1153. (*Chairman.*) What is your office here?—I am assistant inspector, or superintendent as it is now called, of the carriage department; I am next to Colonel Tulloh.

1154. In his absence have you charge of the department?—I represent him.

1155. When did you commence your duties in the department?—In April 1850, I joined this department.

1156. How long have you been in your present position?—Since 1852; my first duty was examining timber, which duty is now performed by Captain Farmer.

1157. Do you know the old system?—Yes, under the Board of Ordnance.

1158. Under that system, as we understand, cargoes of timber were furnished by open competition?—That is to say, the Board of Ordnance had a list of contractors (it was not quite open), to whom tenders were sent, which tenders were referred to this department for recommendation as to who should be accepted.

1159. Was the lowest tender always taken in those cases?—As a general rule, but the time of delivery is a very important thing with us, and is also to be considered.

1160. Was the timber then furnished subject to the approval of the authorities here?—Yes, the contractor sent the timber here, and we inspected it previously to the article being received into store.

1161. You did not buy whole cargoes in such cases?—Never; the contractor had to supply according to the specification delivered to him; there was a specification stating the sizes and particulars of what we required, and he had to supply the timber according to that specification.

1162. Whether the contractor was able to send in a whole cargo as imported, or was under the necessity of making a selection, would be a matter for him?—We should know nothing about that.

1163. Did you generally make rejections under that system?—With some contractors more than

others. On the whole the rejections would amount to a sixth or an eighth of the quantity sent in, which had to be replaced at the contractor's own expense. We had also the power of cutting defective logs, and of making abatements for defects.

1164. The contractor in that case having the power of making up the lots for delivery here, the residue of the cargo would not be marked as rejections?—Merely the timber that we sent back would be marked as rejections.

1165. Would not the expense of sending the timber here and of receiving it back be an item which the contractor would include in his price?—Yes.

1166. Did you ever know the public service suffer by reason of the delay occasioned by rejections?—Never: it was a time of peace up to 1854, and we could not say that we suffered. We have in the years of the war suffered from the failure of the contractors to complete their contracts.

1167. Those are the times that try a system; under the old system of tenders and competition did you ever experience inconvenience from having to reject timber sent in?—It causes inconvenience. There is our time taken up in inspecting timber three or four times, in order to get the quantity. We never suffered from want of timber. There was a certain period at which the contract must be completed; and if it was not completed by that time, we had the power of going into the market to purchase any timber to be got in the market, the difference of price being charged to the contractor.

1168. You never have been without timber by the default of a contractor?—No; we have been able to replace it with timber in the market.

1169. We have heard in the course of our inquiry that some of the foreign timber furnished to the department is of a peculiar character, and that single owners have had the command of the market. Is that within your knowledge?—Certain timber, such as African mahogany, we cannot get at all now. It is not in the market.

1170. Have you ever found any practical inconvenience under the old system from the fact that there have been defects in the timber delivered here?—There has been inconvenience in having to send it back; nothing more.

1171. You have been cognizant also of the new system under which purchases are made by brokers?—I am aware of it, though I have not to go up to the docks to inspect the timber. That duty is now performed by Captain Farmer.

1172. Has the timber purchased by brokers been in your judgment freer from defects than the timber formerly purchased?—The timber that we first obtained through brokers was inferior in quality as a general rule. It was not subjected to the same rigid inspection and selection that we made of the contractors' timber. In the year 1856, almost all the contracts of Messrs. Churchill and Sim, who were then our sole brokers, were made merely for the fir timber, to be seen as it floated in the river.

1173. In those cases had your officer, Captain Farmer, or any one else, the opportunity of inspecting it before purchase?—Inspecting it as it floated; not log by log, all the four sides of the log.

1174. There was not in fact the inspection that timber used to undergo under the old system?—No.

1175. Did you as a matter of fact, when Messrs. Churchill and Sim were the sole brokers in 1856, receive defective timber?—We received timber that we could not use for any of the purposes for which we demanded the timber.

1176. Has the opportunity of a more rigid inspection been given you?—Latterly.

1177. When?—I could not speak to the date; the practice has crept in; on the representations and remonstrances of our inspecting officers, the brokers have allowed them more and more privilege; but I think they always have had the opportunity of examining Mr. Leary's timber; that is, since 1857.

1178. Had you always the same opportunity of inspecting that you now have?—No; the timber master was allowed to go up and see the pile, and to mark from the ends of the pile what logs he would take; that is a different thing from what we call inspection, namely, examining the whole log all over.

1179. Have you now the opportunity of inspecting the timber in the docks?—At present we have.

1180. So far you avoid the inconvenience of transmitting timber that does not suit your purposes to the arsenal, and sending it back again?—We have not to send it back; it has been done in some cases, having been previously bought.

1181. Has there been a difference between the practice under Messrs. Churchill and Sim and Mr. Leary?—So far as I can judge from the results, knowing what I do in the arsenal, I should say there is. Mr. Leary, who appears to be a buying broker, has given us much greater facilities than Messrs. Churchill and Sim, who are both buying and selling brokers.

1182. Would your judgment be in favour of having buying brokers only?—If we have a broker at all he should be solely a buying broker.

1183. Have you been able to form an opinion as to the comparative price of timber under the old system and the present system?—We cannot say that there is any material difference in the price. Here is a list of prices paid for timber in different years (*handing in the same*).

1184. This statement goes back some ten years?—Up to 1849, I think.

1185. Would not any comparison of that kind be useless without reference to the market price?—It would. So far as one can judge, it is a mere matter of opinion. I should say our price for timber is not cheaper buying it through brokers than it was when we used to get, and could get it by public competition from merchants. The timber formerly was bought under a system of much more rigid inspection; we had the power of cutting off the ends and of making

heavy abatements, which would average 5 per cent. WOOLWICH.

1186. This statement refers to five woods—deals, teak, sabicu, cedar, and mahogany?—Those are the woods with which the broker is principally connected; deals are not things that come much under the carriage department; they were principally supplied through the storekeeper; they were not bought specially for the carriage department.

1187. Under this system you never had any opportunity of accumulating unserviceable timber?—None; because we merely got what we could actually use.

1188. Has any unserviceable timber been bought under the later system?—We have at present a large quantity of deals, which are of no possible use to the department.

1189. Are those the Onega deals which we have heard of, purchased by Messrs. Churchill and Sim?—Yes; which they say they got at 35*l.* for the double standard—about 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; they were bought as they rose from the pile, and, as far as we can judge, between a third and a fourth cannot be used by the carriage department.

1190. Might not those deals be made available for any other purpose?—Not in the carriage department; they might do for building purposes.

1191. Do you think it would be desirable to buy cargoes all round, leaving the residue not available for the carriage department to be made use of elsewhere?—With the exception of deals, I should say you cannot possibly buy a cargo. We always made an exception in deals from the very beginning; when it was first talked of buying through brokers, we always considered deals an exceptional case. You could buy a cargo of them. The War Department uses them for various purposes, and we require only a small part of the deals used by the War Department.

1192. Why should not the deals which you say you cannot use be made available in some other department?—They may; before being sold every department will have the opportunity of seeing them, and and of taking them if they can use them. The foreign hard woods, which are only used by the carriage department to any extent, could not be obtained by buying a cargo and selling afterwards what we could not use. There is an instance in point mentioned in Colonel Tulloh's last letter as to the purchase of fir. That fir was bought originally at 85*s.* a load; 200 loads was the first purchase, and 363 the second transaction. Out of the 200 loads we had to reject 112 loads as unserviceable and not fit for our purpose.

1193. What has become of them?—They were returned and sold. We cannot give officially the price for which they were sold. They were replaced by 112 loads at 98*s.* 6*d.*, being 13*s.* 6*d.* more than the original price.

1194. You appear to be made cognizant in this department of the prices at which the various timbers are bought?—We are informed of the prices at which they are bought.

1195. Can you form a judgment whether it is cheaper to pay a higher price for the selected portion than to buy all round and sell the rejected portion?—Yes; I was quoting this fir as an instance.

1196. Which do you prefer?—Paying a higher price for that which will absolutely suit us, and not buying all round and selling what we cannot use.

1197. You think it is truer economy to pay a higher price in the first instance for what you really want?—Yes; and what is more important, we get the best timber, which is absolutely necessary for our wants.

1198. Why should not that be done through the intervention of a broker?—The employment of a broker may be advantageous when you can buy a whole cargo according to the custom of the trade, but as we are obliged to depart from that custom, and examine log by log, the broker is in most cases under the necessity of employing a middleman; he is obliged

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Capt. H. Clerk. 1199. Is not timber lotted out when it comes into the docks?—Foreign timber is in piles generally.

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1201. Why cannot the broker ascertain with accuracy the price which would be paid for the right of selecting a certain quantity from those lots?—There is no reason why he cannot ascertain the price.

1202. Is there any reason why a higher price should be paid for the timber when it is selected through a broker?—Yes, because what is left on his hands afterwards is deteriorated in value from our having picked out the best; we must pay a higher price.

1203. Do you think substantially the importer or timber merchant gets a less price or a higher price under the present system than he did under the former?—As far as the merchant is concerned, I suppose he gets the same price; I am speaking now solely in the interests of the carriage department, which is that of the public service; I have nothing to do with how the system affects the trade, nor do I know how it affects it.

1204. Do you think you pay a higher price from employing a broker?—We do not pay a lower price, the prices average as high; there are many instances in which we have paid a higher price.

1205. Are not you comparing the price paid several years ago with the present price?—We are able to make a comparison of the price of timber bought during the same years; that is, we have had timber bought by brokers and from merchants.

1206. Of equal quality?—The quality must be equally good, because the merchants' timber has to be rigidly examined.

1207. Can you furnish the Commissioners with any facts relative to that comparison?—In 1856 we had some purchases of sabicu from Mr. Tyrie; his prices were 14*l.* a load and 12*l.* 10*s.* a load; in the same year we purchased through Messrs. Churchill and Sim at 16*l.* a load, 14*l.* a load, and 12*l.* 10*s.* a load.

1208. Were all the purchases from Mr. Tyrie?—We do not know where Messrs. Churchill and Sim got their first supply from. With regard to the two last cases of purchase by Messrs. Churchill and Sim at 14*l.* 10*s.* and 12*l.* 10*s.*, which are not alluded to in Colonel Tulloh's letter, Mr. Tyrie offered that timber to us at those prices. His offer was declined, but the broker was ordered to buy it, and he bought it at the same price; therefore, there was the addition of his commission and lighterage to be included.

1209. I presume you would not require the intervention of a broker when there was only one cargo in the market?—No, but in the majority of woods there is competition; by employing a broker you do not get the advantage of competition to the same extent. If there are several cargoes in the market there is competition, but the brokers are confined to the London market merely. Liverpool, Hull, Bristol, and others are just as good markets for foreign hard woods, although perhaps not so large.

1210. As a matter of fact, under the old system did you ever have tenders from Hull?—We have received teak from Liverpool.

1211. Why should the brokers be restricted to the London market?—They are merely brokers for the London market. If they went all over England we should be in just as good a position as by competition.

1212. (*To Mr. Leary.*) Have you ever, in order to complete contracts that you have been directed to make for the Government, gone to any other market than the London market?—I never had occasion to do so.

1213. Have you ever taken means to ascertain whether you might not get timber cheaper in other markets than the London market?—We know all

that; we consider it our duty to be posted up in the position of all the markets.

1214. (*Mr. Turner.*) What would be the additional price per load in the shape of carriage if you bought timber in Liverpool or Hull?—It would depend upon the exigencies of the service; if they required the timber immediately the land carriage would be very much more than bringing it by sailing vessel; 25*s.* per load is the railway company's charge between Liverpool and London.

1215. (*Chairman to Captain Clerk.*) You are cognizant of a case mentioned in Colonel Tulloh's letter, of Messrs. Rolt's fir?—Perfectly.

1216. Will you give the particulars of that transaction?—It was last April; Messrs. Rolt made an offer to the War Department, through Mr. Howell, to supply us from 150 loads of superior quality Dantzic fir at 4*l.* 5*s.* a load; Mr. Howell referred that offer to Colonel Tulloh for his opinion; Colonel Tulloh wrote back to say that 100 loads of this timber would soon be required, and he therefore recommended that Messrs. Rolt's timber should be examined, and as much as was found on examination fit for the service should be received at the price of 4*l.* 5*s.* a load; the answer we received was, that the Secretary of State-for-War did not consider it expedient to accept this offer; upon which Colonel Tulloh had to write back to say that if he did not receive 100 loads of this kind of timber very soon, the work we were then engaged in, which was platforms for coast defences, would have to be stopped; upon which the Secretary of State directed Messrs. Churchill and Sim to purchase this timber at 4*l.* 15*s.* a load.

1217. The same timber?—I cannot say that; it was the same description of crown timber, Zabladouski stock; we had not an opportunity of examining it and knowing that it was the same; the merchant offered to supply us according to our usual conditions, from his stock at 4*l.* 5*s.*; his offer is declined, and the broker is ordered to purchase it at a higher price. I will read the letter with reference to that transaction, dated the 3rd of April 1858, addressed to Mr. Howell by Messrs. Rolt:—"Sir, We respectfully beg to say that we have a parcel of superior quality Dantzic fir timber, Zabladouski stock, consisting of about 150 loads, which we can offer a bargain, namely, at 4*l.* 5*s.* a load. We venture to think that it may be well worth your attention, and if you will allow it to be inspected we shall be much obliged." This is Colonel Tulloh's minute to the Director of Contracts:—"I shall require about 100 loads by the middle of the month of May. I recommend that that quantity be taken, if on inspection it is found in accordance with the specifications enclosed, and the usual conditions of the department."

1218. Was it inspected?—No; the next letter was informing us that it was declined, dated the 14th of April 1858, signed by Mr. Drewry from the War Office to Colonel Tulloh:—"With reference to your memorandum of the 7th instant, I am directed by Secretary Major-General Peel to acquaint you that it is not deemed expedient to accept the offer made by Messrs. Rolt and Co. for the supply of Dantzic fir timber." Colonel Tulloh had to write an answer to that letter, dated the 16th of April 1858:—"I have to observe that if a supply of fir timber be not immediately made, the construction of the description of platforms for which this timber is required must cease. It is, therefore, requested that steps be taken to secure a supply at once." On the 24th of April we were informed from Mr. Drewry, "I am directed by Secretary Major-General Peel to inform you that Messrs. Churchill and Sim have been instructed to take immediate steps for procuring on commission 100 loads of fir, yellow Dantzic, Memel, or Riga, to be delivered in your charge with as little delay as possible, and to be in accordance with the specification mentioned in your letter." The price was 4*l.* 15*s.*

1219. It appears to have been bought of Messrs. Cheswright?—We do not know anything about that; we merely state this as a fact, that the merchant offered us timber at 4*l.* 5*s.*; his offer was declined, and a broker was employed to purchase the same description of timber at 4*l.* 15*s.* We say that it would have been more advantageous to accept the merchant's offer. Messrs. Rolt in their letter ask us to inspect it, therefore we were not to take it without inspection, and being old contractors they were perfectly aware of our system; it would never enter their heads that we were to take the timber without inspection and selection.

1220. I believe Messrs. Brocklebank and Rolt were amongst your largest suppliers?—Yes, while we had contracts.

1221. Who restricts you as to the sum which is to be allowed for timber?—The Secretary of State-for-War. We send in an estimate, and that is often cut down very considerably by the Secretary of State-for-War, according to what the Chancellor of the Exchequer will allow him, I suppose; therefore we have only a certain amount of money allowed for the supply of timber, and our object is to get such a supply as we can use for the service. We are answerable for the carriages and other things that we turn out, and also we desire to get the timber as cheap as we can. We have no object but to get it as economically as possible.

1222. Have you ever had any complaint of articles manufactured in this department?—No; because we would not use timber that was not fit for the service.

1223. Is it not just possible that the test of wear and tear might prove that your judgment of the timber had been erroneous?—We cannot be erroneous about a big knot or a dead knot in a piece of wood.

1224. You have not had gun carriages or other things declared unserviceable after a short time in consequence of the badness of the timber?—No; we take care not to issue anything out of this department in which we should run such a risk.

1225. Do the things pass through any inspection after they leave this department?—No; Colonel Tulloh, the head of the department, is solely responsible for everything turned out.

1226. As you left the office which Captain Farmer fills, in 1852, perhaps you are not cognizant of the particular instances which he has given in his letter written in 1856?—No, because that is under the present system, of which I never had any personal experience. I had nothing to do with the inspection of timber bought by brokers.

1227. Are you able to furnish any corroboration of Captain Farmer's statement made yesterday?—No, because the greater part of the statement is what he has been told; he went to make inquiries among the merchants, and he stated what they told him. I can give no evidence as to that; the merchants themselves would be the only people to call.

1228. You have heard what Mr. Sim and Mr. Howell have said, that a number of persons have been brought in through the intervention of brokers as suppliers to the Government, who did not previously tender?—I heard that statement made; we know nothing about that; the duplicates sent down to us do not contain the name of the person from whom the broker has purchased the timber.

1229. In fine you are rather in favour of returning to the system of tenders and competition?—Yes.

1230. Open competition accompanied by inspection here or in the docks?—In the docks; the merchant of course would lower his price very considerably if we examined the timber on his premises; he would only have in that case to send down here the timber that we had agreed to take, instead of sending a large quantity with the chance of rejections, and perhaps have to send a third more than his contract to meet the chance of a third being rejected.

1231. Was Mr. Roberts a considerable supplier under the old system?—Yes, his name appears in our books from 1847, I think.

1232. Were Mr. Roberts's contracts executed as a general rule to the satisfaction of this department?—We never had any fault to find; I should say in his presence that we are much indebted to him for the introduction of peculiar woods to the department, which we have found very valuable. His contracts were very low in price, as a general rule; at the same time, in 1854 he did fail to complete a great number of contracts that he took up, which being during the war, of course put us to inconvenience. With the exception of that year we never had any fault to find with Mr. Roberts or any other contractor.

1233. Is not the system of competition open to this objection, that if tenders go out a man may take up the contract, not having the means under his control of completing his contract?—It is quite possible that a man of no means may do so, as a mere matter of speculation, but we have knowledge in this department of who are the large merchants, and who are really respectable firms. We are not tied down to take the lowest tender; we used to take that which appeared to us to be the fairest and most advantageous as to price and as to the time at which the contractor undertook to deliver the timber.

1234. Was that power of selection left with the authorities here before the institution of the office of Director of Contracts?—The tenders were, as a general rule, referred to this department for opinion previously to being accepted as to price, and whose tender we should recommend to be accepted.

1235. Were your recommendations formerly generally attended to?—I never knew an instance to the contrary.

1236. In point of fact, you had the selection?—We had, both as to price and quality; we recommended who should have the contract. It is different at present. When we do make recommendations they are not always attended to, therefore it is not of much use asking our opinion; so far as merchants' tenders are concerned, they are always referred to us for price, at present, but we have no knowledge of the price at which the broker is going to buy timber; we seldom know anything of his price till after the transaction is completed. If timber was at a very high price, and we were not very much in want of it, we might say we had better postpone the purchase till a more favourable state of the market, but we have no opportunity of doing that with the brokers.

1237. Is timber ever purchased except upon a requisition from the department, and upon knowledge acquired from the authorities here?—No; we send in an annual demand of our probable wants. It does not follow that we absolutely require that particular timber at the particular moment. If the market is not advantageous, we might say, postpone the purchase, or replace it with another description of timber.

1238. In fact, you would like to have the matter more in your own hands?—We are responsible for what we turn out, and we naturally feel that we ought to have more control over it than we have at present. A gun-platform made of teak has to bear a very great weight; it may go to any part of the world, to Gibraltar, Ceylon, Canada, or anywhere else; it must be perfectly straight; it must be of certain dimensions, and free from cracks, or it would deteriorate, therefore we are obliged to have a most rigid inspection of the timber.

1239. Colonel Tulloh seems to ground one of his objections to brokerage upon the fact that the authorities must know what is wanted for the service here. As I understand, the broker never interferes at all in that matter now, but the military authorities have substantially the selection?—In Colonel Tulloh's last letter he stated that after his first letter of 1856, that objection was removed, and they allowed us to select the timber.

1240. Colonel Tulloh says—"On no occasion what-ever have we found a broker of any assistance in the selection of timber for our peculiar purpose, that superior knowledge being possessed only by this department." The brokers do not pretend to do it,

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5th Nov. 1858. 1241. Have you not as absolutely the control as to selection as you had under the system of open competition?—Latterly we have.

1242. (*Mr. Turner.*) You alluded to stocks of wood in other departments besides your own. Those stocks of wood I suppose are kept in the gun factory, in the laboratory, and in the storekeeper's department?—The wood in the storekeeper's department is principally deals, and the laboratory department also use deals.

1243. You also alluded to the circumstance that it might be an advantage if you were consulted as to a purchase of wood, because the market might be high at any particular period. Do you consult together in the different departments as to the stock of any particular kind of wood that you possess with the view of making available any stock which might exist in another department, when you yourselves might be low in that stock?—That could be done. There are instances of our borrowing timber from the dockyard, and the other departments borrowing from us for their own uses.

1244. Is the general stock kept upon the premises held to be available for the different departments, if it is considered unwise to purchase at any particular period?—The general stock hardly applies to anything but deals; very little timber except deals is used by any other department. I should like to explain the reason of our being so very particular in our selection of timber. It is entirely from our services being special; we have no appliances for inferior timber. It must be borne in mind when we get the best timber that we can from the merchant or broker for a gun carriage, it is only the very best cut from that timber that is used for that purpose, and there is plenty then left for inferior purposes.

1245. (*Chairman.*) Do you make gun carriages for the navy?—Yes, we supply the whole of the war material for the navy.

1246. (*Mr. Turner.*) You pointed out to us that there was a considerable stock of very inferior deals piled up now, which you could not use for any of your purposes. Have any means been taken to see whether

those deals could be made available for any other department here?—We have taken no steps yet, we are picking out the best, and in the course of time none will be left, except such as are entirely useless; we shall then report, and the War Department will take such steps as are thought fit. No step can be taken because they are still in selection.

1247. (*Chairman.*) Have any cases occurred in which you have used the best timber for common purposes?—No.

1248. Has such a thing occurred as using the very best and finest deal timber for wheeling-planks?—They would not be supplied by the carriage department, therefore I am not aware of any such case. Those deals left of the purchase of Messrs. Churchill and Sim are fit for nothing else but wheeling barrows over. We never use good timber for inferior purposes. I am speaking of my own personal knowledge as far as the carriage department is concerned.

(*Mr. Howell.*) I should like to state a recent circumstance as exemplifying the character of many of the offers made to the department. I recently had an offer from Mr. Hoar of a quantity of teak, which he offered at 12*l.* a load. His messenger brought up the letter, and he was very anxious to know if any answer could be given. I asked him the names of the cargoes that Mr. Hoar intended to offer. He then mentioned the names of two ships, and having a list of all the teak in the market, with the names of the owners of the teak, I referred to the two ships, and I found that one of those ships, the "Grey Oak," contained a quantity of teak that had been inspected by Captain Farmer, and had been refused. The other cargo of teak was the "Melbourne," neither of which belonged to Mr. Hoar. The real fact is, that Mr. Hoar offered those cargoes, and desired to get the Government to buy them, and if we had treated with him for them he would have made the best purchase he could of the real owner of the goods. Those are not the sort of sellers with whom the Government ought to deal. Mr. Hoar offered the teak at 12*l.* which we bought at considerably less. We bought it of the real owner and not of a fictitious owner. Such offers I am extremely anxious to discourage. If a man has the timber in his own possession, and it is his own property, it is quite fair for the Government to entertain any proposal that he may make, but not otherwise.

Captain THOMAS W. MILWARD examined.

1249. (*Chairman.*) You are in the royal artillery?—Yes. I command the W. field battery.

1250. How long have you been in the service?—Fourteen years.

1251. Have you had an opportunity of observing the system of clothing the artillery?—Yes. I think I understand it as well as most officers who are serving in the ranks.

1252. What is your opinion as to the clothing now? Is it good or bad?—I consider the clothing at present supplied under the new establishment very good indeed.

1253. Are your men fitted in the first instance here?—The clothing at present in use in my battery was fitted at Weedon. This last spring I was quartered at Weedon. It was sent down from Woolwich made up by the clothing establishment at Woolwich, and we altered it ourselves.

1254. Was it well made?—It was better made than the old clothing, but not so well made as the clothing is this year; not so well cut.

1255. Was there much alteration necessary?—A good deal was required from one little fault in the cutting, which has been rectified in the clothing this year which we are going to get now.

1256. What was the fault?—There was a little too much spring given in the back of the coat, and it made the waist too wide. We had in many instances to

take off the skirts of the tunic in order to remedy the cut in the back; that has been quite put right this year.

1257. Was the cloth furnished last year the same that has been furnished this year?—Yes.

1258. Do you know whose it was?—Happening to be at Weedon at the time, I know that some of the cloth which we got was Ellis's cloth. We had only six or seven suits out of 230 of Ellis's cloth; all our coats of Ellis's cloth are marked that we may know them.

1259. Did you find that there was anything the matter with Ellis's cloth?—As far as I have seen it I cannot see much difference, but I had only a very few suits; they were marked for the purpose of seeing if the cloth was better or worse, that we might know which was the best.

1260. In what respect do you think that the clothing this year is better than last?—I think it is better cut. Last year was the first time it had been made by our own establishment here. I think they have better sizes now, and a better cut; they have had a little more experience, and the thing is very much improved, though it was very good last year.

1261. Do you remember the system when the clothing used to come in in a basted state?—For many years we used to have it in a basted state, and we made it up ourselves in our own batteries and companies.

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1262. Was it made up as well as it is now?—We had to get it a good deal earlier or we could not make it up in the time. We never had more than two or three tailors, and a tailor can only make two suits a week, so that you can easily calculate how many weeks it would take to make up the clothing of a battery.

1263. Did you increase the number of military tailors or employ civilians?—We only employed civilians if we were pressed. Our tailors did not like employing civilians, because they could not get them to work for what they paid their own men.

1264. We understood from Quartermaster Grant that there were no additional military tailors to the number that used to be employed?—I do not think there is a larger per-centage than there used to be. Our force has doubled or trebled the last few years.

1265. (*Colonel French.*) Have you more tailors in your companies?—I happen to have three, and the next company to mine has only two. If I were to get a recruit who was a tailor put to me I should have four. It is quite a matter of chance with us, last year one was sent from Woolwich to make my number up.

1266. Do you approve of the system of making up the clothing at Woolwich?—I think we could make the clothing better ourselves if it came basted, and we were sure of having tailors. If we cannot have that, I think it is better made in Woolwich. It is better made in Woolwich than it was by the contractors; the clothing is much better than the old clothing in every respect.

1267. (*Chairman.*) Does that refer to the sewing, to the cutting, or to both?—To the sewing particularly, and the cutting also. When the contractors made the clothing the lace was very badly put on, and we very often had to take the lace off the collar to put it on afresh. The knots on the sleeves were very carelessly worked, and altogether, I think the clothing is better sewn than it used to be.

1268. Does your observation as to the superiority of the present make of the clothing apply in opposition to the contract clothing?—Yes, to all that I ever came across.

1269. Have you seen the evidence of Captain Blossie?—I saw a small report of it in the newspaper, by which he seemed to think that what he called the present clothing was very bad. Captain Blossie's clothing is contract clothing, it was the old clothing in store. Mine being a field battery we got the first of the new clothing which was made at Woolwich by our own department. There is very great difference between the two.

1270. You have spoken of the improvement of the fit and of the sewing; what do you say as to the cloth itself?—The cloth is quite a different thing altogether, it is like cloth used for a gentleman's coat. I have had a great coat made of it myself. I bought a rejected piece at Weedon from one of the contractors.

1271. Was that Ellis's cloth?—I think it was; there was a large quantity rejected. I took my own tailor, and I picked out the best from about 50 pieces. I bought this piece and made it up for my own men in jackets, as they required it. I have a large piece in use, but it is not so good as the tunic cloth we have in wear; it wears very well at first, but it shows wear rather sooner than our new tunics do.

1272. Is that a defect in the cloth or in the dye, so far as you can judge?—I think it appears to wear a little white.

1273. How many varieties of cloth have you?—I think there are only two kinds. I think the sergeant's cloth now and the gunner's cloth are the same. The gunner's cloth is brought up to what the sergeant's cloth used to be, very nearly; the sergeants may be a little finer in appearance. I am no judge of cloth as a manufacturer, I only know how it wears, and how it looks. It may be different in price, but I am not aware of it.

1274. Do you remember the clothing some years ago?—I used to observe the cloth in Canada. I have been also employed as acting quartermaster.

1275. Then your experience of clothing extends to the whole period of your service?—I may say the last eight or ten years at any rate. We have also in our establishment here kits as well as clothing.

1276. Are the kits as good?—Yes.

1277. Are they an improvement on the former supply?—We always had very good kits in the artillery; the officers pay a great deal of attention to the kits; we never have taken anything but what was good, so that we really have had very good kits.

1278. (*Colonel French.*) Do you allow your men to purchase goods for themselves?—Very few men purchase anything for themselves: they always come to me, and I send an order down. I happen to be at present in camp on the top of the Common; I go round once a month or once a fortnight, and I make out a list of any things that are deficient in the men's kits, or look bad, and send the demand to the clothing store; the things come up the same afternoon, and I issue them the next morning, and at the end of the month, Prater sends in his bill, and I pay him. I believe Prater has to make up the store. Any small articles that the men require they can purchase with their own money at the store, but it is a thing very rarely done. I do not know any case of a man buying anything for himself. If he wants a comb or brush he comes to me for it. If he bought it himself, he would have to lay his money out at once, but he only pays me by stoppages spread over a long period. I have here an old tunic, and a man with his new tunic on, and you will at once perceive the difference between them.

1279. (*Chairman.*) Was the contractor or clothier furnished with cloth sent to him from a Government store?—No; the contractor always provided his own cloth, and was therefore responsible.

1280. The element of cost, I presume, would not come into your department?—No: unless a man happened to lose his tunic. I have made some inquiry, and I do not believe I should have any more to pay for a new tunic now than the old one, and I consider the new tunic is worth at least one and a half of the old tunic.

1281. Is that old cloth, though apparently of a coarser and more spongy character, as strong, or stronger than the new cloth?—I never saw the old cloth tested in the machine. I have seen the new cloth tried at Weedon, and it stood a very high test.

1282. Have you had any experience as to how the necessaries used to be supplied formerly?—Yes: before this establishment was set up, each captain of a troop or battery could obtain his necessaries from any contractor that he chose, and of course most of the captains did it through their pay-sergeant. He stands much in the same relation to the captain of a battery that the quartermaster of a regiment does to the colonel. Necessaries were generally obtained from some man on the recommendation of the pay-sergeant; the order was signed by the captain, and the men brought their orders to the pay-sergeant, and he sent to the contractor, whoever he might happen to be. I know that formerly the pay-sergeant used to get from certain tradesmen in Woolwich a regular allowance of so much per cent. I know of one particular instance were 10 per cent. was allowed for orders on the amount of the bill that was sent to the captain.

1283. Do you know whether that Woolwich tradesman was an agent for a contractor or not?—I do not know what private arrangements they had.

1284. How do you know the fact that you have stated?—From my own experience. I was quartered at Weedon for two years, and wanting some necessaries from Woolwich, I wrote for them to a shop behind the barracks, and at the same time I made an arrangement with the man, that he was to allow me $2\frac{1}{2}$ per

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cent. to pay the carriage, so that I could let the men have the necessaries at the same price as would be charged in Woolwich. This man had commonly paid 10 per cent. to my pay-sergeant on the amount of the order. I am not quite certain about this, but I believe when we came back from the Crimea, and arrived at Woolwich, the men had no kits at all, and a large amount was paid, about 200*l.*, and the pay-sergeant, who is now in India, I believe got 10 per cent upon the whole amount. Some of those kits were obtained from a shop behind the barracks. I know it was the custom to give the pay-sergeant 10 per cent. on the necessaries.

1285. Will you be good enough to explain how the pay-sergeant in your battery stands to you in the same relation that a quartermaster in the line does to the colonel?—Demands for necessaries are generally made out by him, and there being no quartermaster, they go direct to the contractor through the captain. When a soldier requires a shirt he comes to the pay-sergeant and puts his name down for a shirt.

1286. Have you no quartermaster?—No, not out of Woolwich; at Woolwich we have; they have very little to do with the companies.

1287. (*Colonel French.*) Why did not the captain see to the necessaries himself? Why should he trust to the pay-sergeant?—The pay-sergeant generally

ordered the goods with the captain's sanction, and came to him afterwards with his bill.

1288. If there was any fault, did not it lie with the officer of the company to allow such a thing?—The officers did not know that the pay-sergeants were getting 10 per cent.; they took very good care to keep it from the officers, or it would have been stopped. I happened to find it out in this way,—my pay-sergeant had never been a pay-sergeant before, he was an honest respectable fellow, and he came and told me of it. I believe this thing has been carried on for years, and in that case it was of course very much to the interest of the pay-sergeant that the men should sell their kits. About a year ago, I think, the pay-sergeants used to give orders on the tradesmen, when we were quartered at Woolwich, for the men to get a shirt or a pair of boots, and that man might go and sell those articles. It was to the interest of the pay-sergeant to see that the kits were to the bad. The more things were ordered the more the pay-sergeant made out of them; that is entirely put a stop to now. A man was charged for what the tradesman's price was, but the pay-sergeant used to get a *douceur*. Under our new arrangements it is impossible that such a system can be carried out. The Government appoint the contractor, and surely he would not be such a fool as to pay any one 10 per cent. who had no interest whatever to get from it.

Mr.
L. J. B. Dolan.

Mr. LAURENCE JOHN BAPTIST DOLAN further examined.

1289. (*Chairman.*) You are a large contractor?—Yes.

1290. And have been for many years?—Yes.

1291. Have you directly, or indirectly, given any per-centage or *douceur* to a quartermaster, or to anybody connected with a regiment?—I must decline to answer that question; I do not think it is a fair one.

1292. (*Mr. Turner.*) You absolutely decline to answer the question, whether you have given a per-centage to a Quartermaster for supplies that you have rendered?—Yes.

1293. We can get no sort of information with regard to *douceurs* from any one, either the recipient

or the giver, and when we come to a tangible point like the question now put to you, you refuse to give information?—I have never given an allowance on any matter connected with public supplies. I have never given any allowance to anybody on account of articles for which the public has paid.

1294. Do you adhere to your refusal to answer the question?—Yes.

1295. (*Chairman.*) Does your refusal to answer the question extend up to the present time? Would you undertake to deny that within the last 12 months you have given a *douceur* or per-centage to any person connected with a regiment?—I decline to answer the question.

WOOLWICH.

Saturday, 6th November 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
 Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Quartermaster GEORGE WILLIAM TAYLOR examined.

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1296. (*Chairman.*) Are you connected with the clothing establishment here with Quartermaster Grant?—I am inspector of cloth, and practical head of the tailoring department under Quartermaster Grant, who is also under Colonel Bingham; he is the head of the establishment.

1297. Is the Engineer's establishment, of which Quartermaster Mutch is the inspector, under the same roof?—Yes, Quartermaster Mutch of the Engineers is quartermaster and commissary; he is assisted by a staff as well as Quartermaster Grant.

1298. Is Quartermaster Grant his superior officer also?—No, they are quite distinct.

1299. Had you experience of the old system?—Yes, I am thoroughly acquainted with it.

1300. How long have you been in the service?—Nearly 18 years.

1301. Had you anything to do with the tailoring department?—Yes, I had to do with the tailoring department in the regiment for about 16 years. I was two years a duty man.

1302. Were you master tailor?—After I had been about two years in the service I was made the master tailor of a troop. After I had been there five years, a vacancy occurred for a master tailor in the brigade; I fortunately was appointed, and that appointment I held for nine years. On the introduction of the new system, as we term it, and the new clothing establishment was about to be built, I was promoted to the rank of staff sergeant, and superintendent master tailor. In January last I got a commission as quartermaster, and now I am inspector and general conductor of the business of the tailoring department, with a staff under me.

1303. What is your pay altogether?—My pay is 7s. 10d. a day; I have also 2s. lodging money, which makes 9s. 10d. in the whole.

1304. What is your judgment of the clothing furnished here as compared with the clothing furnished under the former system?—There is no doubt the clothing furnished under the present system is far superior. Some parts of the British service have improved in their clothing, and others have deteriorated, in my opinion as a practical man.

1305. Which have improved?—The royal artillery very considerably.

1306. In what respect?—In superior cloth, superior fitting and workmanship.

1307. The cloth would depend upon the improved pattern, would not it?—Certainly.

1308. The fitting would depend upon improved workmanship?—Yes, that depends to a certain extent upon myself; I cut the patterns, and make the scale. The workmanship is under my own immediate notice, and on the whole it is allowed to be superior to the old system.

1309. Was not the workmanship performed by the same hands, or something like the same hands under the old system?—If it was sent in as basted clothing, it was made up; still, a good deal was made up by contract, particularly in time of war; all the clothing sent to the Crimea was made up.

1310. Did you find the workmanship of contractors as good as the workmanship under the present system?—Strictly speaking not quite so good, but very good indeed. We always considered our clothing very well made. We used to think our contractors were the best in London, and it was generally understood that the officers of the board paid them many high compliments, thinking that they supplied a better article than the pattern.

1311. Have you ever been on active foreign service?—Never. I have had a good deal to do with the clothing that was sent to the Crimea. For instance, when Colonel Riddell went to London to purchase warm clothing, I used to go up every other day myself to give my opinion; he knew what articles he wanted. I inspected them, and he purchased them. During the war I have heard the remark frequently made, that the artillery were better supplied with clothing than any other part of the service.

1312. That would be to the credit of the contractor?—To a certain extent, and also to the credit of the heads of the department.

1313. Although they were better clothed, do you still think the present system of making up clothing here is an improvement upon that as regards cloth, fit, and workmanship?—Yes, in every particular; but it was not the contractor's fault.

1314. Do you wish to give any evidence upon the subject of Ellis's cloth?—Yes. In the beginning of 1857 I was sent to Weedon to assist in the inspection of cloth coming into that department for the artillery services. Ellis and Company had the contract for about 25,000 yards. They submitted samples, and there seemed to be a difference of opinion. The cloth was not strictly speaking bad, and there were alterations suggested to Ellis and Company, but they did not seem to carry out what was suggested to them. They sent in cloth from time to time that was not at all satisfactory. I told the head of the department, Mr. Elliott, that the cloth was not at all satisfactory, and I should not be justified in going on with the inspection without making my superior officer acquainted with the whole of the circumstances. Mr. Elliott began to talk about not splitting hairs with the contractors. I said I was determined to report the whole circumstances to Colonel Bingham, which I did, and I received instructions which were submitted to Mr. Elliott; he did not approve of them, and they never were practically carried out. For my own private information, I made a careful register of the quality of all the pieces of cloth that were sent in from that time up to about the 24th of June, which amounted in all to about 500

pieces. As to my opinion respecting the cloth, I think it will show that I was very fair with them, as far as I was individually concerned. I also had to consult the Weedon inspector, after we had put the cloth through the usual test as to dye, which it stood. Ultimately we discovered that the cloth contained an adhesive composition. I tried to wash it out to see if that would have any effect upon the strength. Mr. Heddon, the cloth inspector, assisted me. We washed a piece of cloth, and found it was eight pounds weaker than it was before it was washed; it also discharged a colouring matter, and we determined to reject the whole of the cloth.

1315. Was that the cloth there was an arbitration about?—Exactly.

1316. You found objections to the cloth, and it was partly upon your report that it was rejected?—Yes, and that of the Weedon inspector of cloth. The cloth was subsequently passed by two arbitrators.

1317. Have you had an opportunity of seeing how that cloth has worn at Woolwich?—Yes.

1318. What has been the result?—The commanding officers of troops, batteries, and companies have been called upon by the Deputy Adjutant General of Artillery, Colonel Bingham, for reports upon the cloth. We find the great majority of those reports condemning it, and stating that it is inferior to the cloth in wear in the regiment.

1319. Have all the captains of batteries made their reports?—All in Great Britain.

1320. Have you any means of knowing the result of those reports accurately?—I have seen the correspondence that came to Colonel Bingham.

1321. Can you give a summary of the reports?—I will hand in an abstract of them. (Vide App. No. 4.)

1322. Have you any remarks to offer as to the comparative merits of the new system of making up clothing here, and the system of purchasing clothing from contractors?—I have had considerable experience from lying in different barracks, both in the cavalry and infantry.

1323. What is your opinion, first, as to the artillery clothing?—The horse artillery now are no better clothed than they were before; the battalions are considerably better clothed.

1324. In what respect?—The material is better, and the workmanship; the clothing is altogether superior. The tunic now is finer—I will not say it is stronger; the trousers are kersey, the same as the horse artillery.

1325. Are you contrasting the cloth with the supply under Stephens and Clark?—I am speaking of the supplies under Stephens and Clark; the old trousers were about 2s. a yard cheaper, and the old pattern was not so good; as to workmanship, on the whole, the present quality has improved.

1326. To what do you attribute that?—We never considered the contract clothing was so well made as we supposed we could do it ourselves, although our clothing, I believe, went through a much more rigid inspection, generally speaking, than any other part of the service. It was not very likely that we would let it slip easily through our hands with much bad work in it.

1327. You mean that the regimental inspection was much more rigid?—Yes.

1328. How did your inspection differ from that which the clothing now undergoes?—Under the old system a board of field officers assembled about once a month on the average. The whole of the clothing which the contractors supplied was minutely inspected by the quartermasters, and the whole of the master-tailors of the artillery; then samples of that clothing were brought before the board, and in some instances the officers composing the board took out a bundle of clothing anywhere and examined it to see whether the reports were correct; they looked at what the tradesmen and quartermasters considered good, and what they considered bad. The contractor sometimes used to be allowed to attend and hear what objections were made

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to the clothing, so that he could make alterations in the future supply; for instance, if there was bad work, it was pointed out to him to be rectified and sent in again.

1329. In what respect does that differ from the inspection that now takes place?—Now first of all the cloth is inspected at Weedon, and the materials are inspected by the quartermasters, assisted by some of the master tailors and myself. Then the board of field officers assembles to pass or reject the things, the same as they did under the old system.

1330. Then there is merely the addition of the civilian inspection of the cloth?—Yes.

1331. Did the old system of inspection sufficiently secure good cloth?—It always secured it as good as the pattern.

1332. Then is the improvement principally in the pattern?—Yes.

1333. What experience have you had as to the clothing of the cavalry?—When I was troop master tailor at Newcastle-upon-Tyne there were three squadrons of cavalry quartered there at different times while I was in the barracks, and I was allowed the privilege by the captain of my troop to superintend their clothing, as they had no tailors. Their clothing was going through my hands every day, both new and old. There were infantry regiments in barracks both at Newcastle, Dublin, Leeds, and different places I have been at. I have been mixing familiarly with the master tailors and non-commissioned officers of the different regiments during a great many years.

1334. Did not the cavalry make up their own clothing?—Yes.

1335. Is there any improvement, so far as you have the means of knowing, in the clothing of the cavalry, as compared with their clothing under the former system?—They are improved thus far;—they get an annual supply of tunics instead of a biennial one. My experience, so far as I have the means of judging, is; that the cavalry are not so well clothed as they were under the old system.

1336. To what do you attribute that?—I think the patterns are not so good.

1337. Is there any alteration in the mode in which the cavalry are clothed compared with the mode in which they were formerly clothed?—The cloth for some of them goes through the Weedon establishment, which was not the case before. I have seen some of it there that was sent in for the light cavalry. I have seen some of the sergeants' cloth delivered for the heavy cavalry regiments.

1338. Is not the work in the cavalry performed by the same staff of tailors in the regiments?—To some extent. At the time of the war, of course the tailors of the regiments could not make up the clothing, and it was made up by contractors—Hamburger, Dolan, and those that had cavalry regiments made up the clothing then. If I understand right they are beginning the old plan of regiments not on service making it up themselves.

1339. (*Colonel French.*) Was not the clothing for the cavalry supplied by clothiers always sent in a basted state to be made up?—I have seen it in the piece. I do not think I ever saw any basted clothing for the cavalry; the cloth came from the contractor. For instance, if Hamburger took a contract for clothing a cavalry regiment, they sent a civilian master tailor with it. I know in the 13th light dragoons, where they had a military tailor, the cloth was sent from the contractor. I think it was Gilpin.

1340. The colonels and captains of troops had an opportunity of seeing that their own clothing was well made?—Certainly; they were very much interested in it. I have seen commanding officers of regiments and captains of troops visit the tailors' shops almost every day when the clothing was making, so that it must be well done.

1341. How did they get tailors in their regiments?—They had mostly civilian tailors; for instance, the 17th Lancers used to have one man of each troop employed in the shop always, and when they were

making the clothing up they had civilians employed. I have had civilians employed and lent them to the cavalry, if they were pushed for getting their clothing ready, and borrowed from them.

1342. What means had they of paying the tailors?—The contractor paid for the whole of the making up, except the 6d. alteration money, stopped from the soldier. The master tailor could draw a sum through the paymaster of the regiment, and I have known them sometimes have an order on a bank to draw so much a week to pay the men's wages.

1343. (*Chairman.*) Supposing a cavalry regiment to be on foreign service, the master tailor who came from the contractor could only fit the men who were at the dépôt; what was done in that case?—The clothing was sent out to the regiment direct from the contractor made up when they were on service.

1344. In your judgment the cavalry clothing, as I understand you, whether made at the regiment, or made up and sent out if they happened to be abroad, was quite as good, if not better, than the cavalry clothing now?—I would say it was rather better.

1345. Better in respect of quality?—Yes.

1346. And better in workmanship?—Yes, and in fitting. They seemed to take more interest in the clothing then than they do now at the regiments themselves.

1347. What experience have you had with regard to the supply of clothing to the line?—The line tunics are very superior. I doubt whether much improvement has been made upon the trousers, although they have a finer looking cloth; I doubt whether it wears as well as the old cloth.

1348. Is not that again a question of pattern?—Yes.

1349. Do you think the clothing supplied to the line now, as regards the workmanship, is as good as it used to be formerly?—Quite; I have seen a good deal of it lately, and I think it is quite as good in workmanship.

1350. How long were you at Weedon?—I go occasionally; I might have to go next week.

1351. You would only go as representing the artillery?—That is all.

1352. Have you anything to do with inspecting the cloth or clothing for the line?—No; the inspector has sometimes asked my opinion about an intricate question; I have nothing officially to do with any corps but the artillery.

1353. You say that you have had considerable opportunity of judging of the respective merits of the old and new plan of clothing the army; which do you think is better, the old system of contracts with the individual regiments or the system adopted here of making up the clothing for the artillery?—I think there can be no doubt as to the great benefit that the soldier and the public would derive generally by having the clothing made on a similar plan to our own.

1354. Do you think that principle could be applied to the line?—Easily.

1355. How do you think it could be applied? Here you have a great dépôt for 27,000 men, whereas the head quarters of the line regiments are scattered all over the kingdom?—A military staff would require to be formed from the different regiments if their clothing were to be conducted on the same principle as ours.

1356. Would you be able to get your men fitted better unless you brought them to the tailor's shop?—They would have the same advantage then that we have. We have companies and batteries in every part of the world, and send clothing away to them direct, and it could be sent to the line in the same way.

1357. Woolwich is the head quarters of the artillery; but have any of the line regiments fixed head quarters?—No: there are dépôts at different places; at Chatham there are a great many dépôts.

1358. Are not the dépôts of the line regiments perpetually changing?—Constantly.

1359. Would you have military tailors or civilians employed to make up the clothing for the line, or both?—I would have them both employed.

1360. (*Colonel French.*) How would you get regimental tailors unless you had a permanent depôt, as you have an artillery depôt? One depôt of line regiments may be at Fermoy, another at Dublin, and another at Beggar's Bush?—I think it would be a great advantage to the regiments generally if each was to send a tailor, if only for twelve months, it would be a school for him, he would know the whole operation of the system of making clothing, and when he went back to the regiment he would convey a much more favourable opinion of it than is generally now held by commanding officers. Supposing a department was formed similar to ours for the infantry, each infantry regiment might send a tailor, if it was only to work twelve months.

1361. How could one tailor furnish a company of 100 men with clothing?—He could not; but sending a tailor from a company or regiment the Government would have the advantage of his work, and he would be seeing the whole operation of making the clothing, and not be in ignorance as they are now about where their clothing is made.

1362. (*Chairman.*) Why should not there be a military tailor's shop at Chatham for the regiments of which Chatham is the depôt, just as there is a military tailor's shop at Woolwich for the artillery of which Woolwich is the depôt?—The only objection I could possibly apply to that is, the difficulty of getting the number of tailors.

1363. (*Colonel French.*) Would there not be a difficulty also, that perhaps the regiment is at Chatham to-day, and the next month at Fermoy, and perhaps in the following month it may be at Limerick? The line regiments are not stationary?—They are none of them stationary. If any regiment was always at Chatham, you could form a clothing establishment.

1364. (*Chairman.*) Why should not the depôts of the regiments be as permanent as the depôt of the artillery is permanent?—I can see no reason.

1365. Would not that promote, according to the opinion of military men of great authority, local recruiting?—It would.

1366. Do you think it would be an advantage that there should be less shifting of troops than there is at present?—I can hardly say; I think it would be an advantage if they were to make a clothing establishment similar to ours, and make the depôts permanent as far as they could, or a portion of them.

1367. (*Colonel French.*) Are you aware of what a depôt consists at this moment?—They fluctuate very much, sometimes 200.

1368. What is it in companies?—I have known them to be very few; sometimes they appear very strong.

1369. When you have been in regiments, how many tailors have there been for a company?—They very seldom exceeded three.

1370. Have you ever known the tailors of a regiment not even able to alter their clothing?—I have known when they wanted their clothing and have not been able to do so in time, and have been obliged to apply to other regiments for tailors. The 55th regiment was lying in Limerick, and their tailors were working for the 85th nearly the whole of the summer, altering their clothing.

1371. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have naturally a prejudice in favour of the system over which you in some measure preside, and Mr. Dolan has a prejudice in favour of the system by which he gains profit; you are in antagonism to each other. Mr. Dolan declines

to answer a pressing question relating to his system, but I hope you will have no objection to answer one or two pressing questions with regard to your system. For what services is your pay, of 7s. 10d. a day and 2s. a day lodging money, given to you?—As quartermaster and inspector of clothing.

1372. What portion of it is as quartermaster, and what portion as inspector of clothing?—Nothing as inspector of clothing, or superintendent of the tailor-ing department.

1373. Then you do not derive any benefit in consequence of the additional office you hold as inspector of clothing?—None whatever; merely my military pay.

1374. Is the whole of your pay derived from the office of quartermaster?—Yes.

1375. And none whatever in connexion with your clothing duties?—Nothing at all.

1376. If you had nothing to do with the clothing would your pay be the same?—Exactly so.

1377. Are there any perquisites in connexion with your office?—None whatever, not a farthing.

1378. Then your additional duties are perfectly gratuitous?—Perfectly so.

1379. Is there any value in the tailors' cuttings in your department?—Yes.

1380. What becomes of the cuttings?—They are sold.

1381. By whom?—By Quartermaster Grant.

1382. Are the proceeds of the sales of the cuttings accounted for in the public accounts?—I am not aware that it is a public account.

1383. Does the public get the benefit of those sales?—Hitherto they have not; they have to a certain extent, because they have been applied to fitting up the shop. When a large shop is built without conveniences there are cupboards to be put up, and many other little things required.

1384. If the proceeds of the sales of the tailors' cuttings are handed in to a money account and appropriated so far as the money goes to the expenditure of the department, it matters not how the public derive the benefit; is that done?—That is done.

1385. Does any person like yourself employed in that department receive the slightest benefit in the shape of perquisites derived from the sales of that description of property?—I have none at all; some of the juniors are paid perhaps for extra time that they would not otherwise be.

1386. Who adjudges the portion they are to receive?—Quartermaster Grant.

1387. Then the public accounts, in your opinion, do not derive the whole of the benefit arising from these sales?—One or two extra men are paid—one or two labourers.

1388. What are their names?—Quartermaster-sergeant Revell, if I mistake not, the foreman of the stores is paid.

1389. Amongst other things I have heard that you keep racehorses, is that so?—I have none in training at the present time.

1390. Is there any foundation for the statement of your having had racehorses?—Yes.

(*Quartermaster Taylor.*) I hope it has not been implied that I keep them out of the public money. I positively assert before everybody that I have no advantage directly or indirectly from anything in the establishment.

(*Quartermaster Grant.*) It is right that it should be known that Quartermaster Taylor has on his own side an independent fortune, and his wife also has a considerable income, so that he is in circumstances quite capable of keeping racehorses if he wishes to do so.

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Quartermaster GEORGE GRANT further examined.

1391. (*Mr. Turner.*) Can you state what becomes of the proceeds of the sales of the tailors' cuttings or other waste in your department?—The cuttings are disposed of to a contractor or person from London, who takes them away. An account is kept of the whole of the proceeds of those cuttings, and the small expenses of the establishment are met from the proceeds, such as postage, the carriage of parcels, and many other similar expenses.

1392. What is the contractor's name?—WoOLF.

1393. What is the amount per annum of those sales?—I am speaking from memory, I should say perhaps 100*l.* or 120*l.* a year.

1394. You keep that account of course in a separate book, debiting the account with the cash received for the sales, and crediting it with those petty expenses which you have described?—Yes; I have not the book here.

1395. When the balance is struck between the receipts and expenditure, how is that balance appropriated?—The balance has never been transferred from the book.

1396. It remains as cash in hand?—Yes.

1397. Who has the custody of that balance?—I have.

1398. What may be about the amount at the present time?—I should think at the present time there is perhaps 90*l.* credit.

1399. At what period will there be a settlement of that book?—It can be settled at any time; the proceeds of the cuttings have always been considered as an amount available to meet any small petty cash expenses.

1400. How long has your system been in operation?—About a year and a half.

1401. If the sales of cuttings amount to about 120*l.* per annum, and there are 90*l.* in hand, the petty expenses cannot be very extensive that are covered out of that fund?—We have been 18 months in operation, and the sales might have exceeded somewhat what I say. There are other accounts entered in the book which have no connexion whatever with the sales of the cuttings.

1402. Debits and credits?—Yes.

1403. (*Colonel French.*) Is there nothing in the regulations which apply to your department to show you how you are to dispose of the proceeds of those cuttings?—Nothing whatever. It has been always considered that our establishment is a large regimental tailor's shop. In that case the cuttings would be the perquisites of the person who had the charge of carrying on that tailor's shop. You would not think of applying, for instance, to the commanding officer of any cavalry regiment for an account of the proceeds of the cuttings from the clothing of that regiment. It is considered in a cavalry regiment as a sum available for not exactly private purposes, but purposes connected with the tailor's shop. I cannot say exactly how they are disposed of, but they always have been disposed of with reference to my establishment, to meet petty expenses. There are some expenses which I will name now.—The foreman of the store is a man who has been considered to be not very well paid; he gets 1*s.* 6*d.* a day in addition to his pay, and he receives 1*l.* a month from this income derived from the cuttings.

1404. (*Chairman.*) By whose direction?—Colonel Bingham's.

1405. Do you mean to say that his salary has not been considered sufficient by Colonel Bingham?—I submitted to Colonel Bingham that I should be allowed to give him an addition to his salary, which he approved of.

1406. Is that the extra labour which Quartermaster Taylor spoke of?—Yes.

1407. What you have done in that respect has been with the sanction of your superior officer?—Yes. I never have appropriated, nor have I ever paid any of that money to persons connected with the

establishment without the previous approval of Colonel Bingham.

1408. Is Mr. WoOLF the sole contractor for the cuttings?—He is the contractor.

1409. How did he come to be the contractor?—Tenders were issued to something like seven or eight persons by me, with Colonel Bingham's knowledge and approval, about four or five months ago. Those tenders were sent out, I think, to four persons in London, and something like four persons in Woolwich.

1410. Was Mr. WoOLF's the highest tender?—Yes.

1411. (*Colonel French.*) Is Colonel Bingham acquainted with the entries in your book?—He has seen the book himself and looked over it; he has had the book in his hand and gone through the different entries.

1412. You, as head of the department, have not considered those cuttings as your perquisites?—Never.

1413. (*Chairman.*) Is 120*l.* a year enough for the cuttings from the clothing for 27,000 men?—We are not yet in full operation; I should say, that when we are, the cuttings will realize 200*l.* a year. I only speak from a guess; perhaps I am under the amount which has been already realized.

1414. (*Mr. Turner.*) What is the value of the cuttings of one suit?—It would be impossible to estimate that. I can give you the prices which Mr. WoOLF gives.

1415. Does he buy by weight?—Yes. There are what we call cuttings, that is, what are produced by the tailor when he is cutting out the cloth, the shreds of cloth, and serge and flannel and all that sort of thing; and then there are what are called sweepings, that is an inferior description, some old and some new; he gives 4*s.* a cwt. for the cuttings, and 2*s.* a cwt. for the sweepings.

1416. (*Mr. Turner to Mr. Dolan.*) What is the value on the average of the cuttings of a suit of artillery cloth?—It would be impossible to say; I think they are worth about 3*d.* or 4*d.* a pound.

1417. (*Chairman.*) Does it make any difference in the value of the cuttings, whether you are cutting Government cloth or your own?—No, it is your own; in fact it is the cabbage after you have executed what you have got to do.

1418. (*Mr. Turner.*) Has any one in your establishment the perquisite of those cuttings, or do you have them yourselves?—We have them ourselves.

(*Quartermaster Grant.*) I think it would be impossible to apportion the cuttings to a suit of clothing. If the cutter makes the best use of the cloth, he of course has the least cuttings; but if the man does not cut it to advantage in cutting out his cloth he would make more cuttings than another. We have endeavoured to get the least possible amount of cuttings in our establishment.

1419. (*Chairman to Mr. Dolan.*) When you had a certain amount of cloth given to make up clothes, was not there a certain per-centage of surplus cloth?—Yes; in the first contract we had with the War Office they gave us a stipulated quantity of cloth for each suit, and the undertaking was that whatever we saved they would buy back from us at the contract price of the cloth; we had 1,000*l.* paid for cloth saved in that way. In the next contract the quantity of cloth was reduced, and there was no engagement to buy back the surplus. It is our own if we can save it. At present the tender is for price, and the smallest quantity of cloth to be used.

1420. (*To Quartermaster Grant.*) In your establishment are you limited to a certain number of suits to be cut out of a certain number of yards of cloth furnished to you?—Yes; we demand the cloth according to a certain scale. For instance, if we want a thousand suits of clothing we cannot demand more than a certain amount of cloth, according to a stipulated amount beforehand.

1421. Is there anything over?—There is. We made clothing for two regiments of infantry and two depôts, and I think we had something like 300 yards of cloth left, speaking from memory.

1422. Of which the Government, being the tailor, has the advantage for making other suits?—Yes; it is available for any purpose that may be required.

1423. (*Chairman to Mr. Dolan.*) What is the allowance of cloth for a tunic?—One yard 17 inches; but the artillery is a different pattern, and would take more.

1424. (*To Quartermaster Grant.*) Do you require more cloth for your tunics than if you were making tunics for the line?—The allowance on which we make our demand is a yard and a half per tunic; but I believe our positive expenditure, which is shown by the books monthly, is certainly not more than a yard and three eighths. We are saving five inches of cloth, I should say, taking it at a guess, on each tunic. That cloth is accumulating in store, and will be deducted when we get a tangible quantity in making future requisitions.

1425. If you were to be dressed in a red tunic instead of artillery blue should you require more or less cloth?—I presume the same; I am not a tailor.

(*Quartermaster Taylor.*) We use one yard thirteen inches for two regiments of infantry; that was the average actual expenditure to the Government.

1426. (*Chairman to Mr. Dolan.*) You say you are allowed one yard seventeen inches?—Yes; but we do not save anything, because the pattern was altered about a year ago. We made a great saving the first year, when we received 1,000*l.*

1427. You think substantially there is no saving?—One yard and seventeen inches is not too much; there may be a little saving if the sizes happen to run small.

1428. When was the alteration?—For this year's clothing.

1429. Were you speaking of the 1,000*l.* a year saving with reference to artillery clothing under your old contract?—No; line clothing.

1430. Did you say that the artillery tunics take more or less cloth than the line?—I am not prepared to say.

(*Quartermaster Grant.*) We demand cloth at the rate of a yard and a half per tunic, but we do not expend anything like that quantity. We keep an account of the actual expenditure, and only charge in our account what is the actual expenditure, consequently all that is over is in the store going to the good, and will of course be available and deducted from future supplies.

1431. In fact you have no cabbage?—There is no cabbage. I could not understand whether the Com-

missioners were associating the saving of cloth between the yard and a half and the actual expenditure with the former subject of the cuttings. I wish it to be quite clear that there is no connexion between them.

Quartermaster Grant's book was produced.

1432. (*Mr. Turner.*) On referring to your book, I find you have under estimated the amount of proceeds from the cuttings. I have taken one year, from July the 1st of last year to July this year, and it appears that the cuttings sold to Mr. Woolf amount to 280*l.*?—I have never taken the items out.

1433. The amount in your hands at the present time is also more than you estimated at a guess. I see the balance by your book is 171*l.*?—Yes: but there is one item very recently of something like 60*l.*, which has nothing to do with the cuttings. This is money received for drab suits of clothing supplied to men about to embark for India, which amounts to 60*l.*; that would leave the balance somewhere near 100*l.*

1434. (*Chairman.*) Is it not so much more in favour of your establishment that there is that additional saving?—Yes.

1435. (*Mr. Turner.*) My object is to ascertain clearly whether the cuttings are considered as perquisites?—You will see that they are not considered as perquisites; there is the outlay for the period. You will see on looking over the book that there are numerous items, all of which, in fact, bear upon the public service.

1436. (*Chairman.*) The proceeds of the cuttings, in point of fact, furnish the petty cash?—Yes.

1437. (*Mr. Turner.*) There is an entry of 9*l.* for a microscope; was that required for your establishment?—That is for examining different things sent in for the service.

1438. Supposing your establishment should go on for several years, and is ultimately extended to clothing the whole of the artillery, will not the cuttings, instead of amounting to 280*l.*, be considerably more?—What will be done with the money in that case?—When there is an available balance of 100*l.* in that book it will go into the public account; that is the manner in which it will be disposed of.

1439. (*Chairman.*) Does the item of over-time apply to the various men employed beyond their regular hours?—Yes.

1440. If the men work by the piece, how is it that any over-time is charged?—They are men working in the store who are not on piece work; they work over-time occasionally, to 7, 8, and sometimes 9 o'clock. I have been working myself for months until 8, 9, and 10 o'clock at night. I am in the store at 6 o'clock in the morning. Every night our clerks are kept until 8 and 9 o'clock, and of course that is over-time.

Quartermaster JAMES MUTCH examined.

1441. (*Chairman.*) What is your rank?—Quartermaster and commissary of clothing for the Royal Engineers.

1442. Is that distinct from the establishment of which Quartermaster Grant has the arrangement?—They are carried on in the same establishment, but the duties are quite distinct, with the exception that Quartermaster Grant is the senior officer, and as the head of the largest branch takes charge of the building and relieves me of that duty.

1443. Are your accounts kept separate from his?—Entirely separate.

1444. Is your supply of cloth distinct?—Entirely distinct.

1445. How long have you filled your present office?—Since December 1856.

1446. What was your duty previously?—I was senior clerk in the Adjutant-General's office of the Royal Engineers.

1447. Had you known anything of clothing before?—Merely by having the management of the correspondence, and occasionally seeing the clothing as it passed through head-quarters.

1448. You would not pretend to be a practical man?—No.

1449. Is your system the same as that conducted by Quartermaster Grant?—The system of receiving and inspecting is precisely the same as that of Quartermaster Grant; his system may be taken as the same as ours throughout.

1450. Where is your cloth inspected?—At Weedon: that is the only difficulty with which we have to contend; we have no voice in passing our own cloth; everything is delivered at Woolwich with the exception of the cloth.

1451. Have you any reason to be dissatisfied or the reverse with the inspection of your cloth at Weedon?—We thought they did not serve us very well, and we certainly got some not very good material. Latterly they have been improving, and we hope by degrees we shall get quite up to the mark.

1452. Of what kind of defects have you had reason to complain?—We have complained principally as to the quality of the cloth and the dye. Our complaints have latterly been attended to, perhaps not remedied

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Quartermaster
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Quartermaster
James Mutch.
6th Nov. 1858. 1453. Is there an inspection here before the cloth is made up?—There is an inspection of all materials with the exception of cloth.

1454. You are not allowed to object to the cloth?—No; we complain of it, but we are not allowed to do more than complain.

1455. Have you any observations to offer to the Commissioners as to the system which is now established for making up the clothing for the Engineers?—As regards ourselves, I think there is no question that the clothing is and must be better than under any system of contract. My principal object was to hand in a statement showing what has been the effect of the change upon the cost of the clothing of the Royal Engineers. This statement was intended for the blue book, but no detail was given further than the lump sum of saving. I wish to hand that in for the information of the Commissioners, and to explain with reference to one or two of the items of saving (*handing in the same*).

STATEMENT showing the comparative Cost of the several Articles of Clothing for the Royal Engineers under the late Contract System, with that now carried out at the Clothing Establishment, Woolwich, and the saving on each.

Description of Garment.		Cost under last Contract with Messrs. Stephens and Clark.	Cost as ascertained from actual Experience in making up at the Clothing Establishment.	Saving on each Garment.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Tunics	Staff Sergeants	8 15 0	4 6 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 8 13 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Sergeants -	4 2 6	2 8 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 13 11 $\frac{1}{4}$
	Musicians -	5 14 6	3 1 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 12 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Rank and File	1 11 6	0 17 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 13 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ *
Uniform Trousers	Staff Sergeants	1 14 0	1 1 2	0 12 10
	Sergeants -	0 19 0	0 15 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 3 3 $\frac{1}{4}$
	Musicians -	1 14 0	1 5 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 8 4 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Rank and File	0 13 8	0 10 8 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 2 11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Jackets	Sergeants -	1 5 9	0 19 11 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 5 9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Rank and File	0 13 3	0 12 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ †
Working Trousers	Sergeants -	0 13 10	0 12 2 $\frac{1}{4}$	0 1 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
	Rank and File	0 10 7	0 10 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	excess 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ †

* With the improved cloth for the common tunic now shown there will still be a saving of at least 11s. each.

† A much improved cloth.

N.B.—The total saving on a year's supply of clothing, after deducting establishment expenses, as shown in the Royal Artillery statement, is 3,731l. 14s. 1d.—(See Appendix No. 7 to 5th Report of Contracts' Committee, p. 130, Parliamentary Paper No. 398, 1858.)

The number of garments to be furnished annually may be taken as—

Tunics—Uniform	-	-	-	4,180
Trousers—Uniform	-	-	-	4,180
Working Jackets	-	-	-	4,168
Working Trousers	-	-	-	4,168

Total - - - 16,696

JAS. MUTCH, Quartermaster and Commissary, R.E.

1456. Was the late contract system similar to that which Quartermaster Grant has described?—It was the same as the artillery; both were under the same contractor; of course there were separate contracts.

1457. Were Stephens and Clark the contractors?—Yes.

1458. From what materials have you compiled this statement?—From taking the number of garments actually made up to a given date, and taking the contract price of the articles, and adding the amount of making.

1459. What is the number of Royal Engineers for whom you provide clothing?—I suppose it is 4,000, within thirty or forty; each man has two suits of uniform, a suit for working and a suit of regimentals, making about 8,000 suits of clothing to provide.

1460. Take the rank and file, under the contract system, for a private's tunic the cost was 1l. 11s. 6d.; you give the cost as 17s. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ d., showing a saving of 13s. 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.?—Yes. The number of garments from which this was computed was 615, and I have here a statement of the exact quantities of material used (*handing in a paper*).

1461. (*Mr. Turner*.) I suppose everything that was issued, down to the thread and the tailor's goose, is reckoned?—Everything is reckoned.

1462. Three shillings appears to be the price for making up a tunic by a military tailor; is that the price for which they work at piece-work?—Yes.

1463. And a civilian 4s. 9d.?—Yes.

1464. What do you put down for what is technically called plant, or cost of the establishment?—I put nothing to individual articles; that I can hardly apportion in any fair rate; it would be about 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. or 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. upon a jacket, and 3d. upon a pair of trousers.

1465. What do you charge for the rent of premises?—The rent of premises is included in the artillery statement.

1466. Do not you charge yourself with anything for rent?—Not for the rent of premises, but for the other expenses I do.

1467. (*Colonel French*.) Do you charge anything for gaslight and coals?—That item is also charged in the artillery estimate.

1468. (*Chairman*.) How did you ascertain your portion of the expenses?—I took it by common allegation to see if I could get near it, taking the whole amount of establishment expenses, which would be fairly chargeable upon that clothing, not already included in the artillery estimate.

1469. How much do you put down for the aggregate amount of the annual expenses of your establishment?—Our total expenses are 569l.; that includes the pay of myself, a staff sergeant, a sergeant as clerk and foreman of the store, and a sergeant as assistant master tailor, and two store men, adding to that a sum of 40l. for incidentals.

1470. How much have you charged yourself as interest upon capital expended in buildings and so forth?—I have charged nothing; that item is charged in the artillery estimate.

1471. (*Mr. Turner*.) Is not that charging the artillery with something that belongs to the Engineers?—Yes; but they have our saving to compensate for it, which would be far higher than our share of the expense.

1472. (*Chairman*.) In the aggregate saving shown by the statement with respect to the artillery is there included the saving in your department?—Yes; it is a section of the saving of the establishment; it is part of the saving of which Quartermaster Grant spoke.

1473. (*Colonel French*.) Do you enlist men that are tailors in the Royal Engineers?—Yes; we always have had tailors.

1474. Do you pay them the same wages as you do other men?—No; we pay them by the work which they perform, at a rate proportionately lower than that paid to civilians.

1475. Do not you pay them as soldiers?—We pay them at the same rate of regimental pay, 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per diem.

1476. Is that the same as the artillery?—The artillery have $\frac{3}{4}$ d. more, 16 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

1477. (*Chairman*.) Had you military tailors in the Engineers under what you call the old contract system?—We were obliged to have them. Our establishment was generally three per company when they left head-quarters; at head-quarters there was even more in proportion than that.

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1478. Have you an additional number of tailors in consequence of the change of system?—I do not think we have as many.

1479. Then there is no additional cost in that respect?—Not so far as regards military tailors; there is no expense of that kind so far as the clothing is concerned.

1480. Did the clothing under the old system come in a basted state?—Yes, for home stations.

1481. Would you not require as many stitchers under the old system?—We would require precisely the same amount for home stations. We now make the clothing both for home and abroad. Formerly the clothing at home was supplied basted, and that for abroad made up.

1482. How do you know that there was a contract with Stephens and Clark?—I am quite aware of it from the notification of the contract passing through my hands. There is no question that there was a contract.

1483. (*Mr. Turner.*) What was the date of the contract price?—Sometime in 1853.

1484. There might be a very considerable difference?—It ought to be borne in mind that the cloth would now be higher.

1485. Would it be higher at the present time?—Yes.

1486. (*Chairman.*) Do you happen to know what addition was made by Stephens and Clark when the pattern was altered?—It is the first time I ever heard it suggested that there was any addition. I was senior clerk in the office in 1853, when the contract was made, and if any such thing had taken place it must have come through my hands, and I must have re-collected it.

1487. Was not there an alteration in the pattern?—Yes; but as far as we know the pattern was altered long before the contract was entered into. The pattern was altered eight months before the contract was entered into. Whether the Board of Ordnance may have made the contract for coatees under a mistake, it never came to my cognizance.

1488. Was the alteration in the pattern only?—Yes.

1489. Was there any particular reason why under the new pattern the prices paid should be more than under the old pattern, supposing that the pattern was altered during the time the contract was running?—I think a tunic would require somewhat more cloth than a coatee, but it would be less in making.

1490. When was the pattern altered from a coatee to a tunic?—In 1853. The first year in which we had the clothing was in 1854; our contract was in 1853, and it was for three years from that time. I wish to produce two jackets, in order to account for the comparatively small amount of saving in them compared with the other items. The difference in the two jackets is very obvious; under the new system we make the improved jacket 10½d. cheaper than the old contract jackets were made for.

1491. What was the price of the old cloth?—I cannot say.

1492. (*To Mr. Dolan.*) What is the difference in value between the one cloth and the other?—One is scarlet and the other is red. I should think there would be 8d. a yard in the dye, and, speaking offhand, I should think there is a difference of 1s. or 1s. 3d. a yard altogether.

1493. (*Chairman to Quartermaster Mutch.*) Is this old jacket being issued?—I have about 80 still in hand. The greater part of the foreign stations will still be supplied with that pattern jacket for the next year.

1494. Who examines your accounts?—The Assistant Adjutant-General of the Royal Engineers.

1495. You have heard what was said about the cuttings by Quartermaster Grant; what becomes of yours?—They are put into a fund precisely in the same way.

1496. Do you keep a similar book?—Yes.

1497. Under the direction of Colonel Bingham?—No, under the direction of the Assistant Adjutant-General of the Royal Engineers, Colonel Stanton.

1498. What accounts have you to keep besides?—I keep the whole clothing accounts of the corps, my own expenditure, and all the expenditure of out stations as far as regards clothing.

1499. Do you keep an account of stores as well as cash?—Yes; I keep an account of the receipt of all materials until their ultimate disposal after being manufactured into garments.

1500. By whom are those accounts audited?—The contingent accounts are sent to the War Office quarterly, showing the amount of money passing through our hands. The account of issues of stores is forwarded to the War department annually.

1501. When did you send in this year's account?—Mine is not gone in yet. It is ready, and will be sent in the course of a few days.

1502. To what period is it made up?—To the 30th of September.

1503. Does your clothing year end on the 30th of September?—I am not exactly aware of that; my accounts are made up to that time.

1504. Is that the first account that you have prepared?—Yes.

1505. Have your accounts yet been balanced?—Our own accounts are balanced here; but the statement of stores is not sent in.

1506. Can you tell in a short time what amount of various stores and clothing you have?—I could in a very short time tell the quantity that I ought to have in store. It would be only by taking stock to know whether I have it in store. The books are kept so that they can be balanced any day by merely adding up the columns.

1507. That would still be on paper only?—Yes.

1508. Have you anything in your stores to show the amount of the various articles that you may have in stock? For example, boots?—Yes; we can tell the number of boots. We have boards over each of the sizes; it is marked in chalk, and altered as we get boots in or send them out.

1509. Are you storekeeper as well as commissary of clothing?—I am not designated by that title, but I am virtually storekeeper.

1510. Is there any storeholder connected with the Engineers as distinct from yourself?—No.

1511. You receive all that comes in, and you issue all that goes out?—Yes.

1512. What check is there upon you?—The only check would be when my books are made up I should be held accountable for anything that was deficient, if there was anything deficient.

1513. Supposing by any misfortune there were a deficiency, and when a "remain" was taken your stores did not tally with your accounts; should you be responsible?—Certainly.

1514. Is there any security taken from you?—No, none.

1515. The dependence is, in fact, upon your good faith and vigilance?—The amount of stores passing through my hands is hardly worth risking a commission for, even if I could do anything with them, which I cannot.

1516. Where do your boots come from?—Until the present year they were sent to Weedon. This year they are sent direct from the contractor.

1517. Where are they inspected?—Here.

1518. Is it a regimental inspection?—Yes.

1519. Have you ever rejected any?—Yes; we reject some mostly at every inspection.

1520. Who conducts that inspection?—We are principally assisted by the staff collar maker in the Royal Artillery, who does similar work for the Royal Artillery.

1521. Are those rejections always acquiesced in by the contractor?—Quite so. I have never had any

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rejection which has not been acquiesced in after having explained to the contractor what was the matter with the article. There has been no case in which Messrs. Parker and Co., of Higham Ferrers, have said that the system of inspection was not fair as regards boots.

1522. Who furnishes your kits?—I have nothing to do with kits; they are furnished at the head quarters of the corps at Chatham, under contract with the War Department, by Mr. Homan, a contractor, residing in Chatham.

Mr.
L. J. B. Dolan.

1527. (*Chairman.*) What statement do you wish to make with respect to the evidence that has been given by Quartermaster Grant?—I wish to explain the reason for the great difference which appears between the estimate which Quartermaster Grant represents to you as the actual cost of the artillery clothing, and the contract prices previously paid for that clothing. The contract for the clothing for the Royal Artillery was made just before or immediately after the war had commenced, when every body was very busily engaged, and all parties contracting got a very large price owing to the exigencies of the Government. In this way Stephens and Clark got very much larger prices than they ever did before, and subsequently owing to the alteration of the patterns, after the contract had been entered into, I fancy they had a further opportunity of getting increased payment, and therefore it appears to me that the question really is not what the cost of the artillery clothing is now compared with what it would be if paid for at the rate during the war, but for what the clothing of the artillery could now be obtained by contract. I am quite prepared to say, as regards the battalion clothing which I have looked into, the Government would find that they could get it by contract at least as low as Quartermaster Grant could make it. There is another reason. Messrs. Stephens and Clark did not get so large a profit, as would appear from Quartermaster Grant's statement, because in the first place the tunics supplied by them were cut with much larger sleeves and much larger skirts, and the standard of height was much larger than it is now. They have reduced the standard, and of course the coats take less cloth. The consequence is, that there is a considerable saving, of which Quartermaster Grant has the benefit in his estimate; in fact nearly every one of the prices with which Quartermaster Grant compares his estimate are prices arrived at by agreement with Messrs. Stephens and Clark after the contract had commenced. It appears to me that the only two articles in which a fair comparison can be instituted are the battalion trousers and the serge trousers, in which a comparatively small saving is shown, and that is in part accounted for by the fact that the sizes of the men are smaller than they used to be; at the same time Stephens and Clark's prices are very high, but I think if the War Department went to contract they would get the artillery clothing much lower now.

1528. You attribute the high price to a state of war?—Yes.

1529. What is there to hinder a recurrence of high prices from a war arising somewhat suddenly again?—I think it would always be found when the Government was in a difficulty they would have to pay more than at other times.

1530. By contract? If the Government had their own establishment, would anything be necessary beyond increasing the number of people employed, not paying higher prices for the things which they made?—There was no increase in the price of the clothing of the line during the war under the old system. The clothing supplied in 1854 was about the same price as the clothing supplied in 1853. If you take the case of the great coats supplied from the Government stores, the War Office was obliged to pay

1523. Where is the principal bulk of the Royal Engineers?—At Chatham.

1524. How many are there at Woolwich?—We have 130 or 140.

1525. Do recruits join here?—No; all recruits join at Chatham.

1526. How do you fit your men?—We find no difficulty in fitting them, by having a sufficient number of sizes in store at Chatham, so that some one garment will fit a recruit or nearly fit him.

MR. LAURENCE JOHN BAPTIST DOLAN further examined.

3s. 6d., which is a large price for making, in order to get them made, because they could not get them in sufficient numbers.

1531. To whom was that price paid?—To Messrs. Hebbert and Company, and other firms.

1532. Supposing the Government had an establishment such as they have here, why would there be any necessity for paying so much additional?—One reason would be that they would not have appliances sufficient to get the increased quantity suddenly required; in the second place they would not have enough stock, as actually happened. When the Crimean war began there were two systems in operation for clothing the army, one by the colonels, in which the clothiers kept stock, and the other, for the great coats, in which the Government kept stock. The Government kept stores of cloth for great coats, and issued contracts for making them up. The clothing supplied by the clothiers was supplied without any increase of price at all, but the great coats were supplied at a large increase, and the store of cloth which the Government had was wholly inadequate to meet the requirements of the war. In fact they were unable to supply the troops, owing to the want of a sufficient store.

1533. If the Government failed to supply great coats, because they had not a sufficient quantity in store, is not that a reason, if they are to adopt that system at all, why they should have a sufficient stock in hand?—Certainly; but there is immediately a great loss in keeping a store, owing to deterioration and other causes. After a time, if there is no great demand, the store is allowed to dwindle down, as in the case of the great coats, and when an emergency arises the store is not adequate to meet it, not having been kept up owing to its great expense.

1534. Do you keep large quantities of cloth in store to meet a sudden emergency?—We have quite sufficient for any requirement that can come upon us. I may mention that in December 1854 the whole of the militia was called out without any previous notice, and we had sufficient stock to meet the requirements for 35 regiments which applied to us.

1535. (*Mr. Turner.*) Why does not your stock depreciate as well as the Government stock?—We are continually using it. If there is any loss it falls upon us, and we are keenly alive to not incurring that loss.

1536. (*Chairman.*) Are you aware of any instance in which the Government stores have deteriorated from the mere fact of their being in store?—I am, myself, unable to say so off-hand; I think there have been large sales in olden times, when the great coat cloth was kept in store; I cannot speak positively from my own experience.

1537. Was not there a large stock of all sorts of stores left in consequence of the cessation of the Peninsular war, and will not it always be so?—Yes.

1538. Have you read Sir Alexander Tulloch's statement?—Yes.

1539. We should be glad to have your opinion upon what he says. You provide accoutrements, do not you?—Yes.

1540. Sir Alexander Tulloch says that, upon a sudden emergency in 1844, he was called upon to

report as to providing accoutrements for 14,000 pensioners, and that there were not 5,000 sets of accoutrements to be had in Great Britain, even including your house; what do you say to that?—I think it is a mistake altogether, and I will give my authority for that statement; Mr. Essex, a large maker of pouch leather in London, told me that there would be no difficulty in providing leather for 100,000 accoutrements in two months. There is very little making in accoutrements; the chief difficulty would be in getting the material, and of course if Mr. Essex is right in saying that the material for 100,000 could be provided in two months, a smaller quantity could be supplied in much less time.

1541. Does the pouch constitute the whole of the accoutrements of which Sir Alexander Tulloch was speaking?—He speaks of belts also.

1542. (*Colonel French.*) Did your house furnish any portion of the army in 1810?—Yes.

1543. Did you ever know the supply of clothing to fail at that time?—I never heard that it did.

1544. Are you aware that the army, the navy, the militia, and the volunteers at that time amounted to upwards of 800,000 men?—Yes.

1545. Do you know that the Portuguese and Spanish armies were furnished by our clothiers?—Our house made up the clothing for a large portion of them.

1546. Can you state whether the French army was supplied at all from any of the houses in London?—I remember hearing of one instance,—of course it is a matter of history to me—when Marshal Davoust went to Hamburgh, he threatened to hang all the magistrates if they did not furnish him with 50,000 great coats in six weeks; those great coats the magistrates got made up in London, and by that means saved their necks.

1547. Do you know that the Russian army were clothed in London?—I cannot answer that question.

1548. Have not our commercial and manufacturing powers very much increased since that time?—Yes.

1549. Were the army and navy in the Crimea more than a third of the number I have described, including the Portuguese and Spanish armies, which you say your house furnished?—No, certainly not.

1550. Therefore must not the failure in clothing the army in the Crimea have arisen from a want of the proper application of the manufacturing powers of the country?—The great time, as I am informed, when the want of clothing was experienced in the Crimea was in the months between September and Christmas 1854. Now the clothing of the regiments there was not due, according to the ordinary regulations, till the 31st of December. We were ordered to send half the clothing for each regiment on the 7th of November, and the other half on the 15th of November, and it was shipped on the days fixed by the authorities. Therefore I apprehend that no blame is to be attached to the parties supplying it; it was not known by anybody, till the beginning of October, that the army had gone to the Crimea, and within five weeks afterwards the clothing was shipped. We had no difficulty in meeting any demands we received during the war.

1551. (*Chairman.*) Have you any further observations to make upon Quartermaster Grant's statement?—The next question was with regard to the comparative cost of the old artillery cloth and the present. Quartermaster Grant estimates it at 2s. 6d. a yard difference. Now, the present price of the cloth, according to that statement, is 8s. 3d. a yard, and if 2s. 6d. represents the less value of the old cloth, of course, according to Quartermaster Grant's estimate, the price of the old cloth is reduced to 5s. 9d. Now 5s. 9d. was the price of the old regulation red, the same as we supplied to the army before the improved pattern was introduced. The old artillery cloth was of the quality of the guards' cloth, which was considered a very superior quality, and the price we used to pay for it was from 7s. 3d. to 7s. 6d., so that

there is not a difference of above 9d. a yard between the old and the new artillery cloth. There is another item which I think Quartermaster Grant has left out in his comparison, and that is, the cost of the packing and carriage of the cloth from Weedon to Woolwich. I do not see any memorandum of that, and of course that is an item that must be taken into account. Also the interest of stock which has to be kept in order to meet the requirements which were formerly met by Stephens and Clark the contractors.

1552. Why is interest to be charged, when, as it is said, the money is voted at the commencement of the year, and the War Department may draw their money at any period during that year from the Treasury?—As far as I understand, the War Department pay for the cloth before the money is actually voted by Parliament, I suppose out of other monies. I may be mistaken in what I say, but I believe that the money for the clothing taken into wear on the 1st of April is actually voted after the 1st of April, whereas the cloth from which it has been made has been furnished a year or nine months beforehand. I do not know how that is arranged. There is no doubt about the fact that they do not receive the money to pay for the clothing until after it has been supplied.

1553. How can you compare the interest upon Government money with the interest upon your money?—I apprehend if they do not get the money till after the 1st of April, they are at expense for interest, if they pay for the clothing before that date.

1554. (*Mr. Turner.*) There is another item you have omitted, which I think you might have put down, namely, risk by fire and sea. You insure your property, the Government do not; must not the risk therefore be an element of cost?—Of course. The great example of this new mode of clothing the army is the plan which has prevailed for so many years in the French army. The clothing there has always been made up at stationary depôts. I believe there is one depôt battalion and two marching battalions for each regiment, and the clothing is made up at the depôt. In time of peace it answered very well, but when the Crimean war took place, although the French only sent, I suppose, 100,000 men to the Crimea, and had four-fifths of their army still unengaged in the field, they were unable to carry out that plan, and they had to appoint a person in Paris to discharge the duty of a clothier. They gave the contract to Mr. Desautoy, who improvised a large establishment in Paris, where the whole clothing of the army serving in the Crimea was made. That seems to me a very strong proof that that system, however it may succeed in time of peace, will not do in time of war. Another argument against its employment in England is, that the French troops are raised by conscription, and of course there is a large proportion of tailors amongst them, whereas that is not the case in the English army. You cannot adopt the system like the one they are pursuing at Woolwich, to a great extent without carrying on that system of contracting which has been found so injurious at Weedon; you must have contracts for an immense variety of articles, and be dependent upon a great many contractors, and if there is a failure on the part of any of them, you may be put in a difficulty.

1555. (*Chairman.*) If a large store were kept?—Then you are immediately led into another series of expenses, which would be found very onerous. The system of clothing the cavalry was rather incorrectly explained; it used to be supplied by a clothier in material in time of peace, and the regiments made separate contracts for making it up. They generally employed tailors like Mr. Hamburger. He contracted to take the materials off their hands, and make them up into coats and overalls.

1556. How does that differ from what Quartermaster Taylor told us?—It is like employing a sub-clothier. Mr. Hamburger made up most of the cavalry clothing; he took all their materials and made them up himself, sending his own tailors down from London.

WOOLWICH.

Mr.
L. J. B. Dolan.
6th Nov. 1858.

WOOLWICH.

Mr.
L. J. B. Dolan.

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1557. How did they get their materials?—Under the old plan they used to get them from the colonels, under the new plan the materials came from Weedon under contract.

1558. (*To Quartermaster Grant.*) Do you wish to make any observation upon what Mr. Dolan has stated?—Mr. Dolan has made an error as to the period at which the price was fixed for the artillery clothing. The contract was taken by Stephens and Clark a considerable time before the war. That I am quite certain of, and, therefore, before any circumstances connected with the war could by possibility have influenced the markets or prices with regard to the price of cloth. If the regiment of artillery required cloth of the jacket pattern, Messrs. Stephens and Clark charged us 9s. 7d. a yard—the identical cloth which I have included in my statement, which is that which Mr. Dolan referred to as 8s. 3d., so that Messrs. Stephens and Clark charged us 1s. 4d. a yard more for that same description of cloth than it is obtained by the Government through contract. With reference to the kersey, Mr. Dolan supplies to a considerable extent the very cloth we are now using at 8s. 3d. a yard; that same cloth we had to buy of Messrs. Stephens and Clark at 9s. 2d., so that there is an excess in the price of Messrs. Stephens and Clark in that cloth of 11d. a yard. Mr. Dolan took the 2s. 6d. per yard, which I add for the jacket cloth, from the 8s. 3d., and brought it down to 5s. 9d. If he adds 1s. to that which Messrs. Stephens and Clark would have charged us, it would bring it up to

the respectable price of 6s. 9d., which I have no doubt is the real value of the article.

(*Mr. Dolan.*) What I said about the difference in value between the present and the old cloth had no reference whatever to Messrs. Stephens and Clark's prices; I merely expressed my own opinion as to their relative value. Messrs. Stephens and Clark's prices are high prices; for I have to supply that cloth at 8s. 3d. which they charge 9s. 2d. for. I only regret that I had not the order.

1559. (*Chairman.*) The question is, whether you would be prepared to furnish the articles for the same money which Quartermaster Grant says they have cost?—I would; it would pay me to do so, because I should have the profit arising from the manufacture of the cloth.

1560. (*Mr. Turner.*) Am I to understand that you are willing, supposing the Government are willing to give you the opportunity, to make 100 garments precisely similar to those which Quartermaster Grant is making, and at his price?—Certainly.

1561. Will you bind yourself not only to deliver these 100 suits, but also give the Government the option of ordering 10,000, or any number at the same price?—Decidedly. Quartermaster Grant draws 1s. for fitting the men, just the same as before. That is a distinct charge.

1562. Are you willing to abide by that calculation of Quartermaster Grant's, and supply the same goods at the same price to any extent that the Government may demand, and equal in quality?—Yes.

Adjourned to Monday next, at 12 o'clock.

WOOLWICH.

Monday, 8th November 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

THOMAS HOWELL, Esq., further examined.

WOOLWICH.

T. Howell, Esq.

8th Nov. 1858.

1563. (*Chairman.*) The Commissioners understand that you are desirous of making a statement with regard to some evidence which has been given as to timber offered by Messrs. Rolt to the War Department and declined?—Yes: on the 3rd of April last Messrs. Rolt and Company offered a parcel of fir timber, 150 loads, at 85s. per load. On the 6th of April that offer was referred to Colonel Tulloh for his opinion. On the 7th of April Colonel Tulloh said that he should require 100 loads by the middle of the month of May, and recommended that the quantity should be taken, if found according to specification and the usual conditions of the department. Upon the receipt of Colonel Tulloh's minute in the War Department, it was found that we had no special demand from him for that particular kind of timber. There is an objection on the part of the Under Secretary of State to accept voluntary offers that are made to the department when there is no special demand from the department that is to use the material, and those offers are generally declined. In the present instance the order given was that this timber should be declined, and wait till Colonel Tulloh sent forward his requisition, when it would be acted upon in the usual way. A letter was written to Colonel Tulloh on the 14th of April, informing him that it was not deemed expedient to accept the offer of Messrs. Rolt and Company for a supply of Dantzic fir. In reply to that, on the 16th of April, Colonel Tulloh sent up a minute expressing a desire that fir timber should be immediately bought in order that the works of the factory

should be proceeded with. Colonel Tulloh's letter was referred to the Director of Stores, who controls all those various demands, to know if any official demand had been received. The Director of Stores having no demand from Colonel Tulloh, wrote to him to send up the usual application for what he required. On the 20th Colonel Tulloh wrote to the Under Secretary of State, and requested that 100 loads of fir timber might be bought out of the 300 loads estimated for in his year's supply. This letter was received on the 22d of April. On the 24th of April it was submitted to the Under Secretary of State that this timber should be bought through the intervention of Messrs. Churchill and Sim, the brokers. This course was approved by the Under Secretary the same day; and on that day instructions were given to Messrs. Churchill and Sim to buy the 100 loads of fir timber required. They were referred to the offer that had been made by Messrs. Rolt, and the price at which Messrs. Rolt had offered the timber was communicated to them. I suggested to them in the following letter, dated the 24th of April 1858, that it might possibly be obtained upon more reasonable terms:—"Gentlemen, I am directed by Secretary Major-General Peel, to request that you will take immediate steps for procuring on commission for service of the Royal Carriage Department, 100 loads of yellow fir, Dantzic, Memel, or Riga, to be in accordance with the specification herein inclosed for your guidance, and to be delivered as soon as possible into the charge of the superintendent, from whom

"you will obtain any further information relative to the supply. I am to add that an offer has been received from Messrs. P. Rolt and Co., of about 150 loads of Dantzic fir of the Zabladouski stock at 4*l.* 5*s.* per load; the Secretary of State, however, considers that you will be able to obtain the supply required at more reasonable terms." On the 28th of April, a few days after, I heard that a cargo had arrived in a ship called the "Harriet," which contained a quantity of the kind of timber required. I communicated to Messrs. Churchill and Sim that they should look at that cargo, as well as others. On the 30th of April Messrs. Churchill and Sim wrote to me, reporting their proceedings, stating that on the previous day Mr. Jones, the timber master of the royal carriage department, had been with them to survey the following parcels, from which they thought the quantity required could be obtained. The cargo by the "Harriet" contained a large proportion of smaller dimensions than the service could receive. The importers offered to sell any floats selected by the officers at 80*s.* per load; but it was thought only 50 or 60 loads could be obtained of proper size. Memel crown timber of superior stock was surveyed, but pronounced too small for the required purposes, being from 12 to 13 inches square. The cargo of the "George Link" was surveyed; that portion of it offered at 85*s.* was found to be of the required dimensions, but only 18 pieces were pronounced by Mr. Jones to be of the required quality. The other portion of this cargo, viz., the crown timber (Zabladouski stock), was surveyed, and found to be of the required quality and dimensions. The importers offered this parcel at 92*s.* 6*d.* per load as lying in the docks; or 100 to 120 loads, to be selected in floats at 95*s.*; or they would sell 120 loads, to be marked by Mr. Jones, at 97*s.* 6*d.*, subject to the rejection of a quantity not exceeding 20 loads. On the 3rd of May Churchill and Sim's letter was referred to Colonel Tulloh for his recommendation as to the timber which was the best suited for the service. On the 5th of May Colonel Tulloh recommended that 120 loads at 97*s.* 6*d.* should be bought, subject to the rejection of not more than 20 loads

upon its arrival in the Royal Arsenal, which he considered a safe arrangement. On the 7th of May, I telegraphed to Colonel Tulloh to know if the 50 or 60 loads of best timber offered at 80*s.* were suitable for the department. He replied that it was not so suitable for the service as that recommended in his minute of the 5th of May. On the same day I directed Churchill and Sim to be written to to make the purchase as recommended by Colonel Tulloh, but that they should endeavour to arrange for the supply at or under 95*s.* per load, as I understood there was a cargo expected shortly which could be bought at 95*s.* On the 10th of May Churchill and Sim reported that they had bought the timber at 95*s.* That timber which was ultimately bought at 95*s.*, was bought in consequence of the express recommendation of Colonel Tulloh, who advised that it should be taken at a higher price than was ultimately paid for it.

1564. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was Messrs. Rolt's offer at 85*s.* per load for timber actually accessible?—Messrs. Rolt's letter is dated "4, Clements Lane, London, 3rd April 1858. We respectfully beg to say that we have a parcel of superior quality, Dantzic fir timber, Zabladouski stock, consisting of about 150 loads, which we can offer a bargain, namely 4*l.* 5*s.* per load. We venture to think it may be well worth your attention, and if you will allow it to be inspected, we shall feel much obliged."

1565. That implies that the timber was in port at that time ready for inspection, was that the fact?—I certainly thought so.

1566. Can any one throw any light upon that matter?—Mr. Sim is the proper person to answer that question; I desired him to look at Messrs. Rolt's timber, and to take it into consideration, in common with such other timber as was in stock in the docks.

Mr. Sim was examined, and stated that the timber offered by Messrs. Rolt on the 3rd of April was not in this country at the time, and did not arrive until the 17th of May; but it subsequently appeared that Mr. Sim was mistaken. See *post*, Mr. Rolt's evidence, Wednesday, Nov. 10th, question 1972.

Captain HENRY CLERK further examined.

Capt. H. Clerk.

1567. (*Chairman.*) Do you wish to make any statement on what has been said by Mr. Howell and Mr. Sim?—The case is materially altered by Mr. Sim's statement that Messrs. Rolt had not the fir in question in the market, but probably the Commissioners would like to hear Messrs. Rolt's explanation upon the subject. Their letter can convey but one opinion, that the timber was in the market. We could never suppose that we were to send our timber master over to Zabladouski to inspect timber. When Messrs. Rolt said it was in stock we supposed it was, and we recommended the War Department that we should inspect it and take such as we found fit. It was stated by Mr. Sim just now that Messrs. Rolt said in a later communication that if we examined the timber all round they would raise the price. Now I beg to remark that Messrs. Rolt have been contractors with us to my knowledge since 1850, and never in one instance have we taken timber from them in any other way than by turning every log over and over; Messrs. Rolt are perfectly aware of the system of contract and inspection. There has been no alteration made in the system of receiving timber from contractors since 1850.

1568. (*Mr. Turner.*) Your belief was that the timber was there to be inspected?—In London in the docks. It appears to be the impression of the Commissioners that Colonel Tulloh in his letter, and I in my evidence stated that they were the same identical logs. A question was put to me directly by the Chairman whether it was the same timber; I said, "I cannot say that; it was the same description of timber." The same timber does not mean the same logs. Timber is

like iron or anything else, it means a whole class of articles. If the timber was sufficiently good for our purposes, we did not want to pay a higher price for our timber. We want timber equal to our purposes, and to pay the lowest price for it.

1569. (*Chairman.*) Was the letter of Churchill and Sim, mentioning the 4*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, referred to the department?—Yes.

1570. I think Mr. Howell has stated that upon that letter Colonel Tulloh recommended the purchase, subject to the inspection of the timber master?—The timber master went round the docks with Mr. Sim to find out the best timber they could. Mr. Sim has stated that he reported certain bargains, and Colonel Tulloh recommended that which, in his opinion, was the best bargain.

1571. And that was acted upon?—No. I think Mr. Howell improved upon it, and got it still cheaper.

1572. He got at 95*s.* the same timber that Colonel Tulloh recommended should be bought at a higher price?—Colonel Tulloh recommended the most favourable offer of the brokers. The point in my evidence is that we had a still more favourable offer from Messrs. Rolt. From Messrs. Rolt's letter we were under the impression that a more favourable offer had been made to the Government, and that they had not taken advantage of it. The Secretary of State had quite thrown aside Messrs. Rolt's timber; we were in the hands of the brokers, and we took the best we could get from the brokers. If they had told Colonel Tulloh that Messrs. Rolt's timber was not in the market, this point would never have been mentioned.

WOOLWICH. 1573. (*Colonel French.*) Colonel Tulloh did not suppose that timber that had been offered at 85s. was the same that was bought at 95s.?—The same description, Zabladouski fir.

Capt. H. Clerk.

8th Nov. 1858.

1574. Did Colonel Tulloh suppose that was Messrs. Rolt's timber?—No, not at all. He was merely contrasting the system of buying timber through brokers or by contract. We stated that we had an offer from a contractor more advantageous than the price actually paid by the broker. We can only go by the offers of contractors.

1575. When did you require that timber for use?—We should want it in the course of the month of May.

1576. When did you get it?—The delivery took place early in June.

1577. Was it delivered in sufficient time for your purpose?—Yes, we wanted it to be in a few weeks to dry. We required it early in May, because we should want it in the course of the month of June; it was in sufficient time.

1578. According to the system that existed previously, would the same delay have occurred?—If Messrs. Rolt's tender had been accepted, they would have been bound to supply that timber, or failing in their contract, the Government would have been in a position to go into the market and buy that description of timber at any market price; and Messrs. Rolt would have paid the difference, or have been subject to pains and penalties; that is one advantage that we lose by buying through brokers.

1579. It appears that there was some delay occasioned by Colonel Tulloh not having applied in the usual mode?—This was in the month of April, but our demand for 300 loads of fir timber was sent to the War Department in the month of December previous, and had been included in the annual estimates, approved by the Secretary of State, and passed the House of Commons; we had not sent up any further requisition for it.

1580. Then the delay and correspondence that took place must have been in consequence of Colonel Tulloh not having gone through the necessary forms?—We were obliged to wait till the vote had been sanctioned by the House of Commons before we could demand timber on that vote.

1581. (*Chairman to Mr. Sim.*) How do you account for your getting the timber half-a-crown cheaper?—We negotiated and got it for the best price we could; that will arise in the common course of negotiation. I was merely the buying broker in the business; I had no interest in the selling.

1582. Mr. Sands says that you being his broker and being also the Government broker, and having a commission from the Government to purchase teak, did not give him an opportunity of selling upon the terms they paid, and that you afterwards purchased that very timber which he had sold all round, for the Government?—Mr. Sands had a single cargo of Indian teak, for which we were his brokers; it was the only occasion on which we had been his brokers; a requisition for teak was out, and we bought the teak, I think in that case, of Messrs. Cheswright, Sheffield and Co. A large quantity was wanted of the particular selection that the department generally takes. Messrs. Cheswright and

Sheffield had taken this contract through my intervention to deliver to the Government at a lower price than anybody else. I was disposed to deliver their timber at that time subject to selection. When Messrs. Cheswright and Sheffield looked at the stock that they had in the docks (I had no concern in it, I was merely the buying broker), they found that the cargoes they had remaining would not yield sufficient to permit the Government to pick what was required out of them; they therefore commissioned me to buy, to add to their stock, this cargo of Messrs. Frith, Sands, and Co. ex "Cotfield," which after a long negotiation I did buy for them. When the time for the delivery to the Government came, the officers had an opportunity of selecting from Messrs. Cheswright and Sheffield's stock, and they took, according to the selection they are accustomed to make, at a profitable price to Messrs. Cheswright and Sheffield, a certain selection; but I am sorry to say it was too small an advance on the price Messrs. Frith, Sands, and Co. received for it.

1583. You were brokers for Frith, Sands, and Co.; brokers for the Government; and also, as I understand, brokers for the intermediate men, Messrs. Cheswright?—Granted, in that case.

1584. Before Messrs. Cheswright bought the goods you had a commission from the Government to buy the timber; which Messrs. Sands held, at a certain price; why should you not have negotiated directly, on behalf of the Government, with Messrs. Sands for a portion of their cargo?—Because I scarcely know a case where an importing merchant, as Mr. Sands was in that case, would permit, or would be so egregiously foolish as to permit a cargo of his to be selected, without the broker being able to tell him what means he had of selling the objectionable part. I found an almost insurmountable objection, on Mr. Sands' part, to anything but the sale of the entire cargo.

1585. Did you ever try him?—I cannot tax my memory as to all that passes between a broker and his principal when he is buying and selling. I have very little doubt that I did point out to Mr. Sands that the Government were buying subject to selection, or by a mode that is scarcely ever acceptable to an importer, because the broker cannot tell him what is to be done with the balance.

1586. Mr. Sands has stated that he never heard of the Government order from you?—Mr. Sands was poisoned upon the subject by some good-natured friend, who represented, as in the case of the African oak belonging to Captain Hilbery, that if we had not been brokers in the transaction, his cargo would have gone to the Government at a superior price. Mr. Sands asked me if such was the case. I showed him what the Government had bought at the period and what he had sold at, and I think he left me perfectly satisfied.

1587. When was that?—Shortly after the transaction. Somebody had sown in his mind dissatisfaction with that sale. He saw our books, and what the transaction clearly was; and further than that, the buyer of his cargo told him that he should have the benefit of the Government sale if he would do him the favour to take the cargo back again, considering that Mr. Sands had made a better sale than he had made a purchase.

T. Howell, Esq.

THOMAS HOWELL, Esq., further examined.

1588. (*Chairman.*) I believe you wish to make some statement as to the sale of some sabicu?—It was stated by Mr. Roberts that Mr. Hoar had made an offer of sabicu to the department, which was afterwards bought of Messrs. Rolt and Co., by Messrs. Leary and Co. You desired me to ascertain whether such an offer was received, therefore I have prepared a memorandum relating to the offer of sabicu, alleged by Mr. Roberts to have been made by Mr. Hoar. No offer appears to have been

made to the War Department of sabicu by Mr. Hoar, but on the 14th of January 1858, Messrs. Skeen and Freeman submitted an offer of 52 logs of sabicu, ex "Martha," at 14l. per load, to be delivered at Woolwich, subject to inspection in the docks. The officers of the royal carriage department reported that no wood of this description was then required, and Messrs. Skeen and Freeman were so informed. A requisition for the purchase of sabicu was received at the end of May; on the 8th of June an order

was given to Messrs Leary and Co. to procure a quantity of timber. On the 16th of July that firm notified the purchase from Messrs. Rolt and Co. of this same parcel of *sabicu*, ex "*Martha*," at 14*l.* per load, less 2½ per cent. discount, subject to inspection and delivery in the docks. The result shows that this timber was obtained at 13*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*, including all expenses, when it was wanted, instead of at 14*l.* per load when it was not wanted. In Colonel Tulloh's letter there was a second case alluded to, and I believe that second case was alluded to by Captain Clerk, with reference to the rejection of 90 loads of timber. The facts of that case are these:—On the 2nd of May 1857, a requisition was received for 200 loads of *Memel* timber. Prices were asked of Messrs. Churchill and Sim, and we also made inquiry through other brokers as to the terms upon which that timber could be delivered. 4*l.* 19*s.* was the price that we had previously paid for the same kind of timber. Messrs. Churchill and Sim offered to deliver it at from 90*s.* to 87*s.* 6*d.*; Mr. Henry Freeman at 95*s.*; Messrs. Simpson and Mason at 95*s.*; and Messrs. Rolt and Co., as a matter of special favour, said they would supply it at 90*s.* These offers were referred to Colonel Tulloh, and he recommended a public advertisement for the purchase of this timber without the intervention of any broker. The Secretary of State determined that the order should be placed in the hands of Messrs. Churchill and Sim, they having offered to undertake it at lower rates than either of the other brokers. A contract was made for 200 loads at 85*s.* to be selected from the cargo of the "*India*," approved as it lay in the docks by the officers of the Royal Carriage Department. Colonel Tulloh objected to the receipt of this timber, taken upon such inspection from the docks. It was a matter that went before the highest authority, and Lord Panmure determined that he would take the opportunity of testing the purchase of timber as it was lying in the docks in floats, selecting those floats which appeared to be of the first quality, delivering it to the department, and seeing then how much of it was applicable for the purposes of the Royal Carriage department, and what it was necessary to do with any quantity that might remain. Upon the receipt of the timber at Woolwich 90 loads 33 feet were reported to be unsuitable, and Colonel Tulloh, in a letter that he wrote to the Secretary of State, said that he considered the value of the timber thus set aside, was 50*s.* per load. I called upon Messrs. Churchill and Sim to examine the rejections, and they reported that the timber was of that character which any large buyer, such as Messrs. Cubitt and Co. or great railway companies, would have accepted as the best timber of the kind, and they suggested that an endeavour should be made to see whether it was available for the purposes of the laboratory. Lord Panmure would not have the timber so appropriated, but decided to test the value of what had been set aside by the operation of a public sale; and with a view, to a certain extent, of ascertaining the real character of the purchases made upon the arrangement stated. Messrs. Churchill and Sim were ordered to sell this timber, and the timber which the officers of the Royal Carriage department had valued at 50*s.* sold for 75*s.* Thus, upon 90 loads of timber, there was a loss of 45*l.*; and if that sum be spread over the 110 loads which were found suitable, it will raise the price to 93*s.* 3*d.*, and of course the supply received was of the best possible picked quality.

Mr. JOHN SIM further examined.

1599. (*Mr. Turner.*) In transacting business in the London market, is it customary to employ two brokers?—There are no buying brokers regularly confined to that business in timber; it is not extensive enough to require a special class for the purpose. In respect to these Government transactions, I think, by the list of sellers, it will be found that the brokers are

We paid 4*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.* for the best fir in August, 1857, and in this year Colonel Tulloh recommended the purchase of fir at 97*s.* 6*d.*, which was made at 95*s.* Therefore, with the loss upon the rejections, the price of the quantity of timber that was received was actually below what we had been in the habit of paying before, below two of the offers from other brokers, and slightly in advance of the offer of Messrs. Rolt and Co.

1589. Colonel Tulloh speaks of 363 loads, not of 200?—When the 90 loads were rejected we rebought an additional quantity to make up, for which I think we gave 98*s.* Therefore, in this particular operation, although a certain quantity of timber thus bought was reported by the Royal Carriage department as unsuitable for their purposes, the loss upon the sale of that portion, added to the cost of the remainder, did not bring the price up to that usually given.

1590. There was only a deterioration of 10*s.* a load upon the 90 loads?—Yes; that would make an addition of 8*s.* 2¼*d.* to 85*s.*, which would bring it to 93*s.* 3*d.* in round numbers, which was a low price for timber of the best quality.

1591. That was under special instructions?—Yes; it was a matter of experiment in fact, to see whether if we took the floats as they were selected in the docks, and received the timber here out of those floats, we should not find a very large portion of the very best quality, and whether the remainder might not be made available for some secondary purposes.

1592. I understood you to state that you gave a preference to Mr. Leary's system over Messrs. Churchill and Sim's with respect to acting as brokers for the sellers as well as for the Government?—I think it is always more satisfactory that the broker should have no interest whatever beyond that which he has in the orders that you give him.

1593. Do you think one man can properly discharge the double duty?—The practice exists, as Mr. Sands stated, in London, to a very large extent. Mr. Sim would answer those questions better than I can, inasmuch as it is a duty which he is called upon to perform every day. Other brokers are doing business in the same manner. In a very large number of cases in which Mr. Sim has been engaged for us, I believe he has not been employed by the seller of the goods.

1594. (*Colonel French.*) Is not the brokers' commission an item that the seller would charge in his price?—The owner of the timber, whenever he sells, will have to pay a commission for the sale.

1595. Would not he charge for his timber accordingly?—In the whole of the timber trade the custom is to sell, subject to a charge of 1 per cent., therefore it becomes an item of calculation.

1596. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is there any objection on the part of brokers in the City of London to buy of other brokers?—No; it is done to a very large extent.

1597. One man being in the interest of the seller and the other man in the interest of the buyer?—Yes. Although that is taking place in Mincing Lane every hour in the day, other transactions take place in which one man gives the order to sell, and the transfer is arranged upon the current market price of the day.

1598. The transfer of the property from the seller to the buyer, both employing one broker?—Yes, I think that is constantly occurring.

almost invariably buying brokers, simply in the interest of the Government, because their purchases are made from mercantile houses, who certainly let them sell the goods for that particular purpose, but not merchants who have trusted the whole of their business to the brokers for the purpose; they are simply buyers for the occasion. I may extend the observa-

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tion to this effect, it is only when the Government and other branches of business like the Government purchases, that the buying brokerage is incurred at all. Buying brokerage is paid by the Government, owing to the peculiar nature of the transaction, for the labour that is thrown upon the broker in the preliminaries, and arranging the whole business with the department.

1600. Supposing I am a buyer of 500 loads of any particular kind of timber, and I am recommended to apply to Messrs. Churchill and Sim to act for me in the purchase of those 500 loads, and supposing Messrs. Churchill and Sim, instead of going through the market and buying that parcel of timber which is to be got on the best terms for me, hand over to me 500 loads of timber in their own possession or under their own control?—The broker does not take possession of a merchant's stock in that respect.

1601. Is it not consigned to him?—No; the brokers in the wood trade deal for the principal merchants importing wood in the City of London. Brokers are not the consignees of foreign shippers, and they are not in the light of principals. They are simply brokers, selling when they have an opportunity, for merchants who hold a particular stock which a buyer requires. In the case you have stated, the broker must take the article that suits you best, or you would not employ him twice, from whatever importing merchant happens to have it.

1602. Would not the broker prefer arranging the matter himself to going to another broker?—The brokers can have no hesitation in dealing with each other. A broker does not hold an importer's stock, so as to say, "This is mine, and you must buy of me." A large portion of the trade in London wood is carried on by merchants, who deal with the first broker who makes them an acceptable offer. Under those circumstances the buying broker is paid by the Government who require the faithful attention of the brokers to buy the goods wherever they can be got, whether from a merchant, an importer or dealer, according to the requirements of the service.

1603. Reverting to my supposed case of being the purchaser of 500 loads of timber, you arrange the transaction by going to the importer or merchant for me;—in that case you would get a commission from me, and you would also get a commission from the merchant with whom you have arranged the transaction?—By the custom of the trade I should not get any brokerage from you.

1604. If I paid a commission I should think I was entitled to the best services of the broker I employed. If I paid you nothing, and somebody else paid you something, I should think your favour and affection would be for the person who paid you, and not for me?—I think the established character of brokers in the city of London can only be maintained by the perfect equity of the contract. Every commercial contract is based upon the policy of the seller to sell and the buyer to buy, and the broker must act without favouring or deceiving either in respect to the operation.

1605. Taking for an illustration the case of Messrs. Frith, Sands, and Co., whose cargo you sold to Messrs. Cheswright and Co., did you in that case get a commission from the buyer?—Not from the buyer; it is not the custom of the trade in any case.

1606. You got commission from Messrs. Frith, Sands, and Co.?—Yes.

1607. (*Chairman.*) Did you not get a commission from Messrs. Cheswright when they sold?—The selling brokerage is always paid. I got one per cent. from Messrs. Cheswright, having been the intermediate buyers; that is invariably paid by the seller. The buyers and dealers in the trade do not pay buying brokerage.

1608. I understood Mr. Leary to state that when he found himself about to purchase a cargo for the Government, the owner of which was also his principal, he explained to that principal, "Now, you are the seller; I am your broker; but I am also broker for the purchaser?"—I think that would be the proper course to take.

1609. The seller for A and the purchaser for B tells A that he is purchasing that cargo for B; that he is broker for both parties. Do you do so?—Certainly; I am bound to state who my buyer is.

1610. When you are concerned for both parties, do you let both parties know that you are concerned for both?—Clearly it must be so. When I am negotiating for a particular buyer, that buyer knows that I am negotiating for a particular seller, and they agree upon the terms mutually through the intervention of the broker. The broker has to sell for the best account he can make for his principal; the market is not in that position that the broker can influence the seller, and the buyer is too sagacious, he judges for himself.

1611. If the buyer is so sagacious as to be able to judge for himself, how does the necessity for a buyer's broker arise?—The whole of the business of London is done through brokers.

(*Mr. Howell.*) The trade go into the Commercial Docks and examine the cargoes and see what will suit them, and then they go to the selling broker and fix the price at once, in that case they do not employ a broker. The merchant who has the cargo to sell would necessarily employ a broker to effect the sale. If the Secretary of State were to order the timber master of the Carriage department of Woolwich Arsenal to go into the docks and select the best A pile of teak, if we were prepared to take it all through, we might ascertain to whom it belonged, communicate with that party, and ascertain the price at which he would sell it, without the intervention of a broker, but a broker places this knowledge before the Department. Besides this particular cargo there may be other cargoes available, and he ascertains which of the cargoes in the docks would be sold upon the most advantageous terms to meet the wants of the Government. It is upon that view the Government employ a broker, in the same way that a merchant would employ him.

1612. (*Chairman to Mr. J. Sim.*) At the time you are employed by a man to sell a cargo for him, he looks upon you as his servant for that purpose; you may be also employed to buy a cargo for another man; are not the motives which operate upon you contradictory in that case?—I think not at all.

1613. Is not your object for the one to get a high price, and for the other to give a low price?—It must be clearly stated to every seller of goods the object for which you are buying those goods. I cannot negotiate stealthily in the docks, but I must go to the seller, and negotiate the purchase of him. I cannot take any advantage of him for the buyer, because I state clearly, that I have a buyer for a certain article at a certain price, "Does it suit your interest to take it?"

(*Mr. Howell.*) If the goods were sold at a higher price than they ought to be sold at, the buyer would cease to employ that broker, and if they were sold at a lower price than they ought to be sold at, the seller would cease to employ that broker. The duty of the broker is to ascertain what the current market rate is.

(*Mr. J. Sim.*) In the case of Government purchases, the nature of the broker's commission obliges him to state to the seller, "Will you sell this for Government uses?" which is clearly telling him, "I have a commission from Government to buy."

Captain HENRY CLERK further examined.

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Capt. H. Clerk.

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1614. (*Chairman.*) Do you wish to make any further statement to the Commissioners?—With regard to the 200 loads of fir brought by Churchill and Sim, there were first of all 90 loads rejected, afterwards 23 loads additional; the total amount of rejections thus amounted to 112 loads; those 112 loads were sold at 75s., and were replaced at 98s. 6d. a load, which brought up the price of the 200 loads to 5*l.* per load, including brokerage and lighterage.

1615. Are not you leaving out one element in this transaction that the whole cargo was taken with the understanding that those that were not equal to the service should be rejected, with a view of testing the purchase? You are not to assume that you could have taken the 200 loads finally supplied at 85s.?—If it had been a contract, the contractor would have been bound by that contract.

1616. Could you be sure that the contractor would have supplied it at 85s.?—No; but it is about the price we generally paid; we seldom paid more than 4*l.* 8s. to 4*l.* 15s., unless during the war. It was an experiment, and we wished to show that the experiment did not succeed.

1617. Was not it an experiment with the prospect of having to reject some?—We are comparing it with the contract system; we get timber from contractors with the privilege of cutting for abatements; we have paid higher, and we have paid lower. It has been suggested that we should buy timber all round. I have taken the instance that was brought before you on Friday last, of cedar from the "Fleetwood," which would show that our system of making a selection is more advantageous than buying the whole cargo; 287 loads were offered to us at 9*l.* 15s., taking all round; supposing we had taken the offer, the cost would have been 2,798*l.*, with the addition of 36*l.* for lighterage, and 28*l.* for brokerage, making 2,862*l.*; we should then have found that only 64 loads were applicable to our service, and the remaining 223 loads would have been sold, as Mr. Leary told us on Friday, at 9*l.*, which he considered the value. I think he told me to day that 8*l.* 10s. would have been nearer the mark, of what we should have got. Taking 9*l.*, we should have sold it at 2,007*l.*, deducted from which there would have been 20*l.* for commission, therefore we should have received 1,987*l.*, and that deducted from what we had paid for the timber, namely, 2,862*l.*, would leave 875*l.*, the cost of the 64 loads. The actual cost by our buying 64 loads, selected at 12*l.* 5s. a load, was 784*l.*, 8*l.* for lighterage, and 8*l.* for brokerage, being a total of 800*l.*; consequently, in this instance, our system of selection was 75*l.* cheaper than if we had bought the whole cargo, and turned out what we could not use. This is an instance in which there was very little in the cargo fit for the service. If the proportions had been reversed, and we could have taken 223 loads, and only have rejected 64 loads, I do not suppose the price would have been 9*l.* 15s. all round. Although we objected to take that cargo, there may be instances where a cargo may be so good that we could take it. It has been stated that by buying through brokers we get the fullest information; we prefer public advertisement, and we think we should get all the information then, because we should get the actual state of the market.

1618. (*Mr. Turner.*) I think you have four departments at Woolwich, the Laboratory, the Royal Carriage department, the Gun factory, and the Storekeeper's department?—Yes.

1619. There is an impression abroad that you may have a stock in hand of iron, wood, or other raw materials in one department, which are required in another department, and that other department does not apply to you for any supplies, but sends in a requisition to the Government for their separate supply; is that the case?—Latterly it has been referred to this department to know whether we could not supply the requirements of other departments. An instance

occurred to-day: some timber, I think, was demanded by another department, and it was referred to the Carriage department to know whether we could not supply that timber.

1620. In default of having a supply, would you occasionally apply to another department, and not make a requisition?—As a general rule, reference would be made from one department to another.

1621. I presume the storekeeper only takes account of finished articles?—As soon as they are manufactured they are taken on charge by him.

1622. Is there any store kept at this establishment of the different stocks of raw materials in the hands of each department as well as the storekeeper's?—Each department keeps its own store of raw materials.

1623. And accounts for their consumption?—Yes, the receipt and issue. We send our "remains" every year up to the War department.

1624. Then there is an independent check in the three manufacturing departments, as well as in the storekeeper's department?—Yes.

1625. When was stock last taken in your department?—The 31st of March last, for the year 1857-8. Nobody comes down from the War department to take stock, but our ledger is made up to the end of the financial year.

1626. Is that merely a book balance, or do you ascertain the actual existence of each article appearing upon the ledger?—It is by the book.

1627. You do not check it with the actual existence of the articles?—In every store we have tally boards, and they can be balanced at any time, so as to see the state of any article in store.

1628. At some period you have an actual stock-taking?—Yes; the War department sends down to do it.

1629. Each head of a department, I understand, holds office nominally for only five years?—The rule is so, but they can be re-appointed.

1630. Supposing there to be a transfer of stock from one officer to another, does that officer appointed in place of another accurately take stock, and see that the quantity of each article exists which is stated in the ledger?—There has been no instance. We have not existed five years yet.

1631. Have you a storekeeper in your department? The head of the department is now his own storekeeper. Formerly the deputy storekeeper of the department (after 1849 they were called clerks-in-charge) had the custody of all stores, and they were under security.

1632. Do you manufacture all your gun carriages?—All gun carriages. This present year there is a sort of experiment. The War department ordered gun carriages to be procured by contract, but none of them have come in yet.

1633. (*Colonel French.*) Are gun carriages found by this arsenal for the navy?—Every war material is supplied to the navy from this arsenal.

1634. What is the process of applying for war material for the navy?—The Admiralty would send a requisition to the War department, and that requisition would be sent down here to whichever department was concerned in it.

1635. How is the artillery supplied?—We can make by our machinery for any ship the number of gun carriages she requires while she is fitting out; therefore, we do not require any very large stock. Guns are generally in store in the arsenal.

1636. (*Chairman.*) Have you a summary of the accounts kept in your department?—It will be furnished.

1637. Will those accounts shew the amount of material that comes into your department?—Yes.

1638. And the amount that is used?—Yes; the expenditure and the balance in hand.

1639. For instance, you have to make a certain number of carriages: you shew a certain lot of timber received; do you shew how that timber has been

WGOLWICH. expended?—Not the identical logs; we shew how many cubic feet there are in a gun carriage.

Capt. H. Clerk.

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1640. When 1,000 yards of cloth are issued to a tailor, the number of coats he is to make is prescribed: an account is kept of the material, and the produce of the material. Is there anything corresponding with that in your department?—When a tree is cut up, it makes a gun carriage, a little rammer head, and a number of various other articles.

1641. Are other things besides timber delivered to your department?—Yes; the whole of those accounts are shewn in our ledger.

1642. Do you retain in your custody any stores that are manufactured?—No; when manufactured they are handed over to the storekeeper.

1643. Then yours is simply a workshop, and not a store?—Yes; our store merely consists of the raw materials that are manufactured into the particular articles.

1644. What number of men have you in your department?—There are 2,200 at present in the Carriage department.

1645. About what amount of wages is paid to them?—The wages amount to 1*l.* a man per week in round numbers. 2,250*l.*, I think, is our weekly pay.

1646. Is any work done in your department by the piece?—No, none. It is all day work; we could not apply piece work to it; but we get the advantage of piece work to a certain extent, because every article is timed, and a man is allowed so many hours to make a particular article. If he takes longer than that time, he is checked in his pay.

1647. Has Colonel Tulloh the power of dismissing the workmen?—He can dismiss any man for loss of time or misconduct.

1648. Or for laziness?—For anything.

1649. Have you to exercise that power frequently?—No; we send men away for losing time; if they do not keep their time we get rid of them.

1650. Who is the paymaster of your department?—Colonel Tulloh is the paymaster; he is responsible for the money, which is drawn every week from the storekeeper.

1651. Has Colonel Tulloh any other payments to make besides the wages?—No; the other payments are by bills, and they are paid at the War department; we send the certificates.

1652. Then you do not require any money in hand?—There is a small balance kept for postage and such things, and for broken money, to have it in shillings, fourpenny, and threepenny bits.

1653. Are there any articles in your department which you now contract for? The timber we hear is principally bought by brokers?—The raw materials we are supplied with through brokers are coals, iron, and copper.

1654. Do not those constitute an important portion of your raw material?—Copper comes to a good deal of money, but we do not get much iron, as we make a great quantity ourselves.

1655. If you want machinery, how do you obtain it?—When we want machinery we draw up a specification of the machine that is required, and the head of the department forwards it, with the opinion of the inspector of the machinery to the War Department, with a recommendation, giving the names of such firms as should be called upon to compete for it. Tenders are called for, and the most eligible tender is accepted; that is a case of competition only among certain firms.

1656. Is the harness in your department?—We are responsible for it; we receive it and repair it. As soon as it is passed into service it is in the charge of the storekeeper.

1657. That would be a branch of the Carriage department?—Yes, since 1855.

1658. Do you know whether harness is procured

by open tender?—I believe a certain number of names are kept.

1659. Do you make pack-saddles?—Yes.

1660. When they are made, do they at once go into store?—Yes; anything completed goes into store.

1661. How many pack-saddles could you turn out if necessary?—We do not make very many; we make 10 or 12 a week. As I stated, in the War time we received 11,000 in six weeks, and issued them. We had to examine them and paint them; but those were supplied by different contractors.

1662. Have you any power of manufacturing them?—We can manufacture a small order now. In the War time we were taken up in doing other things; it was a thing contractors could supply, and requiring them in large numbers we went to contract.

1663. Do you conceive that your manufacturing branch is sufficient to provide for the wants of the service without resorting to contract for the made up article?—Yes; with the exception of any large orders; for instance, light waggons, which do not necessarily require military knowledge in their construction. In any other article we are up to any emergency, and should be so in case of a war.

1664. Is the issue of such articles as your department manufactures as great as it was during the war?—At present we are almost as hard at work, not quite. We are not working so much extra time as we did during the war time. India gives us immense employment at present.

1665. What becomes of the refuse wood?—The piles of refuse wood, outside slabs, are sold by auction—all that cannot be used either by ourselves, or by any other department. Before any sale is effected, an officer from every department goes round and examines the things for sale, to see if they can make any use of them; if they can, they are withdrawn from the sale.

1666. Have you had any sales of timber to any extent?—I do not know that; the storekeeper knows about the sales. Not long ago, there was a sale in progress, and I went round to see every thing. That sale consisted principally of refuse wood. There were some old waggons and carts.

1667. Did you ever find in the refuse from other departments anything available for your department?—I cannot say that I have. Old iron, when it could not be used, would come to the scrap forge, where we remanufacture it; it is hammered up again.

1668. Do you keep any considerable stock on hand of the materials that you want to use?—Generally about three months' supply, we consider that necessary.

1669. Is that sufficient?—Yes, we do not wish more, especially of perishable articles; timber we require for years for seasoning.

1670. What length of time is timber generally in your hands?—Mostly six or seven years' seasoning. When we are hard pushed we have to desiccate it, that is, use an artificial process for drying.

1671. Then you occasionally want timber in a hurry?—It is very seldom that we want it from the contractor in a hurry; at present we have great use for teak, and we are using the wood as soon as it comes into the Arsenal. The timber we receive from contractors is to keep up the stock, not for daily consumption.

1672. If timber were required for immediate consumption, would not promptitude of delivery be essential?—Yes, if we wanted it for immediate consumption, the failure of a contractor would put us to very serious inconvenience. As it is not for consumption, but merely to keep up stock, the fact of a contractor failing in his contract, beyond giving us extra trouble, involves no serious inconvenience to the department.

1673. Even if you had to wait 12 months?—Yes, but we might lose the money for that year.

Sergeant ALEXANDER McLEOD examined.

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Sergeant
A. McLeod.

8th Nov. 1858.

1674. (*Chairman.*) Are you a sergeant-major in the Engineers?—I am quartermaster-sergeant to the Engineers.

1675. Were you in the Crimea?—Yes.

1676. Many complaints reached England of the tools that were used in the Crimea. Had you an opportunity of seeing those that were used?—Yes; I did duty in the trenches, and I also had charge of the Engineers' park that came before Sebastopol; I afterwards had charge of the Engineers' accoutrements at Balaklava under Captain Gordon.

1677. What description of tools were they?—Picks, shovels, billhooks, felling axes, carpenters' tools of all descriptions, jumpers for boring and blasting rocks, beating hammers, and stone hammers.

1678. Do you know whether those tools were furnished from the Arsenal?—I expect so.

1679. In your judgment, were the tools good or bad?—Bad.

1680. In what respect?—The spades were too heavy and soft. When they were inserted in the ground, a sudden jerk was almost sure to double them in two, or break the half; the shovels were of too soft a material, and the straps did not come up the handles sufficiently far enough, so that they broke at the first rivet that went through. The hammers were bad; the steel used to fly; the face of the hammer started after beating some little time with it; the pickaxes generally used to break off at the eye; the points were soft, and they were scarcely of any use until they were repaired at the engineer's forges. If the point of the pickaxe was struck against a stone, it would turn like a piece of lead.

1681. How could you remedy that defect?—By steeling the pick and tempering it. The billhooks were very bad indeed. I have seen the same sort of billhooks that we had in the Crimea used in Canada and the Cape of Good Hope; they were all alike.

1682. Do you say that the other tools were bad?—The axes latterly that we had were American felling axes; they were good axes; the axes we had out at first were very clumsy things, and the men scarcely could work with them.

1683. You were one of the corps which had to use most of the tools?—Yes.

1684. Therefore you are speaking from actual experience?—Yes. A great number of the carpenters' planes,—the single iron, trying planes, jack planes, and smoothing planes, were of no service; the chisels were bad, because the steel was laid on them; and in use, the steel part would separate from the iron.

1685. Were those positive defects in the things themselves and not at all attributable to the men who used them?—No.

1686. Can you undertake to say that no man could have used those tools well?—No, they were bad.

1687. Do you know whether those tools had passed Government inspection?—No; they bore the marks of "B. O." and the broad arrow.

1688. (*Mr. Turner.*) If you do not know from whence they came, you do know that you were in a very difficult position in the trenches before Sebastopol, and that your work was very much impeded by the villainous nature of the tools; you could not get on with your work as you ought to have done with good tools?—No. The shape of the pick was very bad.

1689. Were your operations before Sebastopol very much impeded in consequence of the tools being bad?—If we had had good tools we could have got on faster.

1690. (*Colonel French.*) Did you see any French tools?—Yes.

1691. Were they good or bad?—They were bad, they were worse than ours.

1692. Did you see any Russian tools?—Yes, I had thousands of them in the park that came from the Redan.

1693. What is your judgment upon them?—They were entirely useless; no Englishman could work with them.

1694. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was anything else improved besides the Canadian axe?—A description of shovel came out, something similar to those used by navvies.

1695. Was that an improvement?—Yes, very great; it had a T head and round mouth. I understand it was proposed by Colonel Gordon of the Engineers. The strap came up the handle about two-thirds of the way, therefore it was not so liable to break.

1696. (*Chairman.*) Were the other things at all improved besides the shovels?—The minor tools, such as the jumping bars; they were tipped, but they were not in the first place.

1697. Were the billhooks improved?—I had no experience in them, but there were a few cases came out just about the termination of the siege, that appeared to be better; I had no opportunity of seeing them used.

1698. (*Colonel French.*) What was the description of shovel that you got before the improved one came out?—It was square. The sapping shovel was also too light.

1699. What is the sapping shovel?—The sapping shovel is a round mouthed shovel, with a socket to it; it was not strong enough.

1700. (*Chairman.*) Was there any improvement in the carpenter's tools?—Yes, the planes were much better towards the end of the war, and the saws were much better; but as to the centre bits and braces, they were found to be of no service. The gimlets were very bad.

1701. Was there any improvement in the carpenter's tools?—I saw no improvement in the carpenter's tools.

[*Some billhooks, American axes, and shovels were produced.*]

1702. (*Chairman.*) What is the complaint against this billhook (*a billhook of the old pattern*)?—The steel is on the edge, and in using it it breaks at the end.

1703. (*To Mr. Morris.*) Have you many of these billhooks in store?—4,000 or 5,000.

1704. Will they be issued?—They will be issued for barrack purposes.

1705. (*Chairman to Sergeant McLeod.*) What do you use billhooks for?—For cutting wood. There were several hundreds sold by public auction at Balaklava of that description, damaged in the manner in which I stated.

1706. Who was there to buy them?—Russian Jews.

1707. Will you look at the billhook at present issued?—The appearance of it is very well; I cannot tell what material it is made of, from its being covered with oil and paint. When I left Balaklava there were not less than 900 or 1,000 shovels utterly useless, and I suppose there were no less than 700 picks in a pile.

1708. Were they used by your corps?—Yes, and the line; they were used by working parties in the trenches, and those working parties were superintended by the Engineers.

1709. Do you think they were broken by the awkwardness of the men who did not know how to use them, or from the badness of the material of which they were made?—I have no doubt a great number were broken by that means.

1710. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you think the case ever occurred of a man who did not like going out in the service breaking the tools?—I think not.

[*Three billhooks of the present pattern were tested by chopping on a block of African oak. From the first a piece of steel was broken off; the second bent in the process; and the third stood the test.*]

1711. (*Chairman to Mr. Morris.*) How are they tested?—Two men from the Tower test them by actually cutting hard wood. We have gone over the whole stock, and we did not find 5 per cent. bad.

WOOLWICH.

Sergeant
A. McLeod.

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(Sergeant McLeod.) Those picks are different to what we had. The bevil was about half the length, and they were generally soft, so that when the point of the pick struck against a stone it turned and became useless. The bevil was so short that when the point was knocked off the pick was useless for work of that description that we were at there, and when the pick was inserted in the ground it broke in the eye. This is an improvement upon the pick I am speaking of.

1712. (Chairman.) We have evidence generally that the tools were bad at first, and that some of the things were better towards the end of the war. We want to know whether those that go out from Woolwich hereafter will be better still? Have you had an opportunity of seeing the tools now in store?—I have not.

1713. You say that that axe is a good one?—Yes.

1714. Had you any of those in the Crimea?—Yes, towards the end of the war; the American pattern was found to be good.

1715. Do you think that the billhooks here are good?—One stood the test apparently; but I would rather try it on a knot than on a piece of African oak.

1716. (To Mr. Morris.) Are those tools furnished by contract or by special order?—By special order.

1717. By open competition?—I cannot say.

1718. Who is the inspector?—Mr. Looker; Mr. Payne, the late inspector, is now superannuated.

1719. Who was the person who superintended the passing of these articles that are now in store?—Mr. Payne and myself.

1720. You could only give a general supervision I suppose?—I used to go down and see if they were testing them properly.

1721. Do you remember whether many of those billhooks were rejected on inspection?—In the first supply there were very many.

1722. Were others furnished in the place of those rejected?—Yes.

1723. And finally passed after having been exposed to some sort of test?—Yes; a very severe test.

Sergeant
W. Dickson.

Sergeant WILLIAM DICKSON examined.

1733. (Chairman.) Were you in the Crimea?—Yes.

1734. What is your regiment?—The Engineers.

1735. Had you an opportunity of seeing the tools used in the Crimea?—I was in charge of the tools in the Crimea.

1736. We have heard that the tools generally were very bad at first; was that so?—Yes.

1737. Were the pickaxes bad?—Yes.

1738. Were the shovels bad?—Yes.

1739. The billhooks?—Very bad.

1740. The axes?—Some of them were bad.

1741. The carpenters' tools?—A great many of the edged tools were bad.

1742. Were there any good tools at first?—Some were good at first, but the greater part of them were bad.

1743. Were there some of each kind good?—Yes.

1744. Did the tools improve while you were in the Crimea?—At the termination of the war they were better—the stores that came out about the time the war terminated.

[A pattern billhook, made by Spear and Jackson, of Sheffield, was produced and inspected by Sergeant McLeod.]

(Sergeant McLeod.) I like the shape of it very well. I see the steel is inserted between the iron in the manner I spoke of.

1724. (Chairman to Mr. Morris.) How long has this been the pattern billhook?—Since 1856.

1725. Are those others supplied by it?—Yes.

1726. (Colonel French.) Have you any great quantity of those goods in store that came from the Crimea?—No.

1727. Would not it be better to get rid of them, so that they might not be served out again?—They are kept separate, and merely used for barrack purposes.

1728. (Chairman.) Do you send to India or elsewhere billhooks of the old pattern?—We do not send anything to India of that description; they provide their own.

1729. Were not those two defective ones taken from the present store?—Yes.

1730. Being in store, what would there be to prevent their being issued?—I dare say if you were to try 100 of that supply you would not get more than two or three in a lot defective. The manufacturers tell me that they are cast steel, and in working cast steel it is almost impossible to manufacture 300 or 400 billhooks without getting flaws of that description in a few in testing them; they do not always show it; you may try a billhook twenty times, and at the twenty-first it will go; if this had been tried six times we could not be quite sure that it would not go the seventh; nobody can say that it will stand the seventh blow.

1731. (Chairman.) At the inspection of these tools are any military men present?—There are no military men present.

1732. You have sappers and miners, and Engineers here, the men who, in active service, would use the tools. We hear a good deal about regimental inspection; is not it possible that inspection by the class of men who are actually to use the articles might be of service?—That plan is not adopted.

1745. Were the axes better?—Yes; our officers held a Board to report upon their being so bad, and after that better were sent out.

1746. Were any of those that were used towards the end of the war bad?—I do not know so much about them.

1747. Why not?—I did not see many of them used at the latter part of the war.

1748. Was there not the same occasion for them?—No.

1749. Have you had an opportunity of seeing the tools that are now in store here?—I saw some helvies of pickaxes this morning, and those that I saw were not good.

1750. Why not?—I do not think the wood is good; there were knots in them, and they would break; they were some that Captain Gordon showed to me.

(Mr. Morris.) I can undertake to say that those are not in store, but under inspection.

(Captain Gordon.) The helvies which the witness speaks of, have lately been sent in, and the whole of them rejected on inspection.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 1 o'clock.

WOOLWICH.

Tuesday, 9th November 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

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The Commissioners proceeded to the stores, and had placed before them specimens of the present supply of billhooks, axes, pickaxes, shovels, and spades taken from the piles intended for issue.

Major L. Armit.
9th Nov. 1858.

Major LOUIS ARMIT examined.

1751. (*Chairman.*) Are you in the royal engineers?
—Yes.

1752. Were you in the Crimea?—Yes; from February till the end of July 1855.

1753. Then you hardly had an opportunity of seeing the tools that were used in the first instance?—I think not in the first instance, unless there were any left unexpended from the former supply.

1754. We have had evidence of Sergeant McLeod and Sergeant Dickson that the tools, without exception, in the first instance, were extremely bad; what is your judgment of the tools in use during the time you were in the Crimea?—They were more or less bad; after every working party had used them a number of them required repair.

1755. Were the spades complained of?—I do not remember the spades being used; it was generally the shovel and the pick. There is one thing to be said, they were not on some occasions fairly tried; the infantry were not experienced in the use of them; they used to pick out pieces of rock, and the picks would break across and in the eye.

1756. Do you think those tools are better than those you complained of as having failed in the hands of the infantry, or the same?—The tools I saw were the tools that had been used, I do not remember seeing any new ones. I did not pay much attention to them; those tools look, as far as I am able to judge, pretty much of the same kind as were used. You must consider that the others had been in work before I saw them.

1757. You cannot say that the tools before you are better than those that you complained of?—No, they are about the same form and make.

1758. Have you sufficient practical knowledge or skill to be able to suggest any improvement in the spades which would enable them to withstand the usage to which they are subjected?—I did not know anything about spades. I never remember spades having been used in the trenches.

1759. What are the tools to which you more particularly refer?—The pick and the shovel.

1760. What species of pick was used in the Crimea?—Nearly similar to these.

1761. Did they fail?—They used to break off in the centre, the steel was soft. The reason of their breaking was, that the men used to drive the picks between pieces of rock, and tried to use them as levers, and the picks not being strong enough broke in the eye, and were bent or broken between the eye and the ends.

1762. Would any description of pick stand such usage as that?—Very few; I think if a piece was taken off the width and added to the depth they would be more efficient, so that the weight should not be increased, and on being used as a lever the resistance would be greater.

1763. (*Colonel French.*) Can you tell whether these tools are made of good material or not?—No.

1764. Is not the material as essential as the shape?

—Yes; they should be tested before they are sent out, and in fact tested before they are received into store.

1765. (*Chairman.*) Is there nothing in the appearance of those pickaxes which suggests to you that they are better than those which failed in the way you have described?—I do not think so, so far as I can see, except what I have previously stated.

1766. Do you know of any other kind of pickaxe which would better answer the purpose for which a pickaxe is wanted in time of war?—I cannot say; I should like the appearance of this pickaxe (*an improved pick is shown in the store*), if the chisel end was a very little wider.

1767. (*Mr. Turner.*) You say the pickaxes failed by the breaking off in different parts?—Mostly in the centre of the arms.

1768. That you attribute to the soldier trying to insert the pickaxe between two stones, and then using it as a lever?—Yes, because the soil was particularly rocky.

1769. Has not a soldier sent to work in the trenches to act according to circumstances? Supposing he does meet stones in his work, is there any other instrument by which to remove them?—By blasting, or with crowbars.

1770. To remove separate stones?—No, the ground itself was composed of a solid strata of rock. I was in the left attack, and I believe there was only one battery (No. 15) in which we had not to resort to blasting. I left before the siege was completed.

1771. We may assume that the men were trying to break rock which should have been blasted, with their pickaxes?—Yes, if the rock was shaken they would try to get the piece out. I think that is a legitimate way of using the pick.

1772. Ought it not to be made strong enough to stand such work as the soldier is liable to be put to?—Yes.

1773. (*Colonel French.*) Were you engaged in cutting wood for gabions and fascines?—No; all my work was up in the front. I cannot tell how the billhooks stood; that work was all done at Balaklava.

1774. Will you compare those billhooks with the pattern billhook? are they equal?—They are about the same weight and appearance.

1775. (*Chairman.*) You are acquainted of course with the use to which billhooks are put?—Yes.

1776. Is it a fair test to try them upon a piece of African oak?—I can hardly say that; I think it would be a better test if they were tried upon a bundle of green wood tied up, made of thicker pieces than fascines are usually made of, because they are only intended to be used in cutting wood that does not resist them—which gives to them, in fact—they are not to be used like an axe to cut at a block that does resist.

1777. Are billhooks ever used upon a solid block?—No, they may be used for sharpening a stake; they were used at Chatham for cutting brushwood for

WOOLWICH. gabions and fascines, and the wood is not much thicker than the handle of an axe.
 Major L. Armit.
 9th Nov. 1858.
 1778. Can you give any judgment whether those billhooks would answer the purpose for which a billhook would be used?—If the material is good I think they would answer the purpose.

1779. (*To Mr. Morris.*) Who was the contractor for the superior billhooks?—Spear and Jackson.

1780. Who was the contractor for the inferior ones?—Perks. This is the pattern billhook made after Colonel Ord came from the Crimea. This is the last improvement that was sent out to the Crimea.

Mr. WILLIAM TOPLIN examined.

Mr. W. Toplin.

1781. (*Chairman.*) Are you a viewer at the Tower?—Yes.

1782. Who is your inspector?—Mr. Looker.

1783. Did you come from the Tower to inspect articles of this description?—Yes, last month.

1784. Have you lately re-inspected a considerable number of billhooks?—Yes.

1785. Did you compare them with the pattern as well as test them?—I tested them.

1786. How?—By chopping on a block of African oak.

1787. Did you chop down or sideways?—Right down and sideways; I gave a hard blow.

1788. Is not it a severe test to chop sideways and give a wrench?—It would not be a fair test.

1789. Have you passed those billhooks as equal to pattern?—We have not passed them at all yet; I am re-inspecting them.

1790. What is that re-inspection?—We only test them, not by pattern.

1791. Are you a civilian or a military man?—A civilian.

1792. Do you know the purposes for which a soldier would use a billhook in the field?—I have always been given to understand that they use them for fascines and chopping on a block.

1793. Three billhooks were tried yesterday, one of them gave way and the other bent?—I have not gone through them all yet. I am making three classes as I go through them.

1794. How is anybody to know which is first, second, and third class?—I should report them to my inspector.

1795. Is there anything in store to show the classification at present?—Not at present, because I have not gone through them all.

1796. If you have re-inspected them for the purpose of dividing them into classes, there must be a division between them?—They are divided as far as I have gone. Those were taken from the second class.

1797. What makes you say that those were taken from the second class?—Because I know the maker, and the slightness of the article.

1798. These have been produced to us as if they were from the store to be issued. You say that the one that failed was one not to be issued?—According to my instructions from my inspector I was to make different classes of them, and the second class would

be issued for the services where they were not required to do hard work. They were not for pioneers' service, where they would be required for heavy work.

(*Mr. Morris.*) I believe there was a complaint made by one of the colonels of the regiments, that those were not exactly the pattern that was required for pioneers' tools. As the former inspector, Mr. Payne, was getting old and about to be superannuated, they sent inspectors down from the Tower to inspect those tools again, until an arrangement could be made to have those tools received at the Tower.

(*Mr. Toplin.*) I can show you every pile, and so I shall report them to my inspector when I have done with them.

1799. (*Chairman.*) How long have you been a viewer?—About a year and 10 months.

1800. What was your previous occupation?—A smith in the Royal Arsenal.

1801. You have been accustomed to iron?—Yes, all my life.

1802. And to tools?—Yes; to making them—not so much using them. I know the nature of the materials.

1803. Can you tell whether these four billhooks have been approved?—Yes; and they will stand any test you like to put them to.

1804. (*Chairman to Corporal Rowley.*) How should you test those billhooks?—I should have to put them in the fire to test them. To test them for usage, I should cut brushwood, which they are generally used for. If the steel is too soft it bends, and when it is too hard it flies.

1805. Were you in the Crimea?—Yes.

1806. Did you use billhooks?—Yes.

1807. Were they good?—Some were good and some were bad.

1808. Were they as good as these?—No; these are a different pattern, a better pattern.

1809. For what purpose would you put those billhooks in the fire?—To try whether the steel was good or not.

1810. Would you actually cut anything with them before they were issued?—I could tell whether they were good steel by putting them in the fire.

(*Mr. Toplin.*) We test one of every supply by fire to tell the quantity of iron and steel. To test them for issuing we chop on a block; we could not put every one in the fire.

Captain HENRY WILLIAM GORDON examined.

Captain
H. W. Gordon.

1811. (*Chairman.*) When did you go out to the Crimea?—In March, 1855.

1812. Were you there while the road was being made?—Yes.

1813. Were the tools that came out to you, as store-keeper, like these?—Entirely. Immediately after the fall of Sebastopol.

1814. Was the road at that time completed?—No; the regular road was not commenced until after the fall of Sebastopol.

1815. When the army came away, did you receive back the tools that had been used?—The whole of them.

1816. How many months had you an opportunity of observing the tools?—Nearly sixteen months.

1817. What tools are you speaking of?—The whole of the entrenching tools, spades, shovels, pickaxes, billhooks, felling axes in large quantities; every de-

scription of entrenching tool which was used by the army; a large number came from the engineer's camp that had been used after the siege; all the stores came to me that had been issued to the army for the purpose of making the road.

1818. Will you give your judgment as to the character of those tools respectively?—I heard no complaint against the entrenching tools that came out towards the end of the war.

1819. Had there been such complaints, must they have come to your knowledge?—The quartermaster-general would have represented to me if the entrenching tools had been found defective.

1820. Of what period are you speaking?—From the 8th of September, 1855, up to the end of March; during nearly the whole of the time the road was being made.

1821. Then you had no complaints of the tools?—None that I can recollect.

1822. You have heard what Major Armit says as to the pickaxes breaking in the rock?—The troops used them in that way, and you may have to put picks to that use. The large majority of picks would give under it. Sergeant McLeod and Sergeant Dickson received the entrenching tools on my part. After having been issued, they received them back, after they had been used.

1823. What was the result of the usage to which they had been subjected?—A great many were bent; I had not seen them in use myself, except upon the road.

1824. Did they appear to you to be good tools?—I should say so, certainly, except perhaps the field service shovel, which was not so much used in the making of the road. The shovels with the T handles I did not consider superior.

1825. (*Colonel French.*) Are you speaking of the tools that came out first?—No, at the latter portion of the war.

1826. (*Chairman.*) Are there any tools now in store likely to be issued which are not so good as those to which you give a tolerably good character?—I should say, most certainly, no entrenching tools will be issued except those of the character I have been speaking of. I am not aware of any such tools in store. A large proportion of those in store now are kept entirely for home purposes, for camps and services of that description, but certainly not for issue to an army going on service.

Colonel FREDERICK EARDLEY-WILMOT examined.

1831. (*Chairman.*) You are superintendent of the royal gun factory?—Yes.

1832. Were you examined before the Contracts' Committee?—No.

1833. Will you furnish the Commissioners with a statement detailing the nature of the duties of the department with which you are connected?—Yes.

The same was read as follows:

Royal Gun Factories, Nov. 6, 1858.

MEMORANDUM of the NATURE and DUTIES of the DEPARTMENT, together with a SKETCH of the BOOKS used in keeping the ACCOUNTS.

It may not be inappropriate to remark that, at the breaking out of the war with Russia the Arsenal was in a very depressed state, as regards the power of producing war matériel, and the attention of the Government was very soon directed to its improvement. A large number of new buildings have been erected, as well as many suitable alterations made in the old. Of new buildings there are the iron gun foundry and boring mill, the shot and shell foundry, the establishment for the manufacture of rockets, the paper cartridge factory, the gas works, new storehouses, the enclosure with a boundary wall of about 140 additional acres of land, besides alterations in the gun factories and carriage department and laboratory, almost amounting to an entire renovation.

The change of the system of working hours by introducing the ten hour system, and closing the departments at mid-day on Saturdays; the application of piecework, and as much as possible approximating to the system of private manufacturing establishments; also the improved arrangement for the supply of raw material direct to the departments; in short, all matters that would facilitate manufacture and promote economical working of the departments, have been resorted to.

The specific duties of the royal gun factories department consist in the manufacture and fitting and preparing iron and brass ordnance of all descriptions for land and sea services, coast defences, &c. the repair and manufacture of machinery, and the preparation of all stores supplied with ordnance.

Its operations of manufacture and alteration of all articles are carried on by means of annual votes granted by Parliament to purchase stores and pay the wages of the workmen. The votes are in no case exceeded without authority, and any emergency not previously contemplated is met by additional Parliamentary grants, if of great importance, or by further assistance from the Treasury, if not of large amount. The stores are procured by contract, and by purchase

1827. May the country rely upon your statement that if any reinspection of tools takes place here, there will be no mixing of the classes into which the viewers may divide them?—Certainly. During the time that the stores are under inspection by the viewer they are, to a certain degree, off my charge until he returns them back again in the state in which I am to receive them. He did not tell me that he was classifying these stores. When he gives them back of course we shall keep them classified. I will guarantee that they will be stored in the state that he classifies them.

1828. Have you any personal means of knowing Mr. Toplin's efficiency as a viewer, because, so far as I gather, the matter is substantially left to him?—It is entirely left to him and his inspector.

1829. Is not it desirable that in such an inspection military men like Serjeant McLeod and Serjeant Dickson should take a share?—I could get a most excellent opinion from either of those non-commissioned officers, in whom I have the highest confidence; but I could not offer an opinion as to the desirability of that course of proceeding. I presume the War Office must have more fully considered the subject than I have.

1830. (*Mr. Turner to Mr. Morris.*) Can you state the difference of price between the billhooks which the viewer is now classifying, and the billhooks which are considered superior?—Perks's billhooks were 1s. 8d., Spear and Jackson's 1s. 7d., and the present contract price (Elwell's) is 1s. 3½d.

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Col. F. Eardley-
Wilmot.

through brokers for some description of articles, such as coals, iron, copper, lead, and timber.

The wants of the department for all articles of store are expressed in demands upon the Secretary of State for War, and all tenders for contracts and authorities for brokers to purchase, are conducted by the Director of Contracts and Director of Stores. The parties tendering make their application for particulars, and specifications, and drawings, to the head of the department, and the tenders are sent in to the Director of Contracts for acceptance.

If the tender should involve any professional opinion, or a doubt upon the propriety of accepting the lowest tender, it is submitted by the Secretary of State for War to the head of the department for his opinion, and his opinion ought to be final.

The general management of the department in all its branches and details is vested in the head of the department (the superintendent). He is solely responsible for the due custody of money and materials for carrying out the manufacture. He corresponds direct with the Under-Secretary of State for War upon all subjects, and has the entire direction and control of the mechanical operations in producing war matériel for the service. The economy of labour by the application of machinery, the best modes and manner of production, combined with superiority of quality, are matters which constantly engage his attention.

Inventions and improvements which arise from time to time, or grow out of the experience of previously ascertained wants or disadvantages, are applied and established for the benefit of the service. These are matters of much concern and consideration with the superintendent.

The expenditure of money for wages and raw material for manufacture necessarily engages a proper staff or office to disburse the various accounts. For this purpose there is a principal clerk, a clerk for cash accounts with two assistants, and a clerk for store accounts and two assistants.

The divisions of duty are, correspondence, cash accounts, store accounts, and cost of production.

1. *Correspondence* may be briefly summed up by saying, that it relates to all matters in the office, and every detail of it would be unnecessary, further than to remark, that all issued letters are copied by means of the copying press; hence much labour is saved.

2. *The Cash Accounts* comprise the charge of the money, the preparation of the books for the weekly pay of the men, disbursements of all monies, posting the cost of manufacture of all articles, the preparation of the accounts for Pall Mall, posting in a ledger the appropriation of all payments and receipts of money, records of the entries and discharge of all men of the department. We are thus able at all times to balance the accounts. The money for the payment

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of the men is obtained on demand weekly, from the P. M. storekeeper, Military Store Branch. The workmen are paid their wages weekly, and the amount due to them is ascertained by the following means:—Each man is provided with three tickets, these he deposits in boxes at the hours of 6 and 9 a.m., and 2 p.m.; each ticket bears the number of registry of the man, and is arranged to represent the three periods of the day; this is done to prevent a man from giving an incorrect account of his time. Separate boxes are arranged for the deposit of the tickets at the three distinct periods. After the tickets have been deposited, timekeepers go round to each shop and note down any man who may be absent, giving notice of the absence at the same time to the foreman, in case the man should have been sent out on any special duty.

The tickets are afterwards sorted, and the missing numbers or blanks in the board are compared with the timekeepers' books. If both agree there is proof of the absence of the man or men. If the man is recorded absent in the timekeepers' books, and the ticket has been deposited, then there is an attempt at fraud. If the man is present on the timekeepers' books, and his ticket not deposited, then there is neglect; for this latter he is fined, for the former he is dismissed, and any one also who can be proved to have been in connivance with him.

The list of absentees is transferred to a book which is checked by a clerk from the office by comparing the book with the ticket board. This same book is then used to record the lost time in the official check book, in which the amount of wages to be paid to each man is then calculated. The amount that each man is to receive is written on a ticket bearing his registry number, and distributed on the morning of the day in which the pay is to take place. Any error is brought at once to notice and inquired into and settled before payment is made.

Payment is made to the men by very expeditious arrangements, and each man surrenders his ticket before receiving his money, which is literally the receipt, and is so accepted. All coin received must be inspected, and if doubtful, must be surrendered before passing a certain point from the table, and at which a person is appointed to stand to receive complaints. If this point be passed, no money is exchanged. The opportunity is afforded to the men to change gold at the pay table after the pay is completed.

The absence of all men is recorded to enable the head of the department to be always fully acquainted with the number of work people present each day. The registry is so arranged as to show the number of any particular trade absent from sickness or other causes, whether for a whole day or a portion of a day. This registry is compiled from daily reports sent in by the timekeepers, and exhibits at any time the total non-effective strength of the department. In connection with this there is a daily report book, which shows the number of men at work, the number sick, those absent, and also the vacancies. The great object is to keep the men steadily at their work without loss of time, unless prevented by sickness or other accountable causes, and with this view a record is kept of the number of hours lost during every period of three months, and all who have lost more than half an hour per day, or one hour per day, are discharged, and those who nearly approach these limits are cautioned. This being publicly exhibited periodically has a most beneficial effect. During the first year of its adoption, there was a most sensible decrease of loss of time, and in each successive period it has continued to diminish, so much so as to prove beyond all doubt that to notice these evils is to remove them. The mechanical operations in all matters connected with the men are carried out under a variety of checks for arriving at a true state of the men, the time they keep, the work performed, and the *bond fide* cost. A manager is employed by the superintendent to assist him in all these matters. The men are entered subject to the inspection of a medical officer, and are not admissible over the age of 40. These preliminary steps ensure a staff of useful men physically; and as regards their mechanical abilities, they are for the most part received only by producing testimonials from their late employers. A discretionary power is vested in the superintendent, that he can employ or discharge any man, and at any time. By this means men only who earn their full amount of wages are retained on the public works.

All men hurt in the execution of their duty, if considered to have been accidental, are paid their full wages for a period of two months, and, if necessary, a proportion of pay is allowed if they exceed that period. All men of 3 years' service are allowed a proportion of their pay during casual sickness, if of good character.

Generally, it may be stated, that all transactions of all sorts in the department are within the cognizance of the superintendent, and the only true and reliable information

relating to them can be obtained from his office. It is therefore essential to success that there exist the most complete and cordial co-operation and confidence between the superintendent and the War-office, and that no information be received at the latter, and no change made in the department, without the cognizance of, and a fair discussion with the superintendent.

3. *Store Accounts*.—This branch comprises the receipt and issue of all stores in or for the department, the preparation of demands for material, the record of all goods sent in, an account of all contracts entered into, the payment certificates for stores supplied, &c. as detailed in the following books:—

When the contracts are finally accepted at Pall Mall, they are notified to the department, and an account is at once opened in a contract ledger and a personal ledger. The contract ledger is opened under the heading of the material, showing the time limited for supply, the rate, total amount of supply, the periods of delivery, the quantity rejected, the quantity received, and the amount paid and date. The arrangement of this book under the name of the material, say "iron," is to show the quantity obtained at different times, the persons supplying, and the different prices paid, that an average price may be at once arrived at of that particular iron, and so on with each material. The personal ledger is open to record the *total* amount of dealings entered into with any particular person or firm; on the one side is given the total value of his contract, and on the other side the payments made either in part or complete. These books are balanced periodically to ascertain that all payments are properly recorded, and to show the liabilities on the department, and whether any payments then due have been neglected.

The conditions of contract direct that all goods shall be accompanied by an invoice of stores, a particular form being furnished by the department to the contractor.

To ensure the due receipt of all stores, the following mode is adopted:—At the storehouse when all goods are delivered, a *day book* is kept, in which the receipt of every article, and from whom, is most carefully noted. Here the store-receiver sees only the goods, and no invoice; but in the office the invoice is received, and that is at once registered. The book for this purpose is called a *registry of invoices*, and shows the date of invoice, the date when received, from whom, the nature of material, the date of receipt of the material, to whom sent for inspection, the quantity received or rejected, the date when returned from inspecting officer, rejections, if any, when notified to contractor, and, finally, where recorded in the general *store ledger* in the department. The invoice is taken by a clerk, who sees the stores as to whether they correspond. Each morning the *day book* of the storehouse is examined by a clerk, and compared with the registry of invoices, to prove that the stores have been delivered, as notified by the contractor. The inspecting officer examines the goods, being furnished with the invoice, and he fills in and signs whether "approved" or "rejected," and returns the invoice to the office. [Is not responsible for quantity]. The approved stores are then weighed or counted by a clerk, and posted into the contract ledger against the entry specially opened for the material. The register number of the invoice is posted at the same time, and the folio of contract journal is posted on the invoice, together with the name of the person who counted or weighed the stores. This is adopted as a means of reference, and is found of great use in checking the accounts. The receipt of stores is recorded in a book showing the various weighings. This is to prevent a loose manner of conducting the weighings, &c.

The *store ledger* is the next book for use. In this the invoices are posted under the name of the material only, and contains an account of the receipts and issues of the material during each year. The invoice receives a number for the purpose of being posted in this book, and the number given to it is also recorded in the registry of invoice, so that one glance of the registry books shows where the invoice is posted, both in the *contract ledger* and the *store ledger*; thus the three books are connected by a glance at any one of them by this system of registering, and no delivery of stores can be overlooked or forgotten.

The first line of the store ledger shows the quantity on hand at the commencement of the year, and then follow the postings from the invoices of the material since received. The issue side shows the material drawn from stock for the purpose of conversion, and the balance when struck at the close of the year shows the remain on hand, which could be checked by taking the store. This ledger, together with the vouchers, is sent annually to Pall Mall for examination.

In the store house a paper is attached to each store, which shows on one side the stock, the receipts, and the daily issues; these are compared with the stock, and if faithfully kept up a very correct remain could be easily taken. All stores drawn from the store by the several foremen are drawn upon a proper form or checks; the half check in their book shows what they have demanded, and the counterfoil is retained by the storehouse man. Each morning the day book is brought into the office, together with his check book, showing the issues of the stores, and checked by a clerk. All stores received are likewise conducted by a check book, and the issue note of the foreman sending in the store is checked against the daily receipt book. Every transaction with stores must pass through the day books for receipts and issues, and is checked.

These receipts and issues are afterwards compiled into monthly vouchers, and are posted in the *store ledger*.

4. The *Cost of Production* is the next consideration. The system adopted and the books kept are arranged with the view of arriving at the *bonâ fide* cost of the articles made, as it is considered that next to keeping the men at work, it is important to know the amount of work they perform. This gives two items of valuable information. The first is what each man has performed at any certain work, and the second, what is the total cost of the work.

Upon the receipt of an order from the War Office, the particular date of order, &c. (after being noted in the office order book), is forwarded to the manager of the department, who enters it into a departmental order book, and notifies to the office the branches of the department in which he has given directions for the work to be carried out.

By this means the office knows by which department the order is being executed; this book is intended for reference. The War Office order is continued with the description throughout every book in which anything connected with the working of the order is entered, which answers the double purpose of easy reference, and enables the time and material to be readily posted into the ledger.

Upon receiving an extract of a War Office order, the manager issues to each of the departments in which the order is to be carried out a requisition for the parts of the order to be manufactured by them, the counterfoil to be retained for reference, from which a true copy is taken by the book-keepers and store keepers, for the purpose of making the headings to the labour journals and store issue books.

The time of the workmen is entered in daily time sheets, which embodies the daily labour upon the manufacture of an article, and is made up into weekly books, each page containing the name, designation, or trade, and work performed by each man during the week, detailing the number of hours he has been employed upon each job; this is kept by the labour journal keepers, who go round frequently, and take each man's work at his machine or occupation.

A labour journal is kept, in which is entered daily from the time sheets the number of hours each trade has worked upon any order, and shows the day, the week, each man's name, the work he has been employed upon, the number of hours, and his rate of pay; the amounts are cast up at the end of the week, and posted to the time and material ledger, under the designation or trade therein.

The material issued is entered *first* in the manufacture delivery book, in which is kept an account of all issues to manufactured articles, except small stores; and shows the manager's order, the description of work, the War Office order, the nature of the article, ledger folio, and name of department to which it is delivered. The total weight upon each order is posted from this book in the ledger, with cost. The articles are weighed after coming from the furnace, or from being forged, &c.

The material issued is entered *secondly* in the manufacturer's small store book, which is kept by the branch storekeeper for the purpose of being posted into the ledger, and like the delivery book, contains all particulars of order, &c., and value.

Time and material ledger. This book is for the purpose of showing,—1st, the weekly cost of every description of labour and material upon an order; 2nd, the weekly cost of the order in each department; 3rd, the *total* weekly cost; 4th, the *progressive* cost. This is arranged so as to include the whole of the departments together in one week, and to show the cost of 8 weeks on one page, thus in many instances showing at a glance the total cost of an article in one page. It also answers the purpose of a complete cost book, as the totals can be carried forward until the job is completed.

Price book. This book is kept for the purpose of pricing all stores used in the department, and is arranged in the form of an index. The prices are obtained from averages drawn from the contract ledger.

It might appear, upon a perusal of the store accounts, that similar accounts are twice kept, and that the work accounts are a further repetition of the same. But this apparent anomaly arises from the nature of accounts required to be surrendered to Pall Mall.

The only accounts examined there are the store accounts, and consequently they are kept according to the regulations prescribed for them. It is necessary, however, that the total stock of the department should be at all times at hand, and this is best arrived at by a store ledger. The contract ledger contains no issues, and it seems indispensable that a true record should be kept of the nature of a contract, how it was supplied, and when paid for, so that the contract ledger and store ledger are dissimilar, but one is compared against the other to see that all that has been purchased has been really brought into charge as stock. The cost ledger of production is again totally distinct from either of the above, but the subsidiary store books in connexion with it would agree with the articles *produced* and received on the store ledger.

The foregoing plan of accounts has been brought into use after the most mature consideration and actual working out of a system. Many theories have been met and explained, and actual facts are recorded; and the result is such now as to give every encouragement to proceed with it.

F. EARDLEY-WILMOT,

Lt.-Col. R.A., and Colonel Sup. R.G.F.

1834. Are there any observations that you desire to make in addition to your memorandum?—I merely wish to say generally, that our great anxiety is that everything in the conduct of the department shall be kept in such a state that in case of death or removal the accounts could be rendered up to the last moment of our tenure. For that express purpose a particular form of books has been devised; which will also enable the Government, up to a preceding day, to know the exact cost of the whole establishment or of any particular manufacture which is in my hands; so that absolutely up to last night I could, in two hours, inform the Government of the precise cost of a thing which had been in course of manufacture for six months.

1835. Your books are posted up to Saturday night?—Yes; and they would have been posted up to a later period had they not been waiting for your inspection.

1836. How long have you been the head of the department?—I was appointed in June, 1855.

1837. Is your pay additional in consequence of being superintendent of this department?—I receive 500*l.* a year additional, but I lose all the advantages of rank as an officer, as far as regards allowance of coals, servants, candles, and so forth; and I have to pay rates and taxes, nearly 30*l.*, on a Government residence. The 500*l.* a year is in lieu of all other allowances.

1838. We understood from Mr. Morris that you, as the head of your department, receive from him a sum necessary to pay the wages of your establishment?—Yes.

1839. What number of men have you in your establishment?—606.

1840. About how much are the weekly wages?—About 600*l.*

1841. How often do you receive money from Mr. Morris?—Every week, and disburse it the next day. I have about 100*l.* in my hands as a general rule.

1842. Are wages the only payments you have to make?—Except for small purchases.

1843. What would be called a petty cash account?—Yes.

1844. Do you give any security?—None whatever.

1845. Is your office permanent, or is there any stipulation as to your removal at a certain period?—There has been no stipulation whatever.

1846. Something has been stated as to a supposed rule that the officers of this establishment are to be removed every five years. Are you aware of any rule of that sort?—I believe hitherto it has been the custom, and perhaps in my case it was only an omission that it was not stated; I should not consider myself ag-

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grieved if I were removed at the end of five years, if the good of the service made it desirable, although nothing has been stated to that effect.

1847. What hours does your establishment work?—I consider myself obliged to work from 9 till 6 in the evening, at least; and the clerks from 9 till 5.

1848. I believe you have the power of dismissing any of your subordinates for want of diligence?—Yes.

1849. Have you an unlimited power of dismissal?—Of all the men, not the clerks; but I have no doubt that my recommendation, as to clerks, would be attended to. I have never taken upon myself to dismiss any clerk. The head of the department having the power of dismissal is the only system by which the working of the department can be conducted; and I believe the great evil of earlier days was the absence of that power. That change has been made by the Secretary of State-for-War.

1850. You say that you have 606 men; how many were there when you took charge of the department?—I think about ninety.

1851. Is not your department comparatively new?—Almost entirely new as regards extent.

1852. Is it likely to be increased?—I think not; it only wants completion in the arrangements for casting the guns; only half the furnaces are built.

1853. Your gun foundry is in point of fact a new thing?—We commenced operations on the 1st of April in the iron gun foundry.

1854. Formerly a large proportion, if not all the guns, were furnished by makers?—All iron guns.

1855. Do you still receive guns from contractors?—This year a large number have been received from contractors, and there will be next year, as far as I can understand.

1856. Can you give an approximate account of the number received from contractors and those manufactured on the spot? Do you manufacture any iron guns?—We are to make this present year 150, and I find the number of guns cast has been 101 68-pounders; number proved, 69; number burst, 8. There have been ordered this present year from contractors 312 68-pounders, 95 cwt.; 460 8-inch, 65 cwt.; 300 32-pounders, 58 cwt.; 44 8-inch howitzers, 22 cwt.; 200 10-inch guns, 86 cwt.; 19 10-inch howitzers, 42 cwt.; making a total of 1,335, weighing 4,763 tons, at an average price of from 19*l.* 10*s.* to 21*l.* per ton.

1857. When your establishment is in full activity, can you form an estimate as to what number of guns you could turn out in the course of a year?—I think in full activity I might turn out from 500 to 600, as far as I can at present judge.

1858. We understood from you, in going through the department, that the great demand has been for the coast defences?—Yes; and for places like Gibraltar and Malta.

1859. Do you manufacture for the navy?—Yes; the gun is of exactly the same character; it is delivered over to the storekeeper, and he issues it as the demand arises for the army or the navy.

1860. (*Colonel French.*) Would the number of guns you have mentioned be sufficient to keep up the supply in case of a sudden war?—I should think not. It would be supposing that all fortresses and all foreign possessions were perfectly armed, and the form, size, and character of iron guns remained permanent, without improvement.

1861. Do you suppose that you can furnish them cheaper than they were done by contract?—I imagine we shall, eventually.

1862. Taking into consideration the number of guns that burst?—That becomes an element of expense. Of course early in the stage of the manufacture, it is very difficult to say exactly. I can only tell you the cost of the boring and turning, and the making of a gun; the actual amount expended in labour at the present moment is under 13*l.*

1863. What number of guns have you already made?—We have cast 101 guns since the 1st of April.

1864. (*Mr. Turner.*) What was the contractor's price for a similar gun to the one which you make for 13*l.*?—When I speak of 13*l.* I am only speaking of the labour, not of the material, nor the per-centage upon the value of the buildings; merely the absolute labour, making the mould and all the material used in those operations, and finishing the gun.

1865. In your books I observed a very elaborate and minute statement of the cost of any article passing through the factory. I suppose you can tell what is the cost of any particular gun, both in labour, material, and a variety of other items?—Yes.

1866. How does that compare with the contract price?—I should say favourably. The contract price of the same gun is 100*l.*

1867. (*Colonel French.*) What number of guns have failed?—We have proved 69, and 8 have burst. I should think some more will burst. All the preliminary operations of a factory of that sort are necessarily a great deal experimental. I considered that we should have at least 25 guns that might be considered as merely to be experimented upon, and having arrived at a certain mixture, a certain additional number would be burst on purpose.

1868. What would be the proportion that would burst?—I do not suppose that next year any single gun will burst.

1869. (*Chairman.*) Do you test those guns that are supplied by contract?—Yes.

1870. Are they previously tested by the contractors?—No.

1871. What has been the result as to the guns so supplied?—Of late years very satisfactory. From one place, last year, we had some burst upon proof, and two of the same calibre were withdrawn by the maker, who was doubtful in his own mind whether they would stand the test. That was out of 500 or 600; and was of no importance as regards the character of that establishment.

1872. At present you are beginners?—Entirely beginners. Contractors have told me that their experience had cost them 20,000*l.* apiece, and our experience must be arrived at in the same way.

1873. What number of contractors are there who furnish iron guns?—The Lowmoor Iron Works, represented by Mr. Hood in London, and the Gospel Oak Iron Works, of which Mr. Walker is the master. There are two others who have been brought in lately, the agent for them is Mr. Pegg of London, and Mr. Asbury of London. Whether they are the absolute owners of the foundries I do not know; I do not think Mr. Pegg is. There were many more for mortars during the Russian war.

1874. (*Colonel French.*) Was the fact that the contractors were not equal to the supply the reason that Government have taken the founding of guns into their own hands?—It arose from the circumstance of there being a very great demand which could not be met, because no one in the country, besides two contractors, had sufficient experience. And in order, not to compete with them, but to prevent the founding art going down and being confined to a single establishment, which could not supply all the requirements in an emergency, the Government established, as I understand, this factory. It is entirely a special article, and not worth a man's while to put up machinery for, when a continued peace might reduce the demand so materially.

1875. Were not the demands greater in former wars than they have ever been of late years?—I should think not.

1876. Was not our navy three times the size, and our army much more extensive than of late?—I think they had fewer guns, and altogether of less calibre.

1877. (*Mr. Turner.*) Does Captain Gordon, the storekeeper, take charge of raw material at all?—Only for his own department and the use of the Colonies.

1878. Not for the service of your department?—Not for the service of either of the manufacturing departments.

1879. The heads of these departments send their applications for raw material for their own purposes to the War Office?—Yes; those applications being founded upon the demands which we receive from the War Office itself.

1880. May it not sometimes occur that your department or some other department may be very deficient in iron, or wood, or other raw material, and yet some other department may have a stock suitable for your purpose?—Not if I and the War Office do our duty; I should take care to give them such notice that they ought to provide me with what I wanted.

1881. My question was rather in reference to some particular state of the market when it is not desirable to go into the iron market, or the wood market, or the market for any particular raw material; if it was an inconvenient time to expend the public money, you might possibly get supplied by loaning as it were from some other department?—We should do that without any difficulty whatever.

1882. Am I right in supposing, that occasionally, according to the state of the market, it might be desirable, in order to avoid coming upon the market for some particular article, if one department had it, that another department should borrow it?—The Parliamentary grant is only for one year; before the commencement of the year the necessities of the department are known; the period at which the article is required is known several months beforehand.

1883. Then if each head of a department did his duty he should be provided with his raw material?—Yes; If he should not be provided, there would not be the slightest hesitation in applying to the War Office for a transfer from some other department.

1884. Has there been any instance of a transfer of stores?—Never of stores; articles of a small character, as in the case of particular woods, instead of requesting the Government to purchase, I request that I may receive them from the Carriage department. I apply to the War Office to have that wood, for example, transferred to me. No transfer can take place without the authority of the War Office.

1885. Might not a general store of raw materials be kept up, so that each department could be supplied from a central point?—You would have the removal twice, and you would then relieve the officer in charge of the great responsibility that he is now under for the goodness of the material. He must send somebody to inspect the material. I would not be satisfied with the inspection of a storekeeper of an article I was going to use. If anything went wrong, I should say, "No, I am not responsible, the storekeeper gave the material to me;" but if you send the material to me I am responsible. In all military matters you ought to have somebody on whom you could lay your hands and say, "It is your fault." We desire that the responsibility should be traced to the exact person to whom it is due. If I receive anything that somebody else has taken upon his certificate, I conceive that my responsibility is gone directly, and I can only make the thing of such materials as are supplied to me; and I lose the greatest incitement to attention and interest in the work.

1886. I perceive that the general storekeeper's book is kept with very great minuteness, therefore he can have no difficulty whatever in accounting for every individual article that comes in or that has been issued; the only difficulty I saw in your books is with respect to dealing with raw material. I can scarcely imagine how you can balance the amount of raw material with the articles manufactured?—Take cast iron,—certain castings are ordered to be made; before those can be made, the pattern for those castings must be made; the absolute quantity of wood used in that pattern must be charged against the pattern with the labour of the men; then the pattern is of a certain size; we know that the castings will correspond to a certain weight. A certain allowance of so much per cent. allowed, accord-

ing to the experience of every machine maker, is issued to the men to make the thing with; every casting is weighed, and the residue is weighed, and the whole thing is balanced. Not only is the casting itself weighed, but every portion of the coal that goes into the furnace is also weighed, and an accurate return is kept of the result.

1887. You think you cannot go very far wrong in your stock account?—It is impossible. The only correction that can be made, will be at the time when we shall work upon our own results of what is the waste in casting. At the present moment I am working upon results that I received from Mr. Nasmyth, Mr. Fairbairn, and others of the greatest men in the country. I took pains to procure twelve or fourteen opinions as to waste in casting, and taking my results from the greatest men in England, I said if they find that the case, that will do for me to begin with; they have taken seven years; in seven years I shall know the precise facts. I put so much iron and so much coal into the furnace, and so much iron comes out; if I find I am using a wrong average, it will be set right, but it cannot be far wrong.

1888. You do not test the waste?—Yes, by weighing the iron, the finished casting, and the residue.

1889. I believe you have a system of weighing every article?—Yes.

1890. You credit the weight against the raw material consumed?—Yes; the loss is charged so much per cent.

1891. (*Chairman.*) Is there any residuum of the material employed that is available for sale or otherwise?—Formerly the moulds of the brass foundry were sold; now we retain them.

1892. You can make them available for your purposes?—Yes.

1893. Have you any sales of anything unserviceable?—Nothing whatever; all wrought iron is worked up again. The borings and turnings of all the cast-iron guns are credited against the cost of the gun. For about 2*l.* a ton for labour we can convert the borings and turnings into a very superior wrought iron. Of course, some day in rendering a strict account of the working of the foundry, on the other side there will be the wrought-iron material against the cost of the production of the gun.

1894. Has there been any jealousy or complaint from contractors who furnished you with large quantities of guns as to your becoming manufacturers yourselves?—I have never heard any. In conversation with many eminent men, I have never met with one that did not think the Government was right in having such an establishment.

1895. (*Colonel French.*) Have you any idea what the cost of your establishment was?—The building and machinery have cost about 98,000*l.* (*See Parliamentary Paper No. 423, 1858.*) At the same time, I do not think the question of cheapness is a question of any importance,—perfection is the thing required. Although the two great foundries to which I have referred stand as high as any manufacturers in any country, competition is sure to increase the excellence of the article. No doubt, by competition, in quality, even at an increased price, the Government is served better, and those who have to use the guns are served better.

1896. (*Mr. Turner.*) Supposing your establishment cost 100,000*l.*, what should you think a fair charge to make per annum for the item of rent?—I may put it to a certain extent upon the absolute work done. I would say in a general way that the establishment should be taken at 20 years' purchase; for those 20 years say that we make 200 guns a year, that would be 4,000 guns. I would divide the cost upon the 4,000, and even then, I believe, the guns would be cheaper than purchasing by contract. What I do is to render to the Government the precise cost of the establishment, including everything connected with it.

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I leave it to them to present to Parliament any statement they think right as to per-centage.

1897. (*Colonel French.*) I have heard complaints from one or two naval officers, that a considerable time before you were in office there were delays in furnishing their ships with guns, in consequence of the numerous departments that they had to go to before they could get supplied, and they thought that it would be better if there were foundries, and everything that was requisite, under the superintendence of naval officers. Do you think it would be advisable to have such establishments with respect to the naval department, so that they would not have to go through that routine?—They would have to go through precisely that routine that they do now, unless the establishment of a naval arsenal was put upon an entirely different system to this. I presume the naval department would have a storekeeper to take charge of the manufactured guns, and when they wanted them they would call upon the storekeeper, and he would deliver the guns to the ship. There are stores of guns at the principal naval stations, which are ready for the demands of the navy. When a ship is actually fitting the storekeeper receives notice that so many guns will be wanted for her, and those guns are actually prepared by the time they are required.

1898. At present the naval storekeeper has to apply to the Admiralty, and through various channels—the Admiralty apply to the Secretary of State. Is not that the case?—Yes.

1899. If the naval department had a foundry, do not you think that the supply would be more expeditious?—I do not know that it would be more expeditious; but on the above principle of competition, you might have a better article than you have now. You would excite the animus of the whole of the Admiralty authorities to get the best material and to do their work in the best style. Our estimates for the navy are formed upon *bonâ fide* statements received from the War Office as to probable demands, over and above the actual demands for the ensuing year; therefore, the Admiralty, before the 31st of March, knows how many ships are on the stocks, and how many ships are being fitted out; unless a war occurs they know what they are going to do; and if a war occurs, they have only to demand more guns at their stations.

1900. Is not the expense of the conveyance from Woolwich to Plymouth of guns and gun carriages a material item of expense?—It is a certain item of expense, but I do not think it is a very heavy item now; one or two steamers are employed in that service. It was formerly a very heavy item. I have not considered the subject of a naval establishment, and I am only stating just what appears to me upon this view of the question. Of course there are great differences of opinion as to whether the Government shall have any establishments at all; whether it should or not, I confess I do not think it is worth talking about. There they are, and I do not suppose anybody will attempt to cut them off now. But you might multiply similar establishments to an unnecessary extent. I think experience shows that in a pecuniary point of view alone, to be in a state of preparation is the very best thing that can be. The money expended during the last war from the absence of preparation was something very considerable.

1901. (*Chairman.*) You do not remain the storekeeper of the manufactured article?—Not at all.

1902. As soon as the article is in a completed state you hand it over to the storekeeper?—Yes.

1903. You are in the first place the custodian of the raw material?—Yes, for the manufacture which is actually ordered. I am told by the Government to do certain things. I want for that purpose certain materials of a certain quality of which I am the best judge.

1904. Do you conceive that any advantage would arise from making the principal storekeeper the custodian of the raw material as well as of the manu-

factured article?—It would be the worst thing that could happen, because you would relieve the officer at the head of the manufacturing department of a great deal of responsibility; you would also have the additional labour and trouble of conveying the stores to the storekeeper, and then to the department store, and all the additional forms, so hindering when work has to be done.

1905. Though you would be the person to receive the requisition to make so many guns for which so much iron would be necessary, would there not, as between you and the head storekeeper, be such an additional check as his first possession of the raw material would give?—I must draw the material from him, and when it comes into my hands I must be responsible for it. I do not see what check there is in that. The storekeeper would issue the material day by day in dribblets, and then half one's time would be spent in making out documents for and removing so many tons of this material and the other; or he would issue it in bulk, and it would come into our charge in the same form as now. The passing through his hands, who is not more trustworthy than any other officer, would be no additional security for its proper use, and the fact of its receipt by the head of the department is now easily proved by the documents of the seller and the department. Nothing short of a conspiracy, involving the seller, the superintendent, the principal clerk, store clerks, the manager, and the storehousemen, in short, a great many persons, all recording their work independently, could avail to effect anything to the injury of the Government. The best check is loyal allegiance to the Queen.

1906. Is not Woolwich arsenal rather a collection of separate establishments, than branches of one establishment?—Quite so. There is no more reason why that system of making the storekeeper the recipient of everything should be adopted at Woolwich than at Enfield or Waltham Abbey, or anywhere else. Each department is perfectly able to do its own work, and do it as economically as it can be done for them.

1907. At Weedon in the clothing department one storekeeper receives everything and issues everything, he receives the cloth (speaking of it as raw material) and issues it to be made up, and then receives the manufactured articles. You do not think there would be any advantage in so combining an establishment of the vast extent of Woolwich?—I cannot think so at all.

1908. (*Mr. Turner.*) Might not the public money be economised by selecting favourable periods of the market for the purchase of a general supply, so that particular departments need not press for a supply when the market was high?—That is met by the fact that it is known beforehand what is required in material. The sum for every department is voted in the gross, and then the whole grant is divided amongst them.

1909. (*Chairman.*) You have stated in your memorandum that coal and iron, the principal bulk of the raw material, are purchased through brokers?—Yes.

1910. Have you ever known any disadvantage to arise from the purchase of these articles through brokers as opposed to the system of open competition?—No.

1911. Are any of the articles used in your department supplied by open competition?—I think not, only by a limited list. Many articles are quite special; certain sorts of iron for gun purposes come from certain persons, and those persons are dealt with. The tender is not offered to any one else at all. Copper, which is very largely used in my department, is bought by a broker when the market is favourable.

1912. You exercise, as we have seen from your books, the same power of inspection, selection, and rejection which all public departments exercise; have you any large amount of rejections?—Generally the

iron, which is the great material, is sent in considerable quantities; a certain quantity is tested and rejected if necessary, but in copper, which is the most expensive, the rejection is very small. In one or two cases of deliveries of iron, the rejection has been rather large, perhaps sixty or seventy tons at a time.

1913. Do the inspections take place on the spot here?—Yes.

1914. Does not inconvenience arise from having to re-transmit the article rejected?—That is done by the contractor.

1915. Does not he charge something for that contingency?—No doubt. In most cases the decision of the officer is considered to be sufficient; in some cases (I cannot say that I think it is desirable) the matter is discussed.

1916. Have you ever known a contractor loud in

his complaints of a rejection?—No. I have had two cases lately, one of which is now under discussion. Some iron has been furnished by the Acadian Charcoal Iron Company; five tons were sent in as a sample by order at a certain price; I had it examined, and it was rejected. The next intimation I received was a letter from the War Office, saying that in consequence of there being certain *prima facie* evidence that the iron was suitable, without any inquiry as to the cause of rejection, the Secretary of State had ordered that two referees should be appointed to examine it. I was desired to name one, which I have done.

1917. Is the result of that arbitration known?—No. Whatever the result of the arbitration may be, it never can induce me to say that the iron of this sample is fit for the service, because I am satisfied that it is unfit, on account of its very mixed character and variable chemical quality.

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Captain EDWARD BOXER examined.

Captain Edward Boxer.

1918. (*Chairman.*) You are the superintendent of the Royal Laboratories?—Yes.

1919. You were examined I think for two days before the Contracts' Committee?—Yes.

1920. Have you had an opportunity of looking over your evidence lately?—I looked at it a few days ago.

1921. Do you adhere to all you then stated?—Yes.

1922. I believe you entertain a strong objection to a system of open competition for the articles to be used in your department?—What I mean by open competition is, advertising, and allowing any one to tender, and accepting upon those tenders. Some people define open competition in a different way to what I do. I approve strongly of the system of competition, and I do not think open competition is a proper term when applied to the arrangement I have mentioned; for very often it is not competition at all, because the different tenders refer to different qualities, in which case there is an end of competition. If you want a certain number of tools, one man will offer to supply at a certain price, and another man at another price, but their tools may be quite different in quality. I do not call that competition, except as regards price, which is often a less important element than that which refers to quality.

1923. Of course the articles must be of a quality to pass the Government inspection, and in accordance with the pattern and specification?—Yes.

1924. If by inspection you can ascertain that they are equal to the pattern and specification, you may have open competition, but I think your opinion is that in very many of the articles to be used in your department, no inspection can be perfectly satisfactory?—That applies to a great many.

1925. Whatever system may be adopted for the supply of raw material, are you of opinion that warlike stores should be manufactured by the Government?—Yes; all warlike stores are specialties, which are only required for the naval and military services for the purposes of war.

1926. As a general rule are not the manufacturers who would devote themselves to those particular branches few in number?—Yes, and this fact is a strong argument in favour of Government manufactories.

1927. You have gone into very elaborate calculations to show that you have manufactured such things as shot, shell, and so forth, very much cheaper than they ever were supplied; do you adhere to that opinion?—Entirely. At the time I gave that opinion we did not possess anything like the amount of experience that we have gained during the last six months. We have been working our shot and shell foundry to a very great extent, and the result has been more satisfactory than what I stated in that evidence; there is no question about it. The whole of the men employed are upon piece-work, and we know exactly, so far as the price of labour is concerned, what it costs, because

we only pay for work correctly performed. With regard to material, also, we can have a very good check, because there are only one or two principal items of material, namely, fuel and iron.

1928. Are you not also of opinion that your establishment should be in such a state of efficiency as to be able to produce any required quantity of stores, so as to avoid the necessity of keeping any excessive quantity in store?—I think the principle which should be carried out is that Government establishments should be in a state ready to meet any particular emergency with respect to the articles that they manufacture, rather than keep a great number in store. My reason for that opinion is on account of the improvements which are constantly taking place in war matériel, particularly at the present day. One improvement after another comes forward with such rapidity that it would be exceedingly expensive and undesirable to have any large supply of warlike matériel in store. If a large supply of warlike matériel is on hand, and what is termed economy is the order of the day, that is used up before the improved matériel is supplied. There is more likelihood of adopting improvements in the service if there be a small store than if there be a large store.

1929. Are the articles which are manufactured in your department of such a character as to deteriorate by being kept in store?—Some descriptions of articles will deteriorate, but if they are kept properly most of them will keep for a great number of years.

1930. You have stated, I think, that many of the tools sent out to the Crimea would have been very much better, if they had not been kept so long in store as to have become perishable? Do iron and steel deteriorate by keeping?—Certainly not, unless they get very rusty.

1931. What does deteriorate?—The wooden handles would deteriorate very much.

1932. Can you account for the badness of the tools at the commencement of the Crimean war, otherwise than by the fact that they were old?—No, except, perhaps, at that time the standard was not so high with regard to quality as it ought to have been.

1932a. Will you read the statement which you have prepared of the system pursued with regard to the receipt and expenditure of stores and cash in your department, and the mode of book-keeping generally?—I will.

The Statement was read as follows:—

SYNOPSIS of the SYSTEM pursued in regard to the RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE of STORES and CASH, and the MODE of BOOK-KEEPING generally carried out in the ROYAL LABORATORY, WOOLWICH.

Principles upon which the System is based.

That the arrangements must agree with, and be subservient to, the most approved and economical system of manufacture.

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That the arrangements shall be capable of being carried out in *their integrity* at all times, and under all circumstances, without interfering with, or causing obstruction to, the main end in view in relation to the work.

That the work required from the superintending foremen shall be small in amount and simple in character.

Demand of Stores.

Demands are transmitted to the War Office once a quarter, or more frequently, if necessary, of materials required for carrying on the work of the department, showing the estimated cost of such articles, and how it is recommended they should be obtained, *i.e.*, whether by warrants on running contracts, by tender from certain firms, or, in the case of some special articles, by direct purchases.

These demands having been approved by the Secretary of State for War, warrants are sent to such firms as have running contracts with the department, for the stores to be supplied by them, and tenders are called for from various firms for the supply of the articles on the demand to be contracted for.

On contracts being entered into, or purchases being made, the particulars thereof, *viz.*, the names of the firms by whom the articles are to be supplied, the quantities and prices, are communicated to the department and duly entered in the contract ledger.

The timber and metals, however, required for the department are demanded half-yearly, and, with the exception of English timber, are purchased by brokers.

Receipt and Inspection of Stores.

On stores being received from contractors, they are inspected by competent persons, who certify to the superintendent that they are either fit or unfit for the service. If approved, the stores are weighed or measured and taken on charge.

Each article is entered under a distinct heading in the storehouse ledger, which is so kept as to show at any time the quantity of any description of material received, issued to the department, and remaining on hand.

Each receipt is also entered in the contract ledger, which is so arranged as to show at a glance the particulars of every contract entered into for the supply of material to the department, and whether such contracts are satisfactorily performed or otherwise.

On supplies being approved, and the correctness of the quantity invoiced being ascertained, bills for the same are forwarded with a certificate to the accountant-general, and payment is made forthwith.

Expenditure of Materials.

The materials required in the various manufactures of the department are issued as frequently as necessary from the general store to the first-class foremen.

These foremen issue such materials as are required from time to time for the execution of work, to the foremen under them, and by entries in books kept for that purpose, account in minute detail for the expenditure of the materials they receive, keeping the various services on which they are expended separate and distinct; and they are held responsible that all materials expended on any manufacture or repair are duly accounted for, and clearly entered under the proper headings.

The entries thus made are abstracted from the first-class foreman's book, and so arranged in the office "Material Book" as to show at the end of the year, or at any time during the year, the exact value of the material which has been used on any and every description of manufacture or repair.

Each machine in the department has a distinct letter and number, and all the materials expended upon each machine are recorded under its distinguishing head.

Finished Articles.

Articles in process of manufacture, and which have to pass from one foreman to another, are delivered into store and re-issued for completion, in order that a check may be kept on the material expended in each process through which they pass.

Articles when finished are transferred to the principal military storekeeper, Royal Arsenal, for issue to various stations and services.

In the shell foundry where the manufactures are of a less varied character than in other branches of the department, a special set of books is kept, which show daily the amount of work produced and the material expended, and as the various operations on the manufacture of shot and shell

are paid for on the piecework system, the actual cost is readily arrived at.

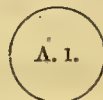
All stores received from contractors or other departments, or manufactured in the department, are debited, and all stores expended in the department or issued to the store department are credited in the departmental ledger, which, together with the necessary receipt and issue vouchers, are forwarded annually to the War Office for examination.

Check Pay, &c.

Each man and boy in the department is entered at a certain rate of pay, and his name is recorded in the check-books under the letter representing the rate.

A card shows the several rates of pay, and the letters by which they are represented.

The persons employed are numbered consecutively under the several letters, thus A. 1, and each has three metal tickets bearing his letter and number, thus—



System of Check.

These tickets are placed in boxes provided for the purpose on the men coming to work, the first ticket being deposited at 6 a.m., the second at 9 a.m., and the third at 2 p.m.

These tickets are then sorted and arranged in trays, properly numbered, and an account is taken of the numbers of such tickets as are absent.

On the men commencing work, timekeepers go round the factories and workshops, and ascertain what men are absent; they then proceed to the ticket office, and compare their lists with those of the ticket keeper.

A list of the men and boys absent is then sent to the office, and such absence is recorded in the check-books, the necessary deduction being made for the time so lost when the books are monied out at the end of the week.

A large number of men are employed on piece-work, which system is carried out in every case where it can be advantageously adopted.

Fixed rates or prices are approved by the superintendent, and returns are sent into the office by the managers of the number of articles manufactured by the men so employed.

The amount due to each man is entered against his name in the check-book.

On the first of every month a statement is sent to the principal military storekeeper, Royal Arsenal, of the amount required for payment of wages and incidental disbursements in the following month, and a requisition is sent to him weekly for the amount required during the week, specifying the coin in which it is requested to be supplied. Timekeepers are employed whose special duty it is to account for the time of every man employed and the work on which he has been engaged.

When each man's time has been made up on the check-books, and the amount of pay due to him ascertained, each amount and the number of hours for which payment is made are entered on a pay-ticket bearing the man's letter and number. These tickets are compared by the foremen under whom the men may be employed with the timekeeper's books, to see that the number of hours on the pay-tickets correspond with those accounted for therein; if these agree the pay-tickets are distributed to the workmen.

The amounts of wages due to the men are laid out in trays, divided into small compartments which bear letters and numbers corresponding to those on the pay-tickets, and at the time of pay the workmen are arranged in rotation under their respective letters, which admits of their being paid with great rapidity, so much so, that more than 3,000 men and boys are paid at three tables in about twenty-five minutes.

From the timekeeper's books an abstract is made of the labour expended on each description of work, which is entered in the wages expenditure book.

Thus the amount of wages extracted from this book, added to the value of materials expended, will show the cost in labour and materials of each description of manufacture.

Disbursement books are kept to show the amounts of Parliamentary votes, the expenditure thereon, and the amount under each item remaining unexpended.

At the close of every quarter an account current is transmitted to the War Office, supported by the necessary vouchers and abstract of wages, showing the amount re-

ceived and expended during the quarter and the balance remaining on hand.

E. M. BOXER,

Superintendent Royal Laboratories.

Royal Laboratory, Woolwich,
November 8, 1858.

Number of Persons employed.

Foremen	-	-	-	-	33
Artificers	-	-	-	-	351
Labourers and boys	-	-	-	-	2,762
					<hr/> 3,146

Work performed.

Manufacturing and repairing all descriptions of ammunition for the land and naval forces, and the various articles connected therewith, comprising shot, shells, carcasses, fuzes (metal and wood), tubes (detonating, friction, and galvanic), war and signal rockets and rocket apparatus, portfires, light balls, long signal lights, small arm and cannon cartridges, bullets, plugs for bullets, barrels for packing small arm ammunition, tin and zinc cases for packing fuzes and tubes, implements for fuzes, rockets and shells, percussion caps, &c., &c.

1933. What is about the amount of wages paid in your department?—About 2,300*l.* a week.

1934. Do you give any security?—No, I do not give any security.

1935. Have you anything to do with the cash transactions, except the receipt of the weekly wages?—We receive the money three days before we pay it away, namely, on the Wednesday, just in time to put it all out and arrange it.

1936. (*Colonel French.*) Do you draw the money from the bank?—No, I receive it from the principal military storekeeper at present. There was a question at one time whether we should draw the money ourselves from the bank, and it was considered that it would perhaps be more convenient to draw it from the principal military storekeeper.

1937. (*Chairman.*) How is the raw material which is employed in your department principally supplied?—Most of the metals, namely, lead, copper, and pig iron, are supplied by brokers, and have been for some time past; the foreign wood is also supplied by a broker. I think the coals are purchased in bulk.

1938. You have a limited sum voted to your department?—Yes, I look upon it that I am responsible for the cost of the article manufactured. Of course, if the control of the purchase of the raw material is taken entirely out of my hands, the responsibility is not complete, and in that case I could not be wholly responsible.

1939. Do you estimate, as Colonel Wilmot does, how much raw material will produce the manufactured article?—Yes; when we are ordered to make out our estimate for the year, the War Department informs us that so many articles will be required for the service. It is then my business to find what quantity of the different items of material will be required to manufacture those articles, and also the amount of wages, and I then state the amount of money that will be required.

1940. Do the War Department rely upon your estimate of the quantities required?—Yes, and the price. At one time our quantities used to be priced in the War Department; last year we supplied the price of the different materials wanted, as well as the quantities. The object is to ascertain how much money it is necessary to go to Parliament for.

1941. Have you the means of ascertaining the price?—We enter the price of every article in our books.

1942. You ascertain it from the price of the articles that have been supplied?—Yes.

1943. How do you form a judgment upon the price of iron, which is continually fluctuating?—In the same way that they were obliged to do it at head quarters; it is only an estimate after all. I take the average prices, perhaps, over a certain number of years.

1944. Do you consider that any advantage or dis-

advantage would arise from making the principal military storekeeper responsible for the receipt and custody in the first instance of the raw materials?—I am satisfied that it would be a very great disadvantage. It was partly through my representations that that system was knocked on the head. At one time, before the war, the principal military storekeeper received the whole of the raw material, and we found the system work exceedingly badly; we represented it, and the system was changed, because it worked badly.

1945. Was the supply given to the principal military storekeeper for distribution? Did he receive so much iron for your department and so much for the other departments, or had he a general store for the departments in the aggregate?—I think the principal military storekeeper derived his information from the different heads of departments as to the quantities they would require for the next year, very likely in the same way that it is done now, but it was not gone into so minutely. Each department had to estimate the quantity of material they would require, and the principal military storekeeper received the raw material.

1946. You prefer being the custodian in the first instance of the raw material?—I am quite satisfied that it is the best plan; the other system actually failed.

1947. Why?—We could not get the things when we wanted them. I was at a standstill often because I could not get the raw material. For want of fuel, for instance, 1,000 men might be standing idle for a week. It was not my business to see that the storekeeper had the material. If it had been my business to see that the storekeeper had the material, the storekeeper must have been under my control. The storekeeper's was an independent department. It was his business to see that he had the stores, and I had nothing to do with it.

1948. Assuming that you have furnished to the War Department an estimate of the quantities you will require, and that they have in pursuance of your estimate sent those quantities to the principal military storekeeper, and he has them in charge, is there not some additional check, as it may be called, over your department in letting all stores, even raw material, pass through the hands of the principal military storekeeper?—I do not think there would be in the slightest degree more check, in the ordinary acceptance of the word "check," than at present. It certainly would check the work very much. I drew up a memorandum at the time that this change took place before the war. I could add a good deal to it now.

1949. Does Colonel Tulloh agree with Colonel Wilmot and yourself upon that point?—Yes; everyone who has had any experience in these departments agrees with the views I have expressed. It is a difficult matter to explain; and the advantages or disadvantages of any particular system can only be understood by those who have had experience. I found the inconvenience of the old system by experience. We have had the new system in work, and we do not find the inconvenience which was found to exist under the old system. These were the remarks that I made upon the system relative to stores of raw material in the Royal Arsenal:—"The storekeeper at present receives "and has charge of all the raw material required by the "manufacturing department. The articles provided "by the manufacturing departments cannot be supplied without the raw material required in their "construction. Consequently the responsibility with "regard to supply rests with two persons. The raw "material is delivered by the contractors to the storekeeper at *various* and *uncertain* periods. In a time "of war supplies from manufacturing establishments "are required, also at *various* and *uncertain* periods. "The probability, therefore, is, that the result will "be unsatisfactory; as the action of two independent "persons must be in unison under difficult circumstances to ensure success. The head of a manufacturing department is interested not only in meet-

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1950. What do you mean by the phrase "all other storekeepers"?—Storekeepers in different parts of the world. There are no manufacturing departments, except at Woolwich, where there is a storekeeper. At Enfield and Waltham Abbey there are no general storekeepers. The same system which will work satisfactorily in a time of peace, may entirely fail in time of war. As the departments have been established for the purpose of supplying war matériel, the system ought to be capable of being worked in time of war.

1951. You have had two years experience since you gave evidence before the Contracts' Committee. Do you think your department is now in a condition to turn out a sufficient quantity of ammunition for any emergency that war could create?—We could meet any conceivable emergency.

1952. Even an invasion?—Yes. We can turn out, for instance, a million and a half of small-arm cartridges a week, without much trouble; and as I have gas in all the buildings, in case of urgent necessity, I could work all night, and turn out upwards 2,000,000 of cartridges a week.

1953. Where were cartridges obtained before your manufactory was in operation?—We always manufactured that description of article. Shells and shot were obtained by contract entirely.

1954. Could you now turn out a sufficient quantity of shot and shell for the army and navy?—Yes; at the present time, for instance, I think we are turning out 30,000 a week of shot and shell. If we had the foundry completely at work, which could very soon be done, we could turn out about 40,000 a week; that is to say, if we worked overtime.

1955. Is the work going on with greater activity in your department now?—Yes.

1956. Is the issue as large as the manufacture?—Yes.

1957. Then the demand is as great as the supply?—We are now working upon the demand that we had

at the commencement of the year. We were ordered to supply a certain number of articles, and we desire to spread the manufacture over the whole of the year, so as to not to have any great hurry at one period; we manufacture at such a rate as to complete the whole of the demand by the end of the financial year.

1958. Has any sudden pressure been put upon your establishment for any large amount of warlike stores since it has been in operation?—During the last war.

1959. Was your establishment in full operation then?—In some respects it was. We had the means during the latter part of the war of turning out an enormous number of articles, not shot and shell, but articles used in the preparation of shot and shell.

1960. Were the shot and shell furnished by contract finished here?—Yes; the finishing work is a most important part of the work; the shells were furnished in the rough and finished by the department. In 24 hours during the war I think we turned out 10,000 of the largest description of shells, that is, we adjusted them with fuzes.

1961. (*Colonel French.*) Where are the shells loaded?—At the other end of the arsenal. These particular shells were not loaded, we prepared them for the fuze.

1962. How many shells could your establishment load in a day?—I should think we might load about 2,000; perhaps more, as it is a very simple process.

1963. (*Chairman.*) You have stated that your experience of two years has confirmed you in the opinion that the manufacture is not only sufficient as to quantity, but cheaper as to cost?—There is no question about that whatever, but the most important point is that which refers to the quality; we ensure good quality, which could never be done before.

1964. Did any of the shells we heard of sometimes, that burst when they should not, own you as their parent?—That had more to do with the fuzes; sometimes the shell would break in the gun.

1965. Had you many instances of the fuzes burning too quickly, or too slowly, so as to render the shell inoperative?—At the commencement of the siege of Sebastopol there were great complaints of the shells bursting too soon; but that was proved not to depend upon the manufacture of the fuze, but upon the principle of construction. When the fuze was made upon the proper principle, we never had any similar failure.

1966. Were you responsible for the principle, or only for the manufacture?—I was only responsible for the manufacture.

1967. (*Colonel French.*) Who directs the loading of the shells, then?—They are all done in my department.

1968. Who directed the preparation of the fuze?—The preparation of the fuze in the field is effected by the military or naval men.

1969. Is not there some officer who has the direction of the manufacture of the fuzes?—There is no military officer who has anything to do with the manufacture except myself. There are military officers in the department who test the work after it is manufactured; that is to say, when the articles are complete and ready for issue, a military officer inspects them; he takes a certain portion of the articles and tries them. With regard to fuzes, he would see whether they burned the proper time; and with regard to shells, he would fire them.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

WOOLWICH.

Wednesday, 10th November 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. PETER ROLT examined.

WOOLWICH.

Mr. P. Rolt.

10th Nov. 1858.

1970. (*Chairman.*) You are desirous, I believe, of offering some explanation respecting a matter in which your name was mentioned?—Yes. On the 3rd of April we offered some fir timber to the War department in these terms:—"We respectfully beg to say, that we have on hand a parcel of superior quality Dantzic fir timber of the Zabladouski stock, consisting of about 150 loads, which we can offer a bargain, namely, at 4*l.* 5*s.* per load. We venture to think it will be worth your attention, and if you will allow it to be inspected we shall feel much obliged." When we offered this timber it was lying in the Commercial Docks, and we had it placed on one side in case of the Government requiring an article of that kind, which it is difficult to obtain. Time passed on, and we had no communication from the War department till the 14th of April. We then received this reply:—"Gentlemen, I am directed by the Secretary of State, Major-General Peel, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant, proposing to supply about 150 loads of Dantzic fir timber at the rate of 4*l.* 5*s.* per load, and I am to acquaint you in reply, that timber of this description is not at present required by the department.—Signed, 'Thomas Howell.'" That offer being refused, we took the course that any merchant would pursue, that is, found another channel for the timber. Therefore, the timber was in the market at the time we offered it. The timber was offered to the Government, was not inspected, but declined, and we sold it to somebody else. Feeling my character at stake upon this point, I thought I would come before the Commissioners and state the facts of the case, in order that the erroneous impression which appears to exist might be removed.

1971. (*Mr. Turner.*) With the information which we had before us, do not you agree with me in opinion that I was right in saying that it was a false statement that you had that cargo to offer, if it did not arrive for a month afterwards?—Most unquestionably, if the fact had been so, we deserved blame.

1972. If the timber that you offered to Government, which was said not to have arrived in the port of London until something like the 17th of May, was in the port of London at the time you made the offer, and if Messrs. Churchill and Sim could have inspected that timber at the time, then my observations do not in any way apply to you?—I wish my character and standing in the commercial world to be cleared before the public from the imputations which now rest upon them. With regard to Mr. Sim, I certainly must clear him from any imputation whatever in this matter. Mr. Sim told me last night that he had fallen into a gross error in what he said, as he will communicate to you by writing. Mr. Sim was not in this country at the time. His partners were, and Mr. Sim did not receive any orders to buy timber till the 24th of April. He inspected what he had to buy on the 29th, and then on the 10th of May he bought it. Mr. Sim did not know anything of this letter of the 3rd of April at all. He did not see it. It is only justice to Mr. Sim to state that he must have been misled in what he said.

1973. (*Chairman.*) You offered this timber to the Government on the 3rd of April; your offer was refused on the 14th; when did you dispose of it?—On the 16th of April.

1974. Have you any objection to state what you disposed of it for?—4*l.* 10*s.* all round. It was such good timber that it went into ships decks, therefore it was adapted from our own practical knowledge for platforms.

1975. Did you offer it to the Government all round?—They might have taken what they liked, we offered it as it laid, but the officers might have taken only part.

1976. Would you have allowed them to select 100 loads in the docks at 4*l.* 5*s.*, leaving the 50 loads with you?—No doubt about it; we do not usually stand upon trifles.

1977. The timber was so good that it would not have been damaged in value by the fact that Government had selected some of it?—Most certainly.

1978. Was it Crown Zabladouski?—It was.

1979. Do you know what the dimensions of it were?—It would have yielded what the department wanted.

1980. Did you know what they wanted?—Perfectly well.

1981. Do they always want the same size?—Yes, 13 inches clear of sap.

1982. Would the timber you offered have yielded 13 inches clear of sap?—Yes, and therefore it would be 15 inches wide to get that dimension out of it.

1983. The length would have been 30 feet?—Yes.

1984. You received the cargo by "Condor" on the 17th of May?—She arrived that day.

1985. Was her timber as good as that you are now speaking of?—What we offered was a cargo of 450 loads. We took the specification beforehand, and we picked out from the specification the dimensions.

1986. You are speaking of the "Condor's" cargo?—Yes; we sent in tenders to the War Office stating that so-and-so was the case. She was offered 'to arrive.'

1987. Was the timber in the "Condor" equal or superior to the timber you originally offered?—The "Condor's" cargo was exactly the same quality.

1988. Did your offer about the "Condor" specify the size?—We said it would yield twelve inches.

1989. You offered the cargo ex "Condor" 'to arrive,' to yield twelve inches, that is less than thirteen?—It says so in my letter.

1990. Is that as good as the original offer which was to yield 13 inches clear of sap?—The quality was as good.

1991. Is not size an element in price?—No; we do not like large timber except for these purposes.

1992. You offered timber 12 inches square ex "Condor"?—They would convert it so as to yield 12 inches clear of sap, which we believed was the extent of the dimensions required for those platforms. It would have done that certainly, and the other timber would have yielded 13 inches.

1993. You offered the cargo of the "Condor" at 4*l.* 15*s.*; had the price of timber risen in the interim?—No, but the parcel we first offered was really a great bargain. A particular operation enabled me to select a quantity, and from my knowledge of what was wanted in the department, I laid it by in

WOOLWICH. the docks, because I thought we might make an offer to the Government at a cheap price.

Mr. P. Rolt.

10th Nov. 1858. 1994. Do you undertake to say that the timber offered on the 3rd of April was fully equal to what you subsequently offered on the 6th of May?—Unquestionably.

1995. You offered it 10s. a load cheaper for some particular reason?—Yes, I could do so.

1996. You, having been a large contractor, knew perfectly well the mode of inspection and rejection, and so forth?—Thoroughly.

1997. Would you have been willing to have let the officers here have the pick of that timber, and reject what they pleased, at 4l. 5s. a load?—Certainly.

1998. (Mr. Turner.) Your letter of the 6th of May, in which you commence with the expression "expecting the arrival daily of the ship "Condor" from "Dantzie, with 335 pieces, containing about 280 loads of very superior Zabladouski fir timber," must be received as corroborative proof of the timber offered in your former letter, (in which you say "we have on "hand,") not being timber expected to arrive. Your expression here relates to this very ship "Condor," which we have been given all along to understand contained the timber which you originally offered early in April to the Government?—No doubt. If that letter of the 3rd of April had gone forward to the brokers, this matter would not have arisen.

1999. (Chairman.) Do you think the Government get what they want as cheaply by the employment of brokers as they would by a more general competition?—I do not wish to express an opinion upon that

subject. It does not matter at all to us whether they buy by brokers or not.

2000. (Mr. Turner.) Do you approve of the principle of competition, or do you not?—I do, most unquestionably.

2001. Is not one way of obtaining competition sending tenders out to contractors, and allowing them to offer a supply on that tender?—That was the case formerly.

2002. Supposing that a broker is employed entirely in the interest of the Government, if he acts *bonâ fide* for the benefit of the Government, ought he not by going to every one who has a lot of timber that will suit the Government, to induce competition by his energy and zeal in the Government service?—No doubt, as he would for me, or for you.

2003. Would it be satisfactory to have a broker interested on two sides of the transaction, both for seller and buyer?—I am perfectly independent of the course altogether.

2004. Ought not the broker to act for one party? Ought he to have one master, or two or three?—How can the broker be without two masters if one is the buyer and the other is the seller? You want a cargo of wood from us: the broker steps in as the middleman to hold the just equilibrium between us; he sells for me, and buys for you.

2005. And gets two commissions?—Whether the Government pays one, we do not know; the seller pays.

2006. If I paid a broker I should desire to have the sole benefit of his services?—If you were to come into the timber trade you would find that it is not the practice to have buying brokers and selling brokers.

Mr. LAURENCE JOHN BAPTIST DOLAN further examined.

Mr.
L. J. B. Dolan.

2007. (Chairman.) I understand that you wish to answer the question that you declined to answer the other day?—Yes. (See 1291.)

2008. The question then put was to this effect:—Have you or your house, either directly or indirectly, given any *douceur* or consideration or money in any shape to any one connected with a regiment?—We have been in the habit of making an allowance to the quartermasters of regiments.

2009. Are you still in the habit of doing so?—Yes.

2010. What allowance do you make?—It is not a fixed allowance, but varying according to the services rendered. I may say generally 5 per cent. upon the goods sold.

2011. Is that allowance made by you up to the present time?—Yes.

2012. Do not you consider that practice in contravention of the regulations?—It is contrary to the regulations; but it has been the practice of the trade for many years, and we find it necessary to do it.

2013. On what ground do you find it necessary?—Because necessities which are supplied to a regiment are, in point of fact, sent out on sale or return, and, therefore, though the supplies have been inspected and passed, they still remain our property.

2014. By what arrangement is it that the stores sent out remain your property? Is not that in contravention of the War Office regulations?—No, I do not consider it is.

2015. The regulation to which I refer is No. 37, which says that no quartermaster or serjeant shall have any pecuniary transaction with the traders or dealers in necessities?—That is the only point in which the practice is in contravention of the regulations.

2016. Do you ever allow more than 5 per cent.?—We have in some instances where there has been extraordinary trouble, but as a rule we have only given 5 per cent., and then of course not to everybody, so that taking the average all round, I find it amounts to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

2017. Is the allowance made upon the necessities furnished, or those that are sold?—Always on the necessities sold.

2018. You say that they remain at your risk, is that so?—I think so.

2019. To whom do you furnish them?—We furnish them on the order of the commanding officer.

2020. They are then inspected?—They are.

2021. Is not the commanding officer after inspection liable for the amount of the necessities so furnished and inspected?—I think not; I mean to say that the Horse Guards would not enforce the payment for goods which had not been issued. The commanding officer is only liable for the payment of goods which have been issued to the troops.

2022. Do not you send in a bill actually charging the carriage to the commanding officer?—Yes.

2023. Do not you send a bill to the commanding officer including the freight and insurance, which he is liable to pay upon the reception of the articles?—Yes; last year we sent out I suppose about 1000l. worth of goods to the 91st regiment at Corfu; that regiment is now ordered to the East Indies, and a portion of the necessities in store not being suitable to that climate, are returned to us, we paying the carriage. Those necessities had been inspected and passed.

2024. Is not that substantially in contravention of the regulations?—I think not.

2025. Are the necessities charged higher to the soldier than the price you charge them at to the regimental committee?—Abroad there is 3 per cent. put on.

2026. Do you pay the quartermaster to prevent the losses to which you are exposed?—I mentioned first that there were some losses in dealing out the stores; and in the second place, when our supply arrives at the head-quarters of the regiment a portion of it may be rejected, in which case we are liable to take them back or sell them on the spot, bearing the loss. Of course we must have some one to act for us under such circumstances.

2027. I cannot imagine anything more clear than that the stores are at the risk, not of the clothier, but of the commanding officer. The regulation says, whenever there is a change of station and the regimental stores are conveyed by sea, an insurance is to be effected thereon, if practicable. Who effects that insurance?—The commanding officer, I suppose.

2028. If you do not lose the property in the necessities until they are actually sold, why should any insurance be effected to prevent loss to the regiment?—Of course it is to protect whoever would lose.

2029. Who pays the insurance?—I do not know whether in point of fact they are insured. Of course it would be paid by the regiment; whether it would be charged to us I do not know. I am quite sure the commanding officer would not pay it out of his own pocket.

2030. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would not you remember such a charge if it had been made?—I remember no instance of such a charge being made.

2031. Then must we not infer that the regiment bears the expense?—I do not think so.

2032. What other inference can we draw?—I never heard of an insurance of that sort being effected.

2033. In case a vessel was lost who would bear the expense?—I have great doubt about that. I believe in cases where necessities have been destroyed by fire, in several instances the loss has fallen on the clothiers.

2034. (*Chairman.*) After the necessities have been once received at the head quarters of the regiment?—Yes.

2035. Will you state an instance of that sort?—I refer to a case of Mr. Gilpin's.

(*Captain Gordon.*) I can give one instance to which Mr Dolan alludes. They were the necessities of regiments of the line on board the "Kate," which was burnt; but in that case the Government became responsible, they having shipped the necessities.

2036. (*Chairman to Mr. Dolan.*) Can you give us an instance, within your knowledge and experience, of any such loss having been borne by the clothier? Having read this regulation, do you mean to tell the Commissioners that the property in the regimental necessities is not in the regimental committee, or the commanding officer, so soon as they have passed inspection?—My opinion is, that the necessities still remain the property of the clothier.

2037. You think that is the meaning of the regulation?—Yes; I will give a reason. Clause 39 says:—"Whenever a supply shall be procured, if the commanding officer under whose direction it has been ordered should leave the regiment, his successor shall be bound to see the supply issued;" that is all he is bound to do; but if the necessities become unissuable because the regiment has moved to a station where they cannot be issued, the necessities will remain in the stores, and the commanding officer is not bound to pay for them. The clothier is the person bearing the loss, and he is

out of his interest all the time. It is distinctly understood among those who send out supplies of necessities to the regiments that they are only to be paid for them when the funds to do so are provided by the men. No funds arise till they are sold.

2038. In what regiments is that the case?—In every regiment in the service.

2039. (*Colonel French.*) Is not the commanding officer of the regiment able to make any bargain he likes with the clothier?—Of course.

2040. Have you not heard of a case where the commanding officer has informed the clothier beforehand in making the contract with him that he will not be responsible for those articles?—We always consider every order we have from the regiments to be based upon that understanding. We have had repeated losses in various regiments, and the only cases in which we have been able to enforce compensation have been where the goods have been issued, and the money has been lost by defalcation. If the money has been stopped from the men, and it is not paid to us, we have a claim which the Horse Guards will enforce. If we went to the commanding officer and said, "We have delivered 1,000*l.* worth of necessities, pay us for them;" he would say, "No, the goods are in store; you must wait till they are issued;" and if the regiment removed to a place where they could not be issued, because they were not suitable, they would remain in store for ever.

2041. (*Chairman.*) Did you furnish large quantities of necessities for the army in the Crimea?—Yes.

2042. Did any of those necessities ever come back to you?—No.

2043. What became of them?—They were issued to the troops.

2044. Do you mean to say that all the necessities that went to the Crimea were issued to the troops?—Certainly.

2045. Did you get paid by the regiments for all the necessities that were sent out to the Crimea?—We had had a current account with the regiments in the Crimea for several years; we never had a final settlement with any regiment.

2046. Did not you get paid for all the necessities that you sent out to the regiments in the Crimea?—I only know one instance where there is a deficiency.

2047. In all excepting one instance?—Yes.

2048. Do not you know as a matter of fact that there was a large surplus of necessities not issued to the troops?—Not on the private account of the regiment.

2049. (*Colonel French.*) Whatever surplus stores there were were brought home and kept in store?—I think the surplus stores to which the Chairman refers, were articles sent out on public account.

2050. (*Chairman.*) I refer to regimental necessities?—If the regiments had any surplus stores at the end of the Crimean war, they brought those stores home, and issued them afterwards.

Captain HENRY WILLIAM GORDON further examined.

2051. (*Chairman.*) Are you acquainted with the circumstances attending the return of stores from the Crimea?—Yes. An immense quantity of regimental necessities had been sent out to the regiments in the Crimea. The commanding officers had ordered supplies, but similar articles were afterwards furnished free by the Government. When the army came home the commanding officers represented to the War Office that they had an enormous stock of these stores, and requested that the Government would be good enough to relieve them with their clothiers from the stores; and I have no doubt that Mr. Dolan, with others, was paid by the Government direct for those stores.

2052. (*Colonel French.*) Were those ordinary stores?—Ordinary regimental stores ordered by the

commanding officers, with the concurrence of the regimental committee.

(*Mr. Dolan.*) I think the articles to which Captain Gordon refers are articles that were ordered specially during the war, and that could not be issued when the troops came home.

(*Captain Gordon.*) They were nothing of the kind. They were regimental necessities ordered for the soldiers. They were regimental necessities in every sense of the word—shirts, socks, blacking, and so on.

(*Mr. Dolan.*) I can only say, that in the case of no regiment of ours were we paid by the War Office for any articles which could be issued to the troops at home. The only articles I recollect being paid for in that way were neckerchiefs, which were not accord-

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2053. (*Colonel French to Captain Gordon.*) Do you mean to say that the commanding officer who orders a supply of necessaries from the clothier, has not power to make an arrangement with the clothier for those goods, and that he is responsible for any accident that occurs?—In the regiment I was in the commanding officer hardly ever interfered with the regimental committee. The captains of companies drew up an estimate of what would be required for the next six months. Upon that estimate the commanding officer dealt with the tradesmen, and on the arrival of the stores, the regiment was responsible for the custody of, and payment for them. If there was any deficiency, we were at the loss. No doubt, upon a change of pattern, any respectable house would change the things. It would be merely a regimental arrangement. It would be a matter of question whether he would do it. No doubt, a person with whom the regiment had dealt for a long time would do so. Certainly regimental necessaries sent by the contractors away from London, if they once passed the regimental inspection, became the property of the regiment. In my previous evidence I adverted to that, stating that the commanding officers of the regiments in the Crimea were impeded by regimental necessaries to an enormous extent, and they never could have carried them, although they were regimental property.

2054. I am speaking of the custom of the service generally, and not of a particular time. Did you understand me in that sense?—I was speaking more particularly of the difficulties of the regiments during the war, from having the custody of such a large amount of regimental stores. The Government was obliged to ship those stores, the transports not having room, and when the fire occurred on board the "Kate," the stores having been shipped by the Government, the Government had to pay for the stores.

2055. By whom is the tradesman who supplies the necessaries to the regiment selected?—In the regiment I had the honour of serving in, the selection was made by the regimental committee in conjunction with the colonel.

2056. (*Chairman.*) In accordance with the 34th regulation?—Yes.

2057. "Carefully avoiding any unnecessary accumulations"?—Most certainly.

2058. Was that done in the Crimea?—I am afraid not; the accumulation was very great, because the Government supplied the soldiers with a good many things which were regimental necessaries free of expense, and of course they would not take the same things from the stores of the regiment.

2059. (*Colonel French.*) Were you supplied with sealed patterns?—The contractor sent sealed patterns with each supply.

2060. Are the necessaries indented for by the captains?—Unquestionably. The captains in a body indent, and make one general requisition upon the contractor for what stores are likely to be required.

2061. Are the goods examined by a board of officers?—They are examined by the regimental committee, consisting of a field officer and the captains of companies.

2062. Has the quartermaster anything to do with the selection, rejection, or acceptance of any portion of the goods?—Nothing whatever.

2063. Has he any power in the selection of the clothiers?—None.

2064. He has charge of the necessaries, and issues them upon requisitions from the captains of companies?—Yes; but in taking charge of the stores he only performs his duty.

2065. What is done with those requisitions?—They are the foundation of the estimate which is sent forward to the contractor to supply the goods.

2066. Does the captain of a company when he requires necessaries for his men send a requisition to the quartermaster?—Yes.

2067. What is done with those requisitions?—The quartermaster prepares monthly abstracts, and forwards them to the paymaster to be charged against the captain of each company for the supply of those necessaries.

2068. Who pays the clothier?—He is paid by quarterly instalments through the War Office, which are credited in the pay list by the paymaster.

2069. Have you not a board of officers to examine the stores every quarter?—Yes.

2070. Consisting of whom?—Of the officer commanding the regiment, a field officer, the paymaster, and the quartermaster.

2071. Do those officers examine the quartermaster's books to see that the issues correspond with the requisitions of the captains?—The paymaster has to do that on the part of the commanding officer.

2072. Do you see the remainder in store?—We are supposed to see the remainder in store.

2073. Can you suggest anything that could protect the soldier better from any imposition or any kind of collusion between the quartermaster and the tradesman?—I think the present system is perfect in every way for the supply of necessaries to the soldier.

2074. You have heard what Mr. Dolan has said; he makes a present occasionally, he says, to the quartermaster. As the whole of the quartermasters in the service get the same allowance, can it affect the soldier in any way?—I do not see that it can affect the soldier, but if such a circumstance came to the knowledge of any commanding officer, I do not see any other course that he could pursue than to place that quartermaster under arrest.

2075. It is a matter of discipline entirely?—Certainly, it is against the Mutiny Act, and also against the regulations.

2076. Still it cannot damage the soldier's interest?—No.

2077. (*Chairman.*) You say that the quartermaster only does his duty in taking charge of the stores; is that a portion of the quartermaster's regular duty?—It is laid down in the regulations that he is to perform that duty.

2078. Is he paid for it?—It is part of his regimental duty.

2079. Is his regimental pay higher in consequence of having this duty to perform?—I think the quartermaster's pay is low enough, but it is part of his duty, just the same as any other part of his duty.

2080. Just look at that letter (*handing a paper to the witness*), that purports to be a request from a commanding officer to be relieved from a certain payment in respect of necessaries. The reply of the War Office appears to be, "No, these are yours, you cannot be relieved from them." Does not that show that the commanding officer is liable?—Certainly; I am under the impression in the Land Transport Corps they had ordered no less than 10,000*l.* worth of stores from Messrs. Hebbert and Co.; I was asked to take charge of them in the Crimea, and I refused on the part of the Government to take them. Ultimately, on their arrival in England it was represented to the War Office that the regiment could hardly pay for them, and I believe that opened the door to the receipt of, and payment for the whole of the surplus necessaries that came home. A very large amount was paid on that account, part of the necessaries having come to Weedon, and some of them here. The socks that have been alluded to in the course of this inquiry are part of those necessaries. The Government gave socks, shirts, and other articles which the regiment had ordered, and then the Government having given them, the soldiers refused of course to pay for those ordered by the regiments.

2081. (*Colonel French.*) If I were in command of a regiment, should I not be at liberty without any interference from the War Office, to make any bargain I thought proper with Mr. Dolan, of any other clothier, that he would take the responsibility. I might be obliged through circumstances to order a certain quantity of things, but I could say to Mr.

Dolan, "I will sell these things to the best advantage, and of course as quick as I can, but I cannot be responsible for any accident that occurs to them." If Mr. Dolan chose to agree to this, could not he do so?—Certainly, any agreement can be made, except that by doing so you would act in opposition to the regulations.

2082. Provided I supplied the soldier at the regulation price, because there is a price laid down which cannot be exceeded, I conceive in that case the War Office or the Horse Guards would have nothing to do as between me and my clothier?—Excepting that you would hardly get the regimental committee to act as a body in that proceeding.

2083. It would be to the advantage of the regimental committee if the clothier took upon himself all the responsibility of the stores that were not issued, because otherwise the expense, in case of accident, would fall upon the captains of companies?—It would be to their advantage if you could make an agreement of that kind; but the War Office regulations lay down that you are to provide necessaries in a certain way, and on the receipt of the necessaries from the clothier they would be accompanied with a monied invoice, in which the insurance, the carriage, and those items would be placed. The duty of the regimental committee, if on a foreign station, would be to put 3 per cent. on at once. That per-centage has lately been reduced to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for nearer home stations. The price for each article is fixed, and the commanding officer notifies in regimental orders the price that is to be paid by the soldiers. That is the way the War Office regulations lay it down, and I do not think any other arrangement being entered into with the tradesman would be permitted.

2084. If the tradesman chooses to take the responsibility upon himself, what difference can that make to the soldier, provided the price is not altered?—I will give an instance of a commanding officer ordering regimental necessaries direct without the authority of the regimental committee. I say without authority, because very few commanding officers would take upon themselves to do so. On going to China the commanding officer of the regiment to which I belonged took upon himself to order a quantity of cloth trousers—we refused to have anything to do with them, because they were not stores that would be required in the country. I do not know what became of the trousers after we refused to take them. The regimental committee, and not the officer commanding, orders the necessaries from the clothier.

2085. (*Chairman.*) Can you refer to the regulation, if any, that prescribes the price of the necessaries?—

I think there is a regulation that necessaries are not to exceed certain prices. The new clothing warrant, I think, lays down the price. Under the old system no prices were fixed at all. The regimental committee was responsible, and got the soldiers' necessaries by the cheapest mode they could.

2086. I presume the officers, generally speaking, would get the necessaries as cheap as they could, and the clothier would sell them as dear as he could; but in the interest of the soldier, what is there in these regulations to prevent the tradesmen charging any price they pleased?—The captains of companies would not allow any improper price to be charged by the clothier.

2087. Was there any other security?—That security was enough; we would change our clothier if he did not supply the necessaries as cheap as we could get them supplied in the market.

2088. The price paid by the soldier is to be determined not by any regulation of the Horse Guards or elsewhere, but by the amount of the tradesmen's prices with the additional charges?—Yes.

2089. Supposing the regimental board were indifferent to the price that their soldiers paid, the tradesmen might charge anything?—The number of officers employed upon the regimental board would render it morally impossible for anything of the kind to take place.

2090. Mr. Dolan said the other day that great coats were borrowed by the English from the French in the Crimea, and that London contractors were supplying the French with great coats at the same time?

(*Mr. Dolan.*) I believe that was stated before the Sebastopol committee. I do not know it of my own knowledge.

2091. (*Chairman to Captain Gordon.*) From your practical experience on the spot do you know how that was?—We got no great coats whatever from the French army, and nothing except provisions at one time in Balaklava, to a very small extent; in fact, they got more from us than we ever received from them, in the shape of material, for their right siege train, shot, shell, guns, and mortars. We offered them a quantity of clothing, but they refused to take it.

(*Mr. Dolan.*) Whatever interpretation may be put upon the regulation, there are implied agreements with every regiment. The practice we have always acted upon is not to throw any loss upon the commanding officer, unless the money has been actually stopped from the men; if it has not been stopped, whatever loss has arisen we have always borne ourselves for many years.

Mr. CHARLES BISCHOFF examined.

2092. (*Chairman.*) Do you wish to make any statement to confirm what Mr. Dolan has said?—I can confirm it, and I wish to add some other observations.

2093. Are you in the habit of giving a commission, or whatever you call it, to quartermasters?—To a certain extent. I have inquired into the practice at the house of Messrs. Hebbert and Co., and I find that allowances have been made to quartermasters after the money has been sent home for services actually performed, but no fee or reward of any kind whatsoever, that I can trace, has ever been offered to any party as an inducement to him to procure business. We happen at this very moment to have accounts outstanding with regiments in India and the colonies, to a very large extent; no less than 37,500*l.* is outstanding and owing to us from different regiments, so far as the account of goods shipped goes. We have no claim, at least we feel that we have no claim whatever, under the regulations, upon the lieutenant-colonel, or the officers in command of the regiment, until the goods have been issued to the soldier, and the money stopped out of the soldier's pay.

2094. It is, in point of fact, *debitum in presenti solvendum in futuro*?—Exactly; the goods remain, as a merchant would call it, upon sale or return. I quite agree with what has been stated, that upon the strict interpretation of the language of the warrant, there can be no doubt that the property does become the property of the regiment after the requisition has been signed and the goods approved; but practically it is not so. I hastily this morning desired some few letters to be looked out, and here I have a bundle of letters from regiments in different parts of the world, one and all asking us to take back the goods because they were going on to India, or from one place to another. I have brought, thinking it might clear up the subject, a letter from the 94th regiment, from Plymouth:—"I have, agreeably to your request, made an application to the Secretary of State." This was in consequence of our suggestion to the lieutenant-colonel, that he should make application to the Secretary of State, that the necessaries should be taken into the public store. He says that he has made the application, and encloses the reply. The reply from the War Office is, that as the articles referred to are not public pro-

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party, the request cannot be complied with, the result of which was that the goods came back again to our store.

2095. You being the person responsible, tried, through the commanding officer, to get the public to pay for them, and take them into store?—For the purpose of issuing them as free kits, or in any other way they might think fit. My opinion is a poor one in comparison with the opinion of those who have been much more practically engaged in the business, and if you will call Mr. Gilpin, or Mr. Prater, or Mr. Shaw, or any of those parties, all of whom authorized me yesterday to say that I might use their names, they will say that such has been the invariable practice.

2096. (*Colonel French.*) Are you aware that you are placing the quartermaster in a dangerous position by making him an allowance?—Whenever a quartermaster demanded it as a matter of right it has been invariably refused by us; but after the account has been got well home, and he has taken care that the stores did not become obsolete, and avoiding all those awkward and difficult questions which do arise, in dealing with a promiscuous stock like necessities, it has been the practice of the house to present the quartermaster with something. As far as it went in our house, it would not amount to one per cent.; but a present has been given to the quartermaster. I believe the practice is universal in all houses; therefore, I do not hesitate for one moment to admit it. It is, no doubt, very much to be regretted. I was very glad to hear Captain Gordon state distinctly that it is utterly impossible that the soldier can in any way be damaged by such a payment to the quartermaster. The soldier is not bound in any shape or way to go to the stores for his articles. All he is required to do is to provide himself with the regulation pattern, and if he can buy his shirts cheaper at one place, or better to suit his own taste, he does so. On foreign stations, where the soldier cannot get the articles that he wants, then it is a very great convenience to him to be able to obtain them at a price very far below anything that the articles could be got for at a retail shop anywhere. I say unhesitatingly that I believe no damage whatsoever accrues to the public service, or to the soldier; but, on the contrary, to a certain extent, a benefit, because if the tradesman had not some person to look after his goods when they were moved with the regiment, I am quite satisfied that the soldier would not get the goods at the price that he does get them. We find, practically speaking, when a regiment is at home (taking Plymouth, or any place where there is easy access to get those things), the requisitions upon the tradesmen of the regiment are, comparatively speaking, nothing—very small indeed. The soldier on a foreign station pays by degrees. I believe 1s. 6d. a week is the extent of the stoppage that can be allowed. Instead of having to pay 8s. or 9s. at once, it is merely stopped out of his pay. I am quite sure that the whole of the five or six houses I have named, (*Mr. Dolan says that he has over 25,000l. abroad,*) which are the principal houses in London, have not less than 100,000l. abroad in the shape of necessities at their own risk and jeopardy.

2097. (*Chairman.*) Do you think that is a necessary or an unnecessary accumulation?—I should say anything but unnecessary, because I presume no requisition is made upon the tradesmen for articles that the board of officers and the captains of companies do not consider requisite and necessary. Certainly it is not the tradesmen's interest to send goods abroad without being paid.

2098. (*Colonel French.*) Is it not a sort of speculation on your part, that you send out goods to be paid for at hazard?—Yes; and which we should not send if we did not know, from our own experience, that it was a requisition which would in all cases be necessary for the regiment.

2099. (*Chairman.*) Is there any other point to which you wish to direct our attention?—I was very

desirous of making a short statement in regard to the evidence given by Quartermaster Grant before you a short time ago, in which he stated in substance, that he had made a saving of 15,000l. in one year upon the artillery clothing. A paper was put in before the Committee of the House of Commons by Mr. Ramsay, (*Parliamentary Paper, 1858, No. 398, App. No. 7, page 120,*) stating the prices at which certain work had been done by the clothier of the artillery, and that paper was handed over to a gentleman now in the room to look at, and to ascertain if he dissented from or agreed with it. No opportunity occurred before the Committee of the House of Commons of explaining it. That paper has been again referred to in Quartermaster Grant's evidence before you. Quartermaster Grant no doubt has been very anxious to make his workshop appear as profitable as possible, and is very praiseworthy for doing so; but he is labouring, I believe, under a great mistake. The prices of clothing with which the comparison is made by Quartermaster Grant were arranged between the War department and the contractor without any competition.

2100. Do you know that?—Anybody can know it; the documents are at the War Office.

(*Mr. Howell.*) I do not recollect any contract with Stephens and Clark, for a quantity of clothing being made without competition. Mr. Gwyn, who is the chief clerk in my office, is present, and will know the fact.

(*Mr. Gwyn.*) The contract was renewed with Messrs. Stephens and Clark without going to competition.

2101. (*Chairman to Mr. Gwyn.*) Was the original contract by competition?—The original contract was submitted to competition. I believe Messrs. Dolan and all the army clothiers were written to when the original contract was made with Messrs. Stephens and Clark. That contract was subsequently renewed, and carried on for some few years.

2102. Was the renewal without competition?—Yes.

2103. Do you remember about the date of the original contract?—I should think about nine years ago.

2104. Do you remember the date of the renewal?—It was a triennial contract, and I think it was renewed twice.

(*Mr. Bischoff delivered in a statement with reference to Quartermaster Grant's comparative statement of the costs of artillery clothing. Vide Appendix No. 5.*)

2105. (*Colonel French.*) Are you prepared to furnish clothing of the same quality and at the same price that it is made by Quartermaster Grant?—We consulted together in the house upon the subject, and as far as we can judge of the prices given in by Quartermaster Grant the other day, I should say, yes.

2106. (*Chairman.*) And fit the men?—Yes, provided we had the ordinary facilities.

2107. Where would you fit the men?—In the same way that Quartermaster Grant or anybody does. When we have to supply the metropolitan police, for instance, every man is fitted; they are taken by a division at a time, and there is no difficulty about it.

2108. If you made the clothing, where would your workshop be?—The clothing would be made up in London. The artillery are at Woolwich, and the clothing would be fitted the same as any other regiment is fitted. We make an allowance to pay the expenses of the regimental tailor for all such alterations as may be requisite in fitting, the same as everybody must in sending made up clothing. With respect to the artillery abroad, Quartermaster Grant can have no advantages from his establishment at Woolwich.

2109. Has he not the advantage when a recruit joins at Woolwich of measuring him on the spot? Would any contractor have the same facilities, even if the Government were disposed to employ him?—Not the same, because there are certain expenses—the clothing of the metropolitan police is something

analogous—(I do not know how many the artillery force at home at present consists of); but there is no difficulty in arranging for the metropolitan police, or any of the regiments at home. We fit the men in divisions, so as not to take them off duty at the same time; it is done in a short space of time by sending a proper person down to take the measure of the men.

2110. (*Colonel French.*) If 100,000 suits were required suddenly, to meet some emergency, how many could you furnish, and in what time?—It would depend upon whether the ordinary regulation cloth was used. It would take about two months to get the cloth manufactured, if we had nothing in store for it, and then in a month after that time we should make very large deliveries. We should never think of undertaking to supply 100,000 men; one house could not do it.

2111. How many suits could you furnish in two months?—If we had no cloth in stock adapted to the requisition we should require ten weeks before we could deliver any suits with certainty; but in ten weeks we could deliver 5,000, and then we could go on delivering 1,000 or 2,000 a week as long as they liked.

2112. If you were in the habit, as formerly, of furnishing regiments, would you not keep a constant stock of cloth on hand?—We always had an ample supply for every requisition that was made upon us. Take the instance of the Crimean war. In the autumn of 1854 the recruiting was, I believe, larger than it has been for the Indian war, and there is not an instance of the regimental clothier being in arrear for the supply of those recruits. The clothing was ready for every recruit, generally speaking, before he was fit to wear it. Every regiment that Messrs. Hebbert and Co. had (although the colonel system was changed, we were still fulfilling the duties in 1854, when the

Crimean war began,) was supplied with the whole of the clothing that was wanted. I should say that the clothing was supplied, but we sent it to Messrs. Hayter and Howell in Mark Lane, and it was most unfortunately shipped in the "Prince," which was lost. That was no fault of anybody; but it was the cause of a great deal of the misery in the Crimea.

2113. (*Chairman.*) The Government undertook the shipment in that case?—Yes.

2114. That was under the new regulation?—Yes; in the ordinary course of events in no human probability would that clothing all have gone in one bottom; we always insured in the olden time for our shipments, and the pecuniary loss would have been saved, but against an act of God nobody can protect himself. The whole of the clothiers will confirm what I have said, that the clothing of the regiments was all prepared in the autumn of 1854, and every regiment had its clothing for the year 1854-5 in due course.

(*Mr. Howell.*) I do not think there was any of Messrs. Hebbert's clothing on board the "Prince." A great deal of the clothing on board the "Prince" was warm clothing, and there was the clothing for two battalions of guards, but the whole value of what was called colonel's clothing shipped on board the "Prince," was not more than 7,000*l.*

2115. (*Colonel French.*) Did not the Government supply the soldiers with an extra suit of clothing in the Crimea?—Yes; it was a free gift.

2116. By whom was it supplied?—By the clothiers.

2117. Was it supplied in due time to be useful?—I believe so, so far as we were concerned; at that time we never were in the habit of being in arrear. I state broadly that all our supplies, whether for India, New Zealand, or Canada, wherever the troops might be, were always shipped in due time.

Captain HENRY CLERK further examined.

Capt. H. Clerk.

2118. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were not some four-wheeled carriages manufactured by Deane and Dray for the Crimea?—Several hundreds.

2119. (*Chairman.*) What kind of waggons were they?—They were for the Land Transport Corps, and for the general service of the army, for forage and other purposes. We paid a very high sum for them, owing to the haste in which we wanted them to be made.

2120. Were they sent out to the Crimea?—Yes.

2121. At what price were they made?—The contract price was 35*l.* 10*s.* and upwards.

2122. Were those carriages returned from the Crimea?—They came back again, such of them as were in existence.

2123. Had they been much used in the Crimea?—Yes.

2124. They did not come back as new carriages?—They were knocked to pieces. There are some in store which never have been issued yet, which were delivered in completion of a contract entered into just at the close of the war. None of these have been sold.

2125. Have you disposed of any, except the used-up vehicles returned from the Crimea?—They have all been returned from the Crimea; some may have merely gone towards the end of the war, and been sent back before they were used.

2126. Some might be new?—Yes.

2127. Have those been disposed of?—None have been sold to my knowledge.

2128. (*Mr. Turner to Captain Gordon.*) Can you give a return of the quantity sold, and the prices at which they were sold?—Yes.

The same was handed in.

Military Store Office, 10th November 1858.

STATEMENT showing the number of Cars, Carts and Waggons sold in the Royal Arsenal in the year 1856, and the number remaining in Store at this date.

Description.	Sold by public Auction.	Number in Store.	Average price sold for each.
Cars (Irish) for sick men - -	30	165	£ 5 0 0
Army Works Corps - -	29	—	2 18 0
Forage, McAdams - -	452	906	2 6 0
Hospital - -	9	—	3 12 0
Carts { Maltese - -	135	170	1 7 0
Sir Joseph Paxton's - -	18	—	1 10 0
Water - -	45	104	3 10 0
Ambulance - -	31	169	12 0 0
Flanders - -	10	125	2 10 0
Waggons { Land Transport pattern - -	566	960	6 4 0
Forage { N.P. - -	—	400	—
	1,325	2,999	

No carts or waggons, &c., were sold by private contract, or otherwise than by public auction, and the enclosed is the only offer that can be traced for private sale.

WM. MORRIS,
Deputy Military Storekeeper.

No. 2,705.

Received August 11, 1856.

SIR,
Swan Lane, London, August 6, 1856.
Having purchased 25 waggons at the public sale at Woolwich on the 29th July, we find the average price realized was 6*l.* 3*s.* each; this will, of course, be reduced by expense of sale, &c., about 5*s.* each. We find we can, by making an effort with our numerous agents, push off a quantity at a low price, through the ordinary channels of trade.

WOOLWICH. We therefore beg to offer to take 500 of these waggons, complete, at 5*l.* 15*s.* each. We would also take one thousand of the Land Transport carts at 4*l.* each.

Capt. H. Clerk. Respectfully soliciting the favour of a reply,
10th Nov. 1858. We are, &c.

The Director General (Signed) Wm. DRAY & Co.
of Stores, Whitehall.

August 7, 1856.

Refer to civil officers, Woolwich, for report.

(Signed) J. R. G.

War Department, Woolwich, August 9, 1856.

We beg to suggest that the consideration of this offer be deferred until we ascertain what the waggons or carts realize at future sales, when we think it likely better prices will be obtained.

(Signed) NAT. PELLATT, Storekeeper.

Wm. MORRIS, Deputy Storekeeper.

2129. Has any further attempt been made to effect sales of these waggons?—No; but I think the royal carriage department would say that they would be of no use for any future service.

2130. Had you more than were necessary in the Crimea?—Not more than were necessary if the army had taken the field. Those that were sold were of the worst description; the better ones being retained.

2131. (*Chairman to Captain Clerk.*) How many of those waggons were furnished by Deane and Dray at 35*l.* 10*s.*?—400. They were all received by the carriage department, examined, and sent out to the Crimea.

2132. Did not Deane and Dray supply both carts and waggons?—They supplied both waggons and carts; their waggons were 35*l.* 10*s.*, of which they supplied 400, and they supplied 500 carts at 21*l.* 10*s.*

2133. What were the carts for?—They were forage carts.

2134. It appears that 452 carts were sold at 2*l.* 6*s.*?—Yes. Deane and Dray had another contract for 145 forage waggons in addition to the 400; they were at 42*l.*

2135. Were those a new pattern?—Those are some that are in store at present, those were received at the end of the war. High prices were paid on account of the time of delivery. The necessities of the army in the Crimea for those waggons was far more important than any money we could pay for them. There was a large price paid because the deliveries were made in an unexampled short time. One firm supplied 100 waggons a week, and 20 carts a day; they were sent up by railway from Yorkshire, which added to the price, but the country reaped the benefit from the soldier having the carts and waggons.

2136. (*Mr. Turner.*) Can you give the prices paid to other houses?—Crosskill, of Beverley, supplied 300 waggons at 42*l.*, 400 waggons at 40*l.*, 300 waggons at 43*l.* 10*s.*, and 200 waggons at 43*l.* 10*s.* He supplied 1,200 waggons.

2137. (*Colonel French.*) What number of waggons were supplied altogether?—2,205 waggons between the 24th of April 1855 and the 16th of April 1856.

2138. (*Mr. Turner.*) Who was answerable for making them too light?—The contractor made them according to the specification; we are answerable for them.

2139. Who made the specification?—We made it according to the request of the Commander-in-chief in the Crimea. Lord Raglan wrote us an order, that on no account were those waggons to exceed 8 cwt. or 8½ cwt. The original requisition was from Colonel M^r Murdo, the officer commanding the Land Transport Corps.

2140. They made a miscalculation, I suppose, as to the real stability required?—They found the country very heavy; those waggons were not fitted for the mud of Balaklava, or the Commander-in-chief might have changed his movements. They asked for the things to be as light as possible; they complained of the waggons that were first sent out of a strong construction. Our positive orders were not to exceed 8½ cwt., but they were 9½ cwt. when they actually went out, and they were much too light for the rough usage they were subjected to.

2141. (*Chairman.*) Had you any authentic means of knowing the description of waggon required? Was a pattern sent or was it determined upon here?—We made the pattern waggon in the carriage department.

2142. You had something like a requisition from Lord Raglan?—For number and weight we made them as strong as we could, keeping as near as possible to the weight to which we were limited.

2143. Was the specification one which afterwards turned out inconsistent with stability?—Yes.

2144. (*Mr. Turner.*) Of what description of wood were the waggons constructed?—Principally ash bodies.

2145. (*Chairman.*) Can you suggest anything by which the loss accruing from those waggons could have been avoided under the circumstances?—Nothing; it is an unavoidable loss; it would have been a far greater loss if the troops had taken the field, and had not any means of moving.

2146. (*Mr. Turner.*) The mistake having been made, and the country being in possession of all these vehicles, do you recommend their being kept in store?—They are utterly useless for army purposes; they might be very useful for market gardeners for light purposes. We have gone into a calculation of what it would cost to break them up for firewood and old iron, and the prices realized by the sale are greater than the value of the waggons in the shape of old material; they can only be sold from time to time. Most of them have been very much knocked about.

2147. Inasmuch as the waggons and carts to which you have referred are not all sold, although you think they will not be of much use, of course we cannot come to any very correct calculation as to what the total loss will be upon the whole of them. I apprehend it will be about 100,000*l.*, and I think you are of opinion that that is a loss that could not be avoided?—Yes; the 2,999 had better be sold.

(*Captain Gordon.*) On the embarkation of the army in the Crimea no stores of any kind (except a pile of coke) were abandoned. All unserviceable stores were also shipped, and among the rest, all the unserviceable and broken carts, which are those that were sold. The good matériel is in store, and although not fit for an army on active service, yet they are quite so for home duties, and the Secretary of State for War has ordered their being issued to the military train, artillery, and other services until the whole are used up.

2148. (*Chairman.*) There was a statement made before the Contracts' Committee on the 23rd of April last, (Parliamentary Paper, No. 328, 1858, Questions 1635-9,) which I am told refers to Mr. Walter Langton; are you cognizant of any transactions with Mr. Langton with reference to wheel stocks?—The only transaction we can find is this; we recommended, on account of his failing in the delivery of stocks, that his contract should be cancelled, taking into account the extraordinarily high price he was getting. On the 8th of April 1854, the inspector of the carriage department, now called the superintendent, Colonel Tulloh, wrote to the then Board of Ordnance:—

"Sir, with reference to an application made to me this day by the civil officer at Woolwich, requesting to be informed whether Messrs. Langton and Son can be allowed a period of six months longer to complete their contract for stocks under the Board's order of the 16th of September 1853, I have the honour to state that, as the price of Messrs. Langton and Son is very high, and believing they could be obtained much cheaper, I feel it my duty under the circumstances to recommend that tenders be called for, for the remaining quantity of elm stocks, which will in all probability be obtained at a much less price than the price required by Messrs. Langton."

2140. Has there been any transaction since with Messrs. Langton?—The answer from the Board of Ordnance was to acquaint them that, as out of 2,300 of 15" × 15" and out of 1,750 14" × 14" stocks, they had only supplied 291 of the former and 361 of the latter,

the Board, therefore, desire that a penalty of 5 per cent. be laid upon the amount of stocks remaining due, computed upon their contract price, and to be deducted from their account rendered for the stocks delivered by them; and further, that the contract be then considered as terminated. Their contract was cancelled, and we have had no more dealings with them as far as stocks were concerned, except that the Board of Ordnance, on the 25th of April 1854, allowed them to send in about 1,000 stocks, which they had ready for delivery, at a reduced price of 15s. for 15" stocks, and 13s. for 14" stocks; they sent in 789, of which 145 were received as 15" and 284 as 14" stocks, the remaining 360 were rejected.

2150. Do you know what his contract was?—His first contract price was 18s. for 15" × 15", or 36s. a pair, and 15s. for 14" × 14", or 30s. a pair.

2151. Is that a high price?—A good deal higher than usual.

2152. Were there many rejections?—Out of 1,045 which they sent in, only 652 were received, namely, 291 of 15" × 15" and 361 of 14" × 14"; 393 were rejected.

2153. Do you ever buy wheels?—Not artillery wheels, we bought cart wheels.

2154. The witness said (Question 1638):—"It is all very well to say it is only an assumption, but supposing the facts should turn out to be that a wheelwright has afterwards bought these very rejections, made them into wheels, and sold them to the Government." Has anything of the sort happened to your knowledge with any rejections of Langton's or anybody else's?—The stocks rejected as unfit for a nine pounder gun wheel would do very well for a common carriage, such as the land transport waggon, or for wheels requiring a stock of smaller diameter.

2155. Do you bore holes through them when they are received?—No; elm stocks always have holes bored through where the pipe box fits.

2156. Does the fact of having that hole bored through them render them unavailable for other purposes if they are rejected?—No; they could be reduced in size, but there would be a loss in turning them down. Those we reject would be of very little use for the trade.

2157. Does the hole mark them as having been rejected by the Government?—The hole is no mark of rejection, but anybody would know them to have been supplied to the Government, because nobody but the Government would use such a large sized stock, and if they were in the market it would be known that they had been rejected.

2158. What does it cost you to make one pair of those wheels?—Such a wheel as we should use those stocks for would be 7*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* per pair.

2159. "He said, 'I will undertake to find a man who would make the wheels, tire them, paint them, and put them on to a gun for about the price that the Government pay me for the wood untouched'?"—If he will undertake that, and we can pass the wheels, I should recommend his offer being accepted.

2160. What would it cost the Government for the wood of a wheel untouched?—The value of the material of one pair of wheels is about 5*l.*

2161. Did you ever pay Messrs. Langton or anybody else as much as 7*l.* 10*s.*?—We never get those wheels from contractors, we always make them ourselves. The price at which we got wheels for the Land Transport Corps carts from the Pimlico wheel works, and the Borough wheel works, which are the only two large steam factories that make wheels, was 6*l.* a pair for light wheels, and that is about the regular price charged.

2162. Was Messrs. Langton's contract by competition?—We do not know anything about that.

Adjourned to Wednesday, the 17th instant, at 12 o'clock.

WOOLWICH.

Wednesday, 17th November 1858.

PRESENT :

Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

| HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Colonel ALEXANDER THOMAS TULLOH, Royal Artillery, examined.

2163. (*Chairman.*) What is your office here?—I am superintendent of the Royal Carriage department.

2164. How long have you filled that office?—Since October 1853.

2165. Did your office exist previously to that time?—Yes, under another denomination. When I was first appointed I was called "inspector of the Carriage department." In 1855 the denomination was altered to "superintendent."

2166. Have you additional pay for that office?—Yes, I receive 500*l.* a year in addition to my regimental pay, the same as all the other superintendents.

2167. You are thoroughly cognizant of the organization of your department for the last five years?—Yes.

2168. You have prepared for the Commissioners a statement of the books in use in your department, and also a statement of the system pursued?—I have.

The statements were read as follows :—

STATEMENT of the Books in the Office of the ROYAL CARRIAGE DEPARTMENT, for the TRANSACTION of PUBLIC BUSINESS, showing the Purpose for which they are kept; prepared for the information of the Royal Commission.

Royal Carriage Office,
November 9, 1858.

STORE BRANCH.

No. 1. *Book of Annual Demands.*—Contains the annual demands for each year, which is prepared as follows. The state of the stores is taken into account, and an estimate or demand framed upon the outstanding orders; provision being made for the prospective orders, between the time of making the demand, and the grant for the financial year to which it applies, with the exception of timber, a portion of which is demanded for seasoning. This demand is trans-

WOOLWICH.

Capt. H. Clerk.

10th Nov. 1858.

WOOLWICH.

Colonel
A. T. Tulloh,
R.A.

17th Nov. 1858.

WOOLWICH.

Colonel
A. T. Tulloh,
R.A.

17th Nov. 1858.

mitted annually with the estimated cost of the articles, and their proposed appropriation, to the Secretary of State for War, and forms the vote for timber and stores for the department for that year.

No. 2. *Instalment Book*.—Records the quarterly demands which are prepared in part of the above, so soon as the annual demand is authorized, which also show the estimated cost of the articles, and in addition, the manner in which they are recommended to be obtained, whether by contract or otherwise.

No. 3. *Ledgers—Store*.—In which the receipt and issue of all material are inserted, whether from storekeeper or contractor, dockyard, Tower, &c., and which is balanced annually and transmitted with the necessary vouchers to Pall Mall for examination.

No. 4. *Raw Material*.—Containing the record of the whole of the raw material, its cost, and dates of various deliveries and payment by certificate, together with the names of the parties or departments by whom the supplies are made.

No. 5. *Production*.—An account, in alphabetical arrangement, of the whole of the articles manufactured in the department, with their value and date of delivery to storekeeper for each year.

No. 6. *Pattern and Machinery*.—An account of all the patterns and machines in operation in the department, showing the remain each year, of all such articles on charge, which is transmitted to Pall Mall annually for examination.

No. 7. *Invoices—Register*.—Containing the receipt of all the invoices on which the stores are delivered from contract; these stores are inspected by competent persons of the department, who state on each invoice, whether they are fit or unfit for the service, and the quantity received and rejected.

No. 8. *Register of Bills*.—Comprising a register of the bills transmitted to the War Office, and certified for, under the various items of expenditure, by which the state of the votes can at any time be ascertained.

No. 9. *Timber Measurements*.—Showing the particulars of all the consignments of timber, English and Foreign, from brokers or contractors, and the accurate measurements of each delivery in detail.

No. 10. *Pattern and Delivery*.—Delivery order and counterpart of patterns issued to contractors for guidance in manufacture, showing the nature of the articles, date of authority, and the amount of deposit paid.

No. 11. *Requisitions on Storekeeper*.—Daily register and demand of such articles as can be supplied from the storekeeper for departmental service, from which is formed the monthly voucher of articles received from the principal military storekeeper.

No. 12. *Store Journal*.—Containing a copy for reference of the whole of the invoices, which are sent to Pall Mall with the ledger.

No. 13. *Specifications*.—Entry of all specifications for every article of a nature ordered to be put out to contract, whether for timber, metals, machinery, or manufactured articles.

No. 14. *Foremen's Demands*.—Containing the daily demands made by the masters and foremen through the constructor, for stores and timber, under the various orders for manufacture in progress.

No. 15. *Constructor's Reports*.—Comprising statements of the whole of the articles manufactured in each week, together with the stations to which they are to be delivered, and the date of the authority under which they are made; forming at the same time the vouchers of the production ledger, and the delivery notes to the principal military storekeeper.

CASH BRANCH.

No. 16. *Cheque Books, 9 in number*.—Containing the whole of the names and trades of the men, numerically arranged, together with the rate of pay per hour and time made by each man, whether ordinary working or extra hours.

No. 17. *Entry or Description*.—Giving a description of each man entered for the service, and the particulars required by regulation.

No. 18. *Bill Book*.—In which are entered copies of all the various cash vouchers.

No. 19. *Miscellaneous Returns*.—This book is indispensable, and, as its name denotes, contains copies of returns called for from time to time for the War Department.

No. 20. *Income Tax*.—Account of all men liable to assessment for the current year.

No. 21. *Special Services*.—Register of men who receive extra allowances for particular services.

No. 22. *Sick Book*.—Register of all men absent from injury or sickness, rate of pay, time of absence, and nature of employment.

No. 23. *Canvas Bills*.—An account of the canvas work performed by widows of deserving men of the department, such as wagon covers, &c., showing the quantity and cost.

No. 24. *Account Current*.—Record of money transactions showing the debtor and creditor account of all payments in the department for wages, &c.

No. 25. *Wounds and Hurts*.—Entry of certificates of injuries on duty, showing cause of accident, character of the man, and recommendation thereon.

No. 26. *Black Book*.—Register of all men dismissed from the various departments of the Royal Arsenal for improper conduct.

No. 27. *Cash Journal*.—Register of all cash transactions.

No. 28. *Weekly Abstract*.—Abstract of the whole of the time, calculated from proof sheets prepared weekly from each cheque book, prior to laying out the money on the pay boards.

No. 29. *Quarterly ditto*.—Abstract prepared from the weekly one, of which it is an accurate proof, and a copy of which is transmitted with the vouchers and account current to the accountant-general, Pall Mall, each quarter.

No. 30. *Candidate Book*.—Register of Applicants for employment of every description, showing their recommendations and particulars of each case.

No. 31. *Imprests*.—Entry of monthly demands for money in anticipation, on the principal military Storekeeper, for the expenses of the department, which is afterwards drawn weekly as required.

There are, besides, in connexion with the cash branch, the following records, whose names denote their use, viz. :—

Travelling claims.
Authorities for promotion.
Medical Reports on entry.
Leave Lists.
Transfers and Vacancies.
Payments by substitute.

CORRESPONDENCE BRANCH.

No. 32. *Summary*.—Weekly account of work performed, orders received or cancelled, and wages paid for superintendence, artificers, and labourers.

No. 33. *Outstanding Orders*.—Quarterly account in detail of all the orders on the books of the department for manufacture; progress made therein each quarter, and work remaining to be done; with the time in which it is estimated the orders still outstanding can be completed.

No. 34. *Price Book*.—Detailed account of labour and materials, with the cost of every item of articles manufactured in this department.

No. 35. *Military Artificers*.—Record of the military artificers of the Royal Artillery and Royal Military Train, with trades, and dates of entry, qualification, and withdrawal.

Changes in Ordnance.—Indexed authorities for all changes in the patterns of constructions of articles for the service.

Returns.—Copy of all returns and estimates called for by the Secretary of State for War.

General Orders.—Orders from the War department indexed.

No. 36. *Orders*.—Record of all orders for manufacture, and equipment for land and sea service, coast defences, &c., at home and abroad.

Departmental Orders.—Orders issued from time to time by the head of the department to the officers, masters, and workmen, on subjects affecting the department only.

Stores Examined.—Registers of the requisitions of the principal military storekeeper for the examination of stores.

Half-yearly Returns.—Returns required by the accountant-general.

Requisitions.—Record of requisitions for building repairs, gas, &c., on Inspector of works, and Inspector of machinery.

Valuations.—Record of all valuations of stores called for by order of the Secretary of State for War, for the various branches of the service.

No. 37. *Register*.—Dates and subjects of all letters received from the War department, outports, and various stations, contractors, storekeepers, dockyards, &c. &c.

Letter Books and Indexes.—

War Office.	{ Letters received.
	{ do. issued.
Outports and	{ Letters received.
Miscellaneous.	{ do. issued.

Electric messages and answers.

A variety of correspondence is carried on, of which no record is kept, such as answers to applicants for employment, and questions of minor importance with contractors and others.

ALEXANDER T. TULLOH,
Colonel, Royal Artillery,
Superintendent of Royal Carriage Department.

MEMORANDUM of the System of Account pursued in the Royal Carriage Office.

Royal Carriage Office, November 10, 1858.

1. All orders for manufacture and for equipments for land and sea service, coast defences, &c. at home and abroad are recorded in the order book, and receive their register number, under which they are designated throughout their progress, and form the basis of the demands for stores.

2. These orders are abstracted in detail, and the time which they will occupy in completing, computed into the number of days' work, and from the number of woodworkers is ascertained the estimate for wages.

3. The annual demand of stores is framed on the orders outstanding, together with a prospective provision for such as may come forward between the time of making the demand and its being voted, or on a list of articles furnished by the War department, as in 1858-9, which is then added to the outstanding orders, and a proportion taken of timber for seasoning. In this demand is shown the value of the articles, and the service to which they are to be appropriated.

4. The number of woodworkers being ascertained, to which the whole of the other trades and labourers bear a relative proportion, the working establishment and office staff is computed, for the annual estimate for wages, and salaries.

5. As soon as the votes are authorized, a quarterly instalment of the demand is prepared, showing the value of the articles, and the manner in which the supply is recommended to be obtained, whether by contract or otherwise.

6. Specifications of the articles, whether timber or stores, are prepared, detailing particulars and limit of time for their supply.

7. Patterns are issued where necessary, and deposits received from contractors, to ensure their return in the same order as delivered.

8. On receipt of the invoices from contractors and delivery vouchers for stores, the articles or raw material therein described are examined by competent persons of the department, and the quantity received or rejected noted thereon, a register of which is kept, and the invoices entered in a store journal.

9. The various deliveries of stores are brought to account in the raw material ledger, with the name of the contractor or department by whom they are furnished; cost of the same, and the date of the certificate passed for payment.

10. The whole of the stores received and issued, are brought to account in the store ledger in alphabetical order, showing the date under both these heads, which is transmitted to Pall Mall, with the vouchers each year for examination.

11. A register of all bills is kept under the different heads of expenditure, so that the state of the votes can at any time be ascertained.

12. Full particulars of the various consignments of timber of all descriptions from brokers or contractors, and the accurate measurements of each delivery in detail are kept.

13. An account of all the patterns and machinery in operation in the department, and the remain on charge in each year is kept, and transmitted to Pall Mall for examination annually.

14. Demands are made daily by the masters and foremen for work in progress, designating the order under which they are drawn by the register number it has received on being entered in the order book.

15. These demands are collected monthly into a voucher, and signed by the constructor, which is brought to account in the store ledger.

16. As soon as orders are completed, twice or thrice a week, a delivery voucher to the principal military storekeeper is prepared, showing the articles manufactured in detail, the station for which they are prepared, and the authority for the service; the whole of which are brought to account in the production ledger.

17. A production ledger is kept of all articles manufactured in alphabetical order, showing the date of delivery to the Store department, and the cost of their preparation.

18. A price-book is kept, in which every article of departmental manufacture is accurately detailed, showing the cost of each item of consumption, and the labour expended thereon, with every charge for machinery, &c.

19. A weekly summary of the work performed, and of the orders received or cancelled within that period, as well as the cost of superintendence, artificers, and labourers is furnished to the War department.

20. A quarterly account in detail of all the orders on the books of the department for manufacture, showing the progress made and the work remaining to be done, with the time in which it is estimated the orders still outstanding can be completed is furnished to the War department.

21. Imprests are made monthly in anticipation on the principal military storekeeper for the expenses of the department and the wages drawn weekly, as required, two days before the payment, to admit of the bulk being broken into convenient coin, laid out and examined, prior to payment.

22. Each master of trade keeps a register of the time consumed upon the progress of the various orders on which his men are engaged, and the value of the time according to the rate of wages paid thereon.

23. The whole of the time worked is calculated in the cheque books, nine in number, from which proof-sheets are prepared prior to laying out the money for the payboards; an abstract for each book is then made, and a quarterly abstract of the whole prepared for transmission with the vouchers and account current at that period to the Accountant-General, Pall-mall.

24. A journal of all cash transactions is kept, where the balance is shown, which is counted at stated periods by the principal clerk under the order of the superintendent, and certified therein.

25. An account current is prepared quarterly, and transmitted, with the various vouchers, to the Accountant-General, Pall Mall, 14 days after the termination of each quarter, certified by the superintendent and the principal clerk.

26. An account is kept of the canvas work performed by widows of deserving men of the department, such as waggon covers, &c., showing the quantity and cost.

27. A register of all persons absent from sickness or injury, with the particulars of the latter, and various other books of minor importance are kept, comprising travelling claims, transfers, vacancies, applications for employment, and particulars of each case, medical examinations on entry of men, leave lists, payments by substitutes, authorities for special services or for promotion, &c., which pertain to the cash branch.

28. An account of all changes in ordnance, and alterations of patterns for the service, recommended by the select committee and approved by the Secretary of State for War, is kept for guidance in manufacture.

29. Registry of all letters from Pall Mall, outports, dockyards, contractors, &c. &c., showing dates and subject, and how disposed of; also copies of all letters addressed to the same.

ALEXANDER T. TULLOH,
Colonel, Royal Artillery,
Superintendent, Royal Carriage Department.

2169. Do you receive orders from anywhere else than from either the War department or the principal military storekeeper?—No.

2170. Are all orders recorded in the order book?—Yes, all of them.

2171. Why are orders sent sometimes from the storekeeper and sometimes from the War department direct?—That depends upon the War department; sometimes they do not send them through the storekeeper, but direct to us. The orders from the War department are only sent to us on special occasions. They communicated with us with a view to ascertain the capabilities of the department and the period it would take to complete certain services. For instance, with respect to 14-pounder batteries for India, and 18-pounder batteries for coast defences, we had a direct communication from the War department. Those special communications only come direct to the department when there is an amount of labour involved, and when it is a question of the convenience of the department.

2172. As a general rule do you receive orders through the principal military storekeeper?—Yes, communications from the War department are rather preliminary means of obtaining information from the department that is to make the things required than anything else. When the matter is completely settled, the order comes through the usual channel, the storekeeper.

2173. Do your articles, when completed, go to the storekeeper?—Yes, all manufactured articles in the department are sent direct to the storekeeper.

2174. Is the reason for the order coming through the storekeeper, because the storekeeper has to keep up the amount of stores?—Not so much that, as because he has to divide the order; for instance, when an order for guns is sent, there is ammunition to provide for those guns; the order is distributed through the different departments; therefore it is better that the order should come to one head than to the

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several departments. Very likely the storekeeper has to issue a quantity of harness, or other articles which may be in store.

2175. You say that the storekeeper receives all your manufactured articles. How does he know that you ought to deliver them to him?—Because of the orders that are passed through his own hands.

2176. If he has not an order to receive the things, what happens then?—Sometimes we find that the War department may not have sent the order: it may have come direct to us, but it is not a very usual thing.

(*Mr. Morris.*) In that case we apply for an order to receive.

2177. From the nature of the things manufactured in your department, are the men principally paid by day work?—Yes; but it is equivalent to piece work, inasmuch as each piece of work is timed, and if not performed in the time allowed, the man is checked.

2178. What number of men have you in your department?—2,200 at present.

2179. What amount of weekly wages do you pay?—2,600*l.*

2180. Does that money pass through your hands?—Yes, we make a requisition upon the storekeeper for an imprest of the money, and every Friday it is paid away, except perhaps 100*l.*

2181. How long does the weekly money rest in your custody?—Two days at the outside.

2182. Do you give any security?—I do, 2,000*l.*

2183. Have you any money passing through your hands except wages?—No, except for small purchases, perhaps 20*l.* or 30*l.* a month for small articles, sick pay, and the money received for patterns.

2184. Does the storekeeper ever furnish the materials with which you are to execute your orders?—If we make a demand for anything, he has to fill up a column, saying whether he has anything in store which would meet that demand.

2185. In ordinary cases do not you make your requisitions for material or manufactured articles direct to the War Department?—Just so.

2186. Colonel Wilmot and Captain Boxer have expressed an opinion in favour of that system. Do you concur with them in thinking that there is an advantage in it?—Yes; I think that as the officer who has the control over the material is the best judge of the material that he is to have, he has the most interest in the articles selected, and the public service is most likely to benefit by that system. The persons who are to employ materials for a specific purpose, are, I think, better judges of those materials than persons through whose hands they merely pass.

2187. Supposing you still had the right of inspection and power of rejection of the article required, what objection would there be to raw material upon its arrival going into the custody of the principal military storekeeper before you required it for immediate use?—Such a practice as that would give a divided responsibility.

2188. How would the responsibility be divided?—If the principal military storekeeper bought timber for me, it might be thrown back upon his hands, and I could not have that knowledge of the store, either as regards the quantity or its custody, which it is absolutely necessary that the head of the department should possess.

2189. You might still, knowing better than the storekeeper the particular timber you wanted, have the right of inspection and the power of rejection; when the timber had been inspected and approved by you, why should not the principal military storekeeper have the custody of the raw material as well as the manufactured article?—We should be obliged to cut the timber immediately that we received it for seasoning; the custody would be much better in our own hands, than having to apply to the storekeeper to transfer to us the raw material for seasoning for carriages, or any other matters that we might require, and then to hand it back to him, and to demand it again, when required.

2190. Are your seasoning yards in your own department?—Yes; and they are much better conducted

by those who understand for what the timber is required than they could be by any other persons out of the department. We know exactly what we want; we want timber in a particular position, and we know the seasoning it requires. The persons connected with the department are obliged to go into the seasoning sheds and select it, and we should have great confusion if we had to do that with the storekeeper.

2191. Captain Boxer stated that formerly the system did exist that the storekeeper was the depository of raw material as well as of the manufactured article?—Yes, and that system has been protested against by every officer who has been in the department; but even then timber for the Royal Carriage department was an exception, and after that system was again introduced in 1849, it was found so impracticable during the war that it was abandoned.

2192. In that case had you not the power of inspection and rejection?—We had, but not the custody; we had to draw the stores from the storekeeper, and to cut them up for any purpose we might require. It is all very well for the storekeeper to have the custody of any amount of timber that is required for the general service, but the Carriage department is the only department using timber to any great extent.

2193. A question has been put by Mr. Turner to several of the witnesses whether it would not be better to buy cargoes of timber all round, and deposit the timber with the storekeeper, leaving him to distribute it amongst the various departments as their particular needs might require. Do you think that practice could be adopted?—It might be done in some instances, such as deals. If there was a cargo of such timber which the department might require, and a person was sent up from each department to see that cargo, perhaps we might arrange to buy it all, but under any other circumstances, I think it would be prejudicial to buy a whole cargo for one department.

2194. Do not you pay a very much higher price by reason of each department selecting the particular thing it wants out of a larger quantity?—I do not think there is any great difference.

2195. You know the prices that are given, and you know what the price of timber should be. Do you think that the price is enhanced by your selection, so as to create any waste of public money?—No, I do not think so.

2196. Do you think it is cheaper to buy the picked timber at a higher price than to buy the whole cargo, and dispose of that which you cannot use?—Yes; we must have a particular description of timber, and of course we must pay the price for it, but the price is fair and reasonable.

2197. Might you not have the particular description of timber that you require if you bought a whole cargo, making the residue available for other departments?—It might or might not be available. It would be more often not available than otherwise. There are special woods that would not be available. If we bought teak, the other departments do not use teak in any shape or way whatever. There are very few woods that are bought for the Carriage department that are used generally. It is all very well in deals; but that is a small item. Out of 30,000 deals we should only require 10,000, and the remainder would be available for other departments; but that is the only case I can point out in which I think an advantage would be gained from the storekeeper having them, because he would have to supply all the departments with that description of timber.

2198. Have you ever extended your consideration of this point to the question of whether the navy might not use advantageously the residue of a cargo that was not available for arsenal purposes?—No doubt that might be, and a contractor would take that into account on making his offer to the Government; but during the last war we wanted some sabinu from the navy; they had a large quantity of fine wood, but we could not obtain it because they did not like to part with seasoned good wood, and if they did not give us their very best, it would be of no use.

2199. Might not your best sometimes be their worst? For instance, are the crooked pieces of timber particularly objectionable for navy purposes, although they are for your purposes?—Crooked timber is a kind of thing required for the navy, but not for the arsenal.

2200. Have you sufficiently considered the subject to give an opinion whether there might not be a distribution of a whole cargo of timber between the navy and the arsenal, which might contribute to economy in the expenditure of the public funds?—I think it would be attended with great confusion between the navy and the arsenal; there would be the expense of carriage from distant stations. Such a plan could only be adopted with advantage perhaps at the Woolwich dockyard or Chatham. With respect to the more distant places, such as Portsmouth or Plymouth, I do not think that such a plan by possibility could work well; but, as before stated, the contractor would no doubt take it into account, particularly as the navy obtain their timber by public competition.

2201. One of the witnesses said that the hardest wood, and the fullest of knots you could get, was the best for your purposes; would you not, if that is the case, pay a higher price for picking that which did not deteriorate the cargo in the least degree, because you would leave what would be the best for general purposes?—We require the hardest wood, but not that full of knots.

2202. With respect to cedar and mahogany, if you pick out of the cargo that which is least valuable, and pay higher price for your pick, would it not be very much cheaper to buy the whole cargo?—We should then buy that which was not of the slightest service to us, and what we generally select is the best of the cargo.

2203. Mr. Roberts says, "For instance, in the cedar—they selected, as Mr. Jones happened to say to me, the hard wood. The hard wood is the very thing we do not like, we prefer soft-grained cedar, and if a man were to select the hard, the remainder would be worth more than it was before the selection?"—There might be an instance of that kind, but I do not think it would be general.

2204. Have you ever communicated to the War department your opinion upon the point of the storekeeper being the depository of the raw materials?—Yes, I have, and the opinion of my predecessor, Colonel Colquhoun, a man of great ability and experience, and one whose opinions I think most valuable.

2205. Did you find any inconveniences from the former system? Captain Boxer told us that the system of making the several departments the depositories of raw materials was adopted in consequence of some inconvenience that was found to result from the other system?—That was the case during the war; at the beginning of the war we had great delays. I think we can point out several instances, both with respect to stores of timber and miscellaneous stores, of delays in obtaining stores at the time they were required.

2206. From whom could you not get them?—From the storekeeper. He did not procure them in anything like the way in which they are now procured by each department.

2207. Do you mean that the storekeeper did not procure stores with sufficient promptitude or of sufficient quality?—Not with sufficient promptitude, for he could not see the sudden wants consequent on a war. Instances were constantly occurring of delays in supplying stores to the Carriage department, and those delays would have proved very serious, had I not taken the responsibility of procuring them myself.

2208. Do you attribute the delay or inconvenience to the fact that you had to get the raw material through the storekeeper?—Yes; and therefore sometimes we had the order direct from the War department to purchase the things at once upon our representations. We knew that we should be responsible for articles proceeding to the Crimea at a moment's notice; and hurried as we were during the period of the war, when nothing was in store, we knew that the responsibility would fall upon the officers of the department.

2209. Was the reason of the delay in supplying stores, that the storekeeper had too much to do?—I think that is very likely; I cannot say. I believe he had an immense deal to do. Mr. Sparkes had been through the Peninsular war, and was well able to carry on his duties.

2210. Had you not in 1853 just as complete power of inspection and rejection when the articles came into the storekeeper's custody that you have now when they come into your custody?—It was a joint inspection. The officers of the Carriage department and the officers of the storekeeper's department were the persons who inspected the articles; the responsibility was therefore divided.

2211. If you have the power of selecting the articles, and are responsible for the choice of them, how does it matter whether the storekeeper or yourself has the custody of the articles?—The custody is a very material part of the duty of the Carriage department. We know at what time we can cut up timber and put it by; we overhaul it, and we have a great quantity of material cut up for the purpose of seasoning. It would be all very well if the timber were in the log; we could say, "the storekeeper has a certain log, and we can draw it;" but even then I should say it is objectionable. I do not believe it is possible for two persons to have the charge of materials for a department of this kind, where so much material is necessary; I should be very sorry to carry on the duties of the department after having seen so much and known so much of the former system. I should say, most positively and decidedly I should be sorry to carry on any department under such a system again. We have had enough of it; all the most able officers who have presided over the department have reported against it; and I quite concur in their opinion, as you will see by my letter that was placed before the War department.

2212. Do you furnish yearly estimates of the quantity of material you will require to fulfil the demands that are made upon you?—Yes.

2213. Can you state shortly how you make that estimate of the material and the labour which will be required?—The number of wood-workers being ascertained according to the orders that we have, we are able to work out our estimate.

2214. You get a list of orders that you have to execute from the War Office?—Yes.

2215. You calculate how many wood-workers will be required to carry out those orders?—Yes.

2216. Can you ascertain pretty accurately the proportion that the wood-workers bear to the other laborers?—Yes, the proportion they bear to the other trades and laborers.

2217. By that means you know the aggregate amount of labour that will be required?—Yes.

2218. And the amount of wages that will be paid?—Yes.

2219. Are those the data upon which you form your estimates?—Those are the data upon which we form our estimates.

2220. Of course you also take into account the material which you have in hand, and the outstanding unexecuted orders?—Yes.

2221. Supposing in the course of the year (which must very often happen in the time of war) special demands come in that you have not estimated for, what happens then?—We are obliged to make a special demand upon the War department. For example,—the recent orders for India, and for the 14 and 18-pounder batteries for coast defences.

2222. Those of course would have to be provided for by a supplementary vote?—Yes; the War department apply to the Treasury, it being a case of necessity. There were two special demands for India before the East India Company was done away with; the other was with reference to coast defences in England, thought by high authorities to be absolutely necessary at the moment.

2223. Does it never happen that, on the other hand, a number of orders cease to be necessary, or are not executed?—Some may be cancelled.

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2224. Do those cancelled orders amount to sufficient to set off against the extra demand?—No.

2225. A good deal of evidence has been given to the Commissioners upon the subject of brokerage. Is not the timber for the use of your department generally purchased through brokers?—Yes, the foreign timber.

2226. Have not you a great variety of articles besides timber?—Yes, what we term “miscellaneous stores.”

2227. What may be the number of articles under that head?—Upwards of a thousand.

2228. Can you state what the demand for last year was in consequence of the orders that had to be executed?—In 1858–9 the wages asked for and voted were 107,446*l.*, and the additional grants for wages made the sum 124,727*l.* For miscellaneous stores, the original vote was 64,596*l.*, the additional grant brought it up to 72,698*l.* The original vote for timber was 46,011*l.*, and with the additional grant it became 58,318*l.*; these are the only votes we had, except for machinery and buildings.

2229. (*Col. French.*) Have you always found your means adequate to the demands which have been made upon you?—Yes; we can calculate now our demands; we are able to get at the truth so very near, that we never have any difficulty. The demands both for the army and navy come in sufficient time to enable us to look well into the subject before we make our requisitions. I think we never have any difficulty.

2230. Have there ever been any complaints on the part of the navy departments of their requisitions not having been complied with immediately?—Never; on the contrary, we have been always complimented on having furnished everything they required. I do not recollect a single complaint from the Admiralty during the whole time of the war, or during the five years I have now been in the department; I cannot call to mind a single case.

2231. (*Chairman.*) Have there been any complaints either of the time at which the things were furnished, or the excellence of those things when they were furnished?—No; and the excellence of the things furnished I consider is the most material point.

2232. Will you state how the miscellaneous stores are obtained?—If we know the parties to be called upon we say so; if not, we say that the supply must be obtained by contract, and then the Director of Contracts determines that. We give as much information as we can, hoping that it may be valuable in obtaining the articles.

2233. In every case whatever material is furnished to your department, have you the absolute power of inspection, and if need be, of rejection?—Yes.

2234. Is there any appeal against your decision?—No.

2235. Do you consider that absolute power of rejection essential to the efficiency of your department?—Quite so; all those articles which it is essential should be examined by a chemist, are examined by a chemist, and he gives his opinion.

2236. Have you a chemist connected with your department?—No; he is employed for the War department altogether, and it is a most valuable appointment.

2237. Do you use chemical agents in your department?—Not to a large extent, but there are many articles which require chemical examination.

2238. Do you find as a general rule that you have any large number of rejections of the materials furnished?—Sometimes we have had. Not very great, because the parties become more careful as they find rejections take place. They know that if they supply anything deleterious,—bad oils or anything of that kind—they will be detected immediately by a person of the great talent of Mr. Abel.

2239. (*Col. French.*) Have you many rejections of tools?—Among the miscellaneous stores there are tools such as augers and bits. We demand them the same as any other stores, but we have been obliged to

reject a good many of them. They were furnished through agents, generally.

2240. (*Chairman.*) Do you mean by brokers?—No; an agent sometimes takes the contract; but when we deal with the original manufacturer we do not find so many rejections.

2241. You prefer going direct to the manufacturer?—Certainly; we would rather go to two or three good men at Sheffield than have to be furnished through an agent.

2242. (*Col. French.*) Do you pay the best prices for the articles?—Yes. I think paying the best price for the best article is the cheapest plan in dealing for things of that kind.

2243. (*Chairman.*) Are the things which you inspect inspected by a pattern and specification?—Yes; everything.

2244. Who prepares the specification?—We prepare the specification ourselves.

2245. Do you prepare the patterns also?—Yes.

2246. Then you are responsible for the specification, the pattern, and the inspection?—Yes; and the article itself.

2247. I presume you cannot have a gun carriage sealed at Pall Mall or elsewhere?—No.

2248. If there is any failure, you are responsible?—Yes; we are held responsible for everything manufactured in the department.

2249. Probably you prefer an undivided responsibility?—A great deal; besides it is better for the Government, because they know where to pitch upon the man who is the delinquent, if anything goes wrong.

2250. (*Col. French.*) Have you ever made a saving on the estimate for the department generally?—We have sometimes.

2251. To what amount?—As much as 7,000*l.* or 8,000*l.*, has been unexpended.

2252. Do you know what would become of that saving?—We have nothing to do with that. If at the end of the financial year we find, for instance, there has been a failure in the delivery of timber, we are allowed to expend the sum for the timber which the contractor had failed in supplying, to the best advantage we can.

2253. (*Chairman.*) Do you send patterns to contractors for them to work by or to procure the material by?—Yes; the contractor makes a certain deposit, fully equal to the value of the articles in case of injury or anything of that kind. When the patterns are returned the money is returned.

2254. It has been stated in evidence that you take the quantity of the timber by dock measurement. Is that the case?—Yes, that is the measurement we always take it by, we do not measure it afterwards; but this only applies to foreign timber.

2255. Are you satisfied that the dock measurement is sufficiently near to be fair?—The trade is satisfied with the dock measurement, and so are we; the English timber, which is not bought by dock measurement, we have to measure ourselves.

2256. Is not English timber purchased by open competition?—Yes.

2257. Taking into account the different nature of woods, is the English timber of as good a character, relatively speaking, as the foreign timber purchased for your department?—I think it is; we do not allow anything to come into the department unless it is exactly what we want.

2258. You have expressed a strong opinion as to the expediency of what we will call open competition as opposed to purchase through brokers. Do you retain that opinion?—I do.

2259. Upon the grounds you have already stated?—Yes, upon the same grounds; neither the Government nor the trade ought to be limited in any kind of way; there ought to be a fair chance to the trade and a fair chance to the Government in obtaining what is required.

2260. I believe, Mr. Turner, who is unfortunately absent, thinks, if the broker does his duty thoroughly, the competition may be as complete by his employ-

ment on account of the Government as by the system of open competition?—It may be under the circumstances you name, the broker being able to do his duty exclusively for the Government; but I think there are a great many things to prevent his being able to do that; I do not wish to cast any reflection upon the brokers; it is the system I object to.

2261. The Commissioners are informed that, not only in the case of the Government, but in everybody's case in the timber trade, the buying broker gets a commission from the seller. Do you think that is one of the reasons why the Government broker is less likely to do his duty?—I think that the fact of a broker being employed by both the buyer and seller is one serious objection to it.

2262. We are led to understand that that is almost universally the custom in the timber trade?—It may be so; but that does not make the least difference in my mind.

2263. You think that neither party can feel perfect confidence that he gets the full advantage?—No; and the market becomes limited to an extent that I think it ought not.

2264. If you have a system of open competition for timber, especially when you want timber some time before you use it, does not that almost necessarily lead to the intervention of a middle man or a speculator?—Certainly not.

2265. Would not a man very often contract for timber which he had not got?—Yes, if not required immediately, or if, like African mahogany, which has to be specially imported; but we should very soon find him out; we should not deal with a person of that kind, if he were only a speculator.

2266. Under the old system, before brokers were employed, did you ever find contractors for timber fail in their deliveries?—Not in a large bulk of timber, particularly foreign timber.

2267. In your experience, either the contractors had the timber when they contracted to deliver it, or they managed to get it?—Yes.

2268. At all events, you never found any practical inconvenience?—No.

2269. (Col. French.) In case of failure, had you not always the right to go into the market to purchase timber, and compel the contractor to pay the difference?—Yes, and therefore nothing that inconvenienced the service to any extent arose. Under the system of buying through brokers, Liverpool and other places have been put out of the market altogether.

2270. (Chairman.) The brokers have stated that they made inquiries in all the markets when they had an order to execute for the Government?—I never knew an instance of timber coming to the department from Liverpool, Bristol, or Hull, under the brokerage system.

2271. Had you any such instances before that system?—Yes, we have bought timber in Liverpool. Some of the very best teak we ever bought came from Liverpool.

2272. When you have obtained your materials does not the store clerk take them on charge?—Yes; when miscellaneous stores are received they are examined, and if any are rejected, it is immediately made known to the contractor. When they are examined they are taken into store, and if found to be of good quality according to specification, then we immediately send a certificate, without the slightest delay, to the contractor. Our object is that the man should be paid at once.

2273. Is the man who inspects your stores a different man from him who takes them in charge?—Yes; the clerk puts them upon paper; the other is the man who actually sees the article when it has to be issued for any service. Our foremen would reject anything that was bad; they would be immediately a kind of check, because they do not like to work with bad material.

2274. You have here that which did not exist at Weedon, namely, a direct interest existing in almost everybody at work to have the very best material; is not that so?—I think so, otherwise we would not

undertake the charge of the Carriage department. The reason of officers of Artillery being placed at the head of these departments is, that they may bring military knowledge to bear upon the execution of that which they know how to handle, and we know that we cannot carry out that which I have just mentioned without material in proper order, and of the best description that we can obtain. It is the pride of the Carriage department, and I can safely say that the feeling goes through the whole of the department.

2275. You keep not only an exact account of stores received, but of all the issues of raw material to your own department, do you not?—Yes; that is the interior economy of the department.

2276. (Col. French.) Can it be seen by the quantity of work you turn out what quantity of material you have received?—Yes; everything can be shewn, our production ledger, and the store ledger receipts and issues will show that exactly.

2277. (Chairman.) In your department as in the other two departments you have books which show the thing ordered, the amount of material used for it, the amount of labor employed upon it, the price of the materials and the price of the labor, so that you can tell at a glance, if I understand your books correctly, what everything you turn out costs in labour and material?—Yes, I have had a specimen prepared.

SPECIMEN, showing the Cost of manufacturing Ten Pairs of Wheels, 9-pounder heavy or 12-pounder, including boxing and painting.

—		No.	Materials.	Labour.	Total.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Timber, 9-pr.	*Stocks, elm, 15×14 inches, at 7s. 6d. ea.	20	7 10 0		
	Spokes, oak, at 1s. 3d. each.	240	15 0 0		
	*Felloes, ash, at 1s. 6d. each.	120	9 0 0		
	Streaks, tire, 1,900 lbs., at 1½d. per lb., or 2s. 1½d. per doz. streaks.	120	12 1 0½		
Iron- work	Bolts for do. 210 lbs. at 3d. per lb., or 1s. 4d. per doz. bolts.	480	2 13 4		
	Nails, tire, 50 lbs., at 2½d. per lb.	240	0 10 5		
	Hoops, stock, 250 lbs. at 3d. or 3s. 2d. per pair.	20	3 3 4		
	Rivets, 37½ lbs., at 2½d. per lb., or 4½d. per doz. rivets.	240	0 7 1		
	Stubs, 1½ lbs. at 2½d. per lb.	120	0 0 4½		
	Boxes, cast-iron, 420 lbs. at 1½d. per lb.	20	2 3 9		
	Wheeler's time, 260 hours at 5½d. per hour.	-	- - -	5 19 2	
Labourers' time - - -		-	- - -	1 3 10	
Marking on tire and riveting.	1 man 4½ hour at 6½d.	-	- - -	0 8 6	
	3 men 4½ at 6d.	-	- - -	- - -	
Shoeing 24 pairs per day.	1 Man 4½ hr. at 6½d.	-	- - -	0 10 7	
	4 Men 4½ hr. at 6d.	-	- - -	- - -	
Wood refuse, 56 feet at 13s. for 108 feet	2 Labourers 4½ hour at 3½d.	-	- - -	0 2 5½	
	Wood refuse, 56 feet at 13s. for 108 feet	-	0 6 8½	- - -	
Labour at machines - - -		-	- - -	2 17 8½	
Painting.	Colour, 35 lbs., at 40s. 4½d. per cwt.	-	0 12 7½	- - -	
	Putty, 4½ lbs., at 8s. 7d. per cwt.	-	0 0 4	- - -	
	Time, 40 hrs. at 5½d.	-	- - -	0 18 4	
Superintendence - - -		-	53 8 11½	12 0 6½	65 9 6½
Machine power - - -		-	- - -	2 0 1	2 0 1
Interest, 5 per cent. - -		-	- - -	- - -	0 19 9
Total - - -		-	- - -	- - -	68 9 4½
The old price being -		-	- - -	- - -	3 8 5½
		-	- - -	- - -	71 17 10
		-	- - -	- - -	7 3 9½
		-	- - -	- - -	per pair.
		-	- - -	- - -	8 12 4½

		New price.		Old price.	
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
For one wheel 9-pounder heavy or 12-pounder.	Material - - -	2 13 5½	- - -	3 0 2½	- - -
	Labour - - -	0 12 0½	- - -	0 18 9	- - -
	Superintendence - - -	0 2 0	- - -	0 3 1½	- - -
	Machine power - - -	0 0 11½	- - -	0 0 0	- - -
	Interest, 5 per cent. - -	0 3 5½	- - -	0 4 1½	- - -
Total - - -		3 11 10½	- - -	4 6 2½	- - -

* The above cost of stocks and felloes, is from timber cut in this department, the average contract price being—for stocks, 9-pounders, 10s. each; for felloes, 2s. each.

† Including 2½ per cent. for wear and tear.

WOOLWICH.

Colonel

A. T. Tulloh,
R.A.

17th Nov. 1858.

2278. From this specimen I find that you add something for superintendence?—Yes.

2279. You also put in interest at 5 per cent. upon the amount of cost. Is that interest at 5 per cent. intended to represent the amount which you think is fairly chargeable to the particular thing, whatever it may be, in respect of plant?—Yes; then there is also $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. included in the charge for machine power.

2280. Is the $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. included in the 5 per cent.?—No.

2281. This statement purports to show that you can make wheels for gun carriages at 7*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.* a pair, the old price being 8*l.* 12*s.* 4*d.* What is meant by the old price?—Before the introduction of machinery, when the labour was done entirely by hand.

2282. Were they made at that price in the department?—Yes, the difference between those sums is the saving by the introduction of machinery.

2283. The first item is elm stocks, and you make them at 7*s.* 6*d.*, would that be 15*s.* a pair?—Yes.

2284. Do you know the case of Messrs. Langton's stocks?—We have the details of it, if you like to have them.

2285. I believe you considered the price too high?—Yes.

2286. Messrs. Langton failed in the delivery, did not they?—Yes, and I wrote and recommended as the price was high, and they wanted six months longer to complete the order that the stocks should be bought elsewhere?—On the 25th of April I received a letter from the Board, stating that Messrs. Langton had offered 1,000 stocks, and that such portion as should be found fit for the service should be received at a reduced price.

2287. You say the price was too high; what would have been a fair price?—10*s.* each; 20*s.* a pair—it might have been a little more—not much.

2288. Did you sanction the contract at the high price of 36*s.* a pair?—No.

2289. It has also been suggested that these stocks which had been rejected for some defects, real or supposed, were made into wheels and sold to your department; is that the case?—Not as gun carriage wheels.

2290. Might they not be good stocks for wheels of certain sizes?—Yes, for smaller sizes.

2291. What could they be made available for?—For small cart wheels.

2292. Could they be made available for Govern-

ment purposes?—Not for gun carriage wheels, for which they were demanded.

2293. Might not stocks which were rejected as unsuitable for the purpose for which they were wanted be perfectly well suited for another purpose?—Yes, but if we were to receive them on that ground, we should have no end of small stocks. Contractors have often tried to palm them upon us at a reduced price.

2294. Is not that one inconvenience arising, perhaps unavoidably, from the multiplicity of departments that each looks out for itself, and that the wheel stocks, which might be good wheel stocks for another Government purpose, are sent back to the contractor because they do not suit your purpose?—No; as we are the only department which supplies wheels, and that for every Government purpose, and being the only department that has anything to do with stocks or wheels, the multiplicity of departments makes no difference; we do not wish to be hard upon contractors; we have sometimes said, "They do not suit the purpose for which we wanted them, but we will take them at a smaller price for reduced stocks."

2295. In that case you would not have given 18*s.* a piece for them?—No.

2296. Are the wheel stocks at the comparatively low price of 7*s.* 6*d.* 15×14 of a similar kind?—They are the same article, only one inch shorter.

2297. I understand you to disclaim any responsibility for that contract of Messrs. Langton at that price?—Yes; we have often received stocks at a less price.

2298. Could those rejected elm stocks ever have been supplied again to your department?—They might have come in the land transport waggons. They could not have been used for gun carriage wheels.

2299. (*Chairman.*) What price should you pay for such stocks as were used for the land transport waggons?—Three shillings to 4*s.* 6*d.*

2300. (*Col. French.*) Is Mr. Langton a contractor still?—I think he is.

2301. (*Chairman to Capt. Clerk.*) I thought you stated that Mr. Langton had not furnished elm stocks since?—We never have entered into a contract with him; but he applied to the Board of Ordnance that he should be allowed to supply 1,000 more, and the Board acceded to his request, and they were taken at 15*s.* each, in place of those rejected at 18*s.* each.

Adjourned to Friday next at 12 o'clock.

LONDON.

Friday, 19th November 1858.

PRESENT :

Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH. | | — HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. WALTER LANGTON examined.

LONDON.

Mr.

W. Langton.

19th Nov. 1858.

2302. (*Chairman.*) Under what name do you carry on your business?—My own name; it was carried on as Langton and Sons.

2303. I believe you carry on business as a timber merchant?—Yes.

2304. Have you been contractors with the Government?—Yes.

2305. Are you so now?—Yes.

2306. Had you not some contract for elm stocks?—Yes. (*See Parliamentary Paper No. 328, 1858, Question 1635.*)

2307. When was that?—I think it was in 1853.

2308. Was not the contract to supply 2,300?—I am not prepared to give the number; I believe that was the number, I know it was a considerable number.

2309. Did not you supply 291?—I believe we did.

2310. At what price?—Eighteen shillings each I had for those.

2311. Was not that a high price?—Yes.

2312. Do you think it was too high?—No.

2313. Why not?—Because there was a very particular specification for the stocks.

2314. Did the high price partly arise from the difficulty of complying with the order?—Yes, the specification for the stocks was that the centre of the tree shall be within, I think it is, two inches of the centre of the stocks, which is fifteen inches over, and that it shall be entirely free from sap, knots, and all other defects, and so on. Any practical man knows that the heart of an elm tree is not always in the

centre, consequently you require to cut a very large piece to get those small sized stocks; the rejections are also very great, and comparatively of little value when rejected, and that is the reason why a high price is required for them.

2315. Assuming that the requirement of the Government was very special, you think the price was not too high?—I think not; so far from thinking it too high, I should be very sorry to undertake a large supply at a similar price.

2316. The gist of the statement to my mind was, that some article which would have done for the purpose the Government wanted the stocks for, could have been supplied for a very much smaller sum; is that so?—No, not exactly that; it was considered by practical wheelwrights that elm stocks of the dimensions required, equal in every respect to those which were furnished according to the Government specification (but not according to that specification as regards the sap and the centre), could be supplied at 2s. 6d. each.

2317. What did you do with the elm stocks which were rejected?—I sold them to the wheelworks at Pimlico.

2318. Do you know whether any of them went into the Government store or not?—I am not prepared to say, because when I asked the question of the parties to whom I sold the rejected stocks, they declined to answer it. I rather think some of them were supplied for wheels which were used at the arsenal, but not for the particular wheels for which such stocks were required by Government.

2319. Did the wheelwright of whom you inquired know anything about gun carriages, or was his business general?—I should think he is the most practical man, and makes more wheels than any one in London for all purposes; I do not know whether for gun carriages, but waggons, carts, and things for heavy draught.

2320. You are represented to have said, "I will undertake to find a man who will make the wheels," (the conversation appears to have been with reference to these very elm stocks,) "tire them, paint them, and put them on to the gun for about the price the Go-

vernment pay me for the wood untouched." Is that correct?—I had contracts for elm stocks at 18s. each, for spokes at 3s. 6d. each, and for felloes at 6s. 6d. each; these being the component parts of a wheel, and reckoning the number of each sort required to form a wheel, I can name a wheel manufacturer who would guarantee to supply as good a wheel, to be tested in any way against wheels made by the Government, at the cost of the raw materials at the prices quoted. I do not know whether the materials mentioned were used for gun-carriage wheels.

2321. A wheel which might be perfectly good for certain purposes might be quite unfit for others. This statement appears to have been made by you and not by the practical wheelwright. "He said, 'I will undertake to find a man who will make 'the wheels, tire them, paint them, and put them 'on to the gun for the price I had for the wood untouched.'?"—That was Mr. Parfrey at the Pimlico Wheelworks. I do not think that is quite the statement that was made; I said a man would undertake to do that; I did not say I would undertake to find him.

2322. Do you think his wheels would pass inspection?—He offered to submit them to any test.

2323. Was not your contract cancelled?—Yes, it was.

2324. Had you some difficulty in fulfilling it?—We were behind time in the delivery, and the contract was cancelled.

2325. Did you subsequently apply to supply a thousand stocks?—Yes, I can explain that. We had a number made, and in course of delivery; of course, if they were sold in the market they were worth what I sold the others for, three shillings and sixpence a pair, but if there were certain stocks amongst them suitable to the Government purpose, it was to my advantage to let them go in at the contract price which some people had taken the same supply for, and that was given us afterwards.

2326. Did the board authorize you to supply them?—They did, at the price some one had contracted to supply the order; it was a few shillings less than our former price.

Adjourned to Tuesday next at 12 o'clock.

WOOLWICH.

Tuesday, 23rd November 1858.

PRESENT :

Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH. | HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. WILLIAM MORRIS further examined.

2327. (*Chairman.*) You have been good enough to prepare a paper showing in detail the course pursued in performing the duties of principal military store-keeper, and explanatory of the various books which are used?—Yes. (*See also Appendix, No. 8.*)

The same was read, as follows :—

Military Store Office, Woolwich,
November 17, 1858.

STATEMENT, showing in detail the Course pursued in performing the Duties of each Branch of this Office, with a Specimen of the Forms used, &c.

In presenting the Royal Commission with the accompanying detailed statement, with forms, showing the course pursued in the performance of all transactions connected with this department, I deem it my duty first, to state that in this department is vested the entire provision and supply of all armaments and equipments for Her Majesty's

land and sea forces, and defences at home and abroad, including supplies to the East India Company.

The requirements of the different services are based on annual and other demands from the out-stations, and the average issues of preceding years, on which a monied estimate demand is framed and forwarded through the Director of stores to the Secretary of State for War, for consideration and approval, as per forms A., Nos. 1 and 2. (*See Appendix No. 6.*)

Such stores as appertain to the manufacturing departments are extracted from those demands, and sent to the superintendents of those departments for valuation as to cost of labour and material for their provision, thus arriving at the cost to be inserted in the estimates for the approval of Parliament for the manufacture of stores, which, with the value of the stores to be contracted for, will give the total estimated cost of provision, it being separately shown what is chargeable to land and to sea service.

Orders for the issue of all stores are received from the Director of stores, in which are detailed the exact descriptions and quantity required to be supplied to any particular

LONDON.

Mr.
W. Langton.

19th Nov. 1858.

WOOLWICH

Mr. W. Morris.

23rd Nov. 1858.

WOOLWICH. service. These orders generally include stores required to be manufactured or selected by the superintendents of the manufacturing departments. The manufacture of stores is required when stores of the description ordered are not in store; the selection is necessary when the stores ordered are in possession of the military store department; the assistance of the superintendent of the manufacturing department concerned is then requested, to inspect and select from store such as he deems suitable for the service; for instance, if iron or brass ordnance is ordered to be supplied, the superintendent of the royal gun factories is called upon to select; if carriages, the superintendent of the royal carriage department; if ammunition, the superintendent of the royal laboratories, as per Form A, No. 3.

Mr. W. Morris.

23rd Nov. 1858.

When stores ordered to be issued are not in store and have to be obtained by contract, a demand is sent to the Director of stores, quoting the authority for the issue, and other particulars, as per Forms A, No. 4.

As soon as the demand has been approved by the Director of stores, it is notified by him to this office. Tenders are then called for by the Director of contracts, the form of which is sent to this office per Form A, No. 5, to see that they are correctly worded as to the description of articles to be supplied; and when the prices tendered by the different parties can be affixed, the Form A, No. 5, is again sent to this office to ascertain if in the opinion of the storekeeper the prices offered are reasonable or otherwise.

Contract Office.

When stores are ordered by contract, notification is sent to this department by the Director of contracts, as per Forms B, No. 1. The stores ordered are then inserted in the contract ledger, as per Forms B, No. 2; also in a daily book of all stores ordered, as per Form B, No. 3, called Storeholder's Contract Order Book.

When deliveries are made by contractors, an invoice (Forms B, No. 4,) is furnished with each delivery, on which the stores are immediately counted or weighed to see if they agree with the quantity invoiced, and if any discrepancy is found, the contractor is immediately informed of the same.

A registry of all invoices is kept, as per Form B, No. 5.

As soon as the stores are ready for inspection, the assistance of the superintendents of the manufacturing departments is called for, per Forms B, No. 6, as to the approval or rejection of articles appertaining to their respective departments, or by viewers and inspectors attached to the military store department, the result of which is notified on the same inspection reports, B, No. 6, and returned to this office, when the contractor is duly informed of the decision arrived at, per Form B, No. 7.

The articles approved of are immediately entered in the contract ledger, kept under the name of each contractor, in which are inserted the full particulars, date of order, quantity and description ordered, time of delivery, and columns shewing the quantity of each delivery approved of, as per the Forms B, No. 2.

The contractors are requested to send in to this office bills in duplicate, per Form B, No. 8. After examination of the bills, certificates are passed to the accountant-general for payment of the stores, as per Forms B, No. 9, which the bills accompany.

The stores are then inserted in the daily receipt book, per Form B, No. 10.

A voucher, per Form B, No. 4, is then prepared for the final posting into the general store ledger.

When stores are not delivered by contractors at the time agreed on, as per record, Form B, No. 11, they are reported to the Director of stores, per Form B, No. 12. The Director of contracts calls for explanations from the contractors, and fines are levied when necessary, of which this office is duly informed through the War Office, per Form B, No. 13.

A daily journal is kept by the deputy military storekeeper, stating the number of articles inspected, approved, and rejected, and the cause of rejection, as per Form B, No. 14.

When stores are received by water transport, a register is kept of the time of arrival and the time occupied in discharging the vessel, as per Form B, No. 15. The order for the discharge of the vessel is given to the principal foreman.

When contracts are entered into, by which patterns are required to govern the supply, the duplicate pattern is handed over to the contractor, when a deposit for its value is made at this office, as per Form B, No. 16.

The receipt of iron ordnance being so very different to other articles in their supply, the following course is pursued, viz., before calling upon the superintendent of the royal gun factories to inspect and prove the guns, a register

is made of the nature of each gun, and the contractors' number on it, and when they have passed proof they are weighed, an account of their weight kept, which weight is marked on the gun, as per Form B, No. 17, called Ordnance Weigh Book.

General Receiving Office.

The duties of the general receiving office consist in the receipt of all stores, except by contract, and are conducted as follows:—

An order is received from the Director of stores to receive stores from certain services or departments named, which service or department notifies to this office by the transmission of bills of lading, per Form C, No. 1, or other vouchers of delivery, per Form C, No. 2, the articles sent, and how forwarded. These bills, or delivery vouchers, are then retained until the arrival of the stores by land or water transport, and by them the receipt of the stores as to quantity is checked and marked off. The party delivering is informed of any discrepancy, and an explanation requested.

The condition of the stores received has then to be decided upon. They are specified in an inspection report (per Form C, No. 3) addressed to the superintendents of the manufacturing departments to which any such stores appertain; the inspection of the stores then takes place, and their condition is notified to this office, as per the same Form C, No. 3. The stores are then brought on to the daily receipt book, Form C, No. 4, and the voucher of delivery amended, if the stores which such voucher describes as serviceable have been found on inspection to be repairable only, or unserviceable. The receipt book is daily checked with the storeholders' store receipt book, in order to see that the stores received agree with the actual quantity charged.

When stores are received in transit for other departments or stations, they are deposited in the transit store, and entered in a book, Form C, No. 5, in which is shown the date of the receipt and issue, and the means of conveyance.

The receipt of iron and brass ordnance and shot and shell is dealt with differently to other stores. As they are always received as doubtful before examination, the superintendent of royal gun factories for ordnance, and the superintendent of the royal laboratories for shot and shell, are called upon by Form C, No. 6, to decide on their state. This form is returned when acted on, and their ascertained state appears in the voucher, Form C, No. 7, whether serviceable, repairable, or unserviceable.

Whenever it is found that there are any articles in store the state or condition of which is doubtful, a return is made out, per form C, No. 8, and sent to the superintendents of the manufacturing departments, who decide and recommend as to their state and disposal, which return is then submitted for the orders of the Director of stores for the final disposal of the stores by sale, conversion, or otherwise.

A registry is kept of all arrivals of vessels with stores, both from home and foreign stations, similar to Form B, No. 15, in the contract branch.

Issuing Offices.

The duties of the issuing offices are as follows:—Every order for the issue of stores is received from the Director of stores, per Form D, No. 1, which is entered into a book, per Form D, No. 2, in which the date of the order is given, and the date of its transmission to the manufacturing departments, for the manufacture or selection of stores. The order is then entered into an order or packing book, (D, No. 3,) giving in detail the number and description of articles to be supplied, being for the general information of the office and storeholders, who extract and insert in their order-books such stores as relate to each.

The orders are then classed and inserted in a demand-book, shewing the station or service for which the stores are to be supplied, keeping each service or station distinct, as per Form D, No. 4, by which Form it will be seen that as each issue takes place the stores are marked off, shewing the conveyance by which the stores are forwarded, and the date of issue.

When stores are ready for shipment, an order is given to the principal foreman to have the service performed, as per Form D, No. 5.

As soon as the shipment is complete, a bill of lading is made out in duplicate as per Form D, No. 6.

All issues are immediately entered into a daily issue-book, per Form D, No. 7, and before the bill of lading or delivery voucher is sent away an examination is made with the office and storeholder's books to see that they correspond in all respects.

As the stores are issued, they are reported to the Director of stores, as per Form D, No. 8.

When stores are issued for which repayment from other departments is to be claimed, a statement of issues, as per Form D, No. 9, is made of the quantity of stores, packages, &c., showing the value of each article, expense of packing, shipment, and transit, and forwarded to the Director of stores.

When stores are ready for shipment to foreign stations, application for tonnage, per Form D, No. 10, are sent to the War Office, upon which the Admiralty is called upon to engage freight; vessels are then appointed and notified to this office.

Orders for the shipment of stores are then given to the principal foreman.

Bills of lading are then made out and given to the lighterman in duplicate, one copy being left on board the vessel by which to check the stores, and the other retained by the lighterman to recover the expense of lighterage.

Bills of lading are made out in triplicate for all foreign stations, one stamped, being the voucher upon which the master's receipt is taken for the stores, the counterpart, not stamped, being for the stores charged to the consignee.

An original bill also stamped is given to the master of the vessel, containing the descriptions of packages and loose articles upon the production of which duly receipted by the consignee, the expense of freight is recovered.

All bills of lading of stores shipped from this department to foreign stations are sent here for the insertion of the amount of tonnage shipped, a record of which is kept as per Form D, No. 10.

Ledger Office.

The ledger office is occupied in the entry of all receipts and issues of stores whatever. The posting is made from the daily receipt and issue books, being examined by the vouchers, duly receipted, as also by the storeholder's store ledgers.

The ledgers from this office are sent forward to the War Office for examination annually, when the vouchers of receipt and issue accompany them in support.

A specimen of the ledger transactions of this office will be seen by reference to Form E, No. 1.

Corresponding Branch.

In the corresponding branch, a register is kept of all letters received, an index to which for easy reference is kept; also all letters issued are entered with an index for the same.

Shipping Branch.

In the shipping branch of this office there are the following vessels employed; viz., one steamer, four coasting vessels, and five gun hoys, being exclusively engaged in the conveyance of stores to and from stations in Great Britain and Ireland.

When stores are shipped for any station, a sailing order is given to the master, in which his route is laid down, and he is desired to report from every place at which he touches; this information is then recorded in a registry, under the vessel's respective name.

At every port at which the steamer arrives with stores, a report is made by the military store department at such station of the time of arrival, and the time occupied in discharging, also the time engaged in reloading and of departure, which is transmitted to the Director of stores, so that it may be seen if any unnecessary detention has taken place in the discharging or reloading of the vessel.

Cash Office.

The duties of this branch comprise the following payments:—The manufacturing and other departments of the Royal Arsenal, the Royal Engineer Department, and the Royal Military Repository, &c. &c.

1st. Statements of the sums required to pay wages, &c., are provided by the several departments in the Royal Arsenal, &c., from which information the principal military storekeeper is enabled to compile the requisite demand for money for the ensuing month on the accountant-general of the War Office, as shown on Form F, No. 1, after which, should the demand be approved of, the imprest for the month is notified to the principal military storekeeper, as shown on Form F, No. 2, and drawn by him on the days mentioned in the margin of that document, in two equal portions on the paymaster-general's receiving the principal military storekeeper's order, Form F, No. 3. The London and County Bank receive the money, and credit the principal military storekeeper with the amount. He has power to draw cheques for the amount required to meet the weekly disbursements.

2nd. All debits or disbursements are immediately entered in the general cash-book, from which the quarterly account current is posted. This document, with all the necessary

vouchers in support, is forwarded, at the expiration of fourteen days after the termination of each quarter, to the accountant-general for examination.

The labourers of this department are all paid by day-work. They are chiefly occupied in the removal of stores, either for receipt or for issue, and are scattered throughout the different parts of the arsenal, both within and without doors; and the duties performed are generally of such a multifarious nature, that it would afford little information of the quantity of work performed, and the nature of the duties, unless a minute statement were given; and as the expense of such labour is not required to be shown, as in the manufacturing departments where stores are produced, the value of which is to be arrived at, no check is kept beyond their daily attendance and the work performed.

Instructions for Storeholders.

The following instructions have been laid down for the guidance of the storeholders, and have been approved by the Director of Stores:—

1st. He must make himself acquainted with the store-houses, &c. in which the stores are deposited, with a view to their classification.

2nd. He will cause the stores of each description to be collected together and always kept separate and distinct, and so arranged that ready access may at all times be had to each, without serious displacements of other stores, introducing the use of tally boards, and keeping the receipts and issues always posted, so as at all times to show the number of any article in store without reference to other books or documents.

3rd. He must, as early as possible, prepare a collected account of outstanding orders from October 1856 to the present time, showing the date, number of demand and services for the information of the storekeeper, who will give instructions respecting them; and for the future the storeholder will be held responsible that all orders are promptly attended to, working in this respect with the home and foreign issuing office as to the priority of the supplies; and on the fifteenth of every month he will place before the storekeeper a statement of all outstanding orders of a prior date to the fifteenth of the previous month as remain unfulfilled, and show the cause thereof.

4th. The orders will, as usual, be entered in the storehouse order-book, and in all cases when the articles are not in store, he will ascertain from the principal clerk what provision has been made for them, and when they are due from contractors, noting the same in the order book; and in such cases where stores are delivered and are not available for want of inspection, he will at once apply to the storekeeper for instructions, pursuing the same course with regard to returned stores, requiring the decision of the manufacturing departments.

In the event of stores not being received from contractors by the dates prescribed, he will notify the same to the storekeeper immediately.

5th. Should the issuing departments under these arrangements be unable at any time to obtain stores for issue, the storeholders will be responsible for the delay, unless satisfactory cause can be shewn for the same.

6th. He will take care that the storehouse ledgers are posted daily, and that no arrears be permitted; and it will be his special duty to cause, from time to time, his stores to be counted; and on satisfying himself that such tally is correct, he will balance the tally board, bringing forward the number so counted as the charge on that date, communicating with the ledger office, to have the counting verified, should the same be considered necessary. The store being thus satisfactorily ascertained, no discrepancy between the actual charge and that shewn by the tally boards and ledgers ought, under any circumstances, to arise.

7th. In all cases he will take care that the stores received into and issued from his holding are correctly counted, in conjunction with the receiving and issuing clerks; and that all stores received be properly stowed away immediately after the inspection; and should any delay arise in the forthcoming of the inspection reports, the same must be notified to the storekeeper.

8th. The foremen will be relieved from keeping the store books, and be able to devote more time and attention to the personal superintendence of their men, the proper arrangement of the stores to be carried out under the complete control and direction of the storeholders.

9th. From these arrangements it will be seen that the duties of the storeholders will be very much in the store-houses and about the arsenal; but in order to ensure uniformity of action and to facilitate the business with the office, a room will be set apart for the gentlemen appointed to act as storeholders, where an attendance paper will be kept and they will be expected to devote their whole time and energies to the public service.

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When stores are required to be prepared for issue a memorandum is sent to the storeholders, upon which they act; and as soon as the stores are ready for packing, a memorandum is sent to the Home or Foreign issuing officers, upon which an officer of the department is sent to the storehouse to see the stores packed, and verify the same by attaching his initials in the packing book kept in each storehouse.

When the stores are so packed, a return thereof is given into the Home or Foreign Office, shewing in detail all the stores packed, and the packages containing them, and by whom they were seen packed.

Sales by Auction.

Sales by auction are conducted as follows:—

As unserviceable stores accumulate from time to time, they are laid out in the sale yard or room, where, in addition to any former survey and condemnation of them, the superintendents of the manufacturing departments are again called upon to inspect them, to see if any can be made available for service, by conversion, repair, or otherwise; the joint certificates of the superintendents are then attached to the list of the stores to be sold, which is submitted to the War Office for authority to sell.

Advertisements appear in all the leading papers as well as the distributions of post bills, in order that every publicity may be given to the transaction.

The amount realized is credited to the public, and brought into the account current rendered quarterly, supported by a priced catalogue, and voucher signed by the auctioneer.

The stores sold are then taken off the general charge, by voucher, signed by the military storekeeper, in support of which the catalogue is attached, duly attested to accompany the store ledger.

Periodical and other Returns.

There are numerous periodical returns used in the performance of the duties of this department, in connection with the War Office, principally as to quantities and descriptions of stores on charge, issued, &c. &c. which are not embraced in this statement.

WM. MORRIS,
Dep. Military Storekeeper.

2328. Have not the persons who contract for the delivery of stores here generally running contracts?—Sometimes; not always. We have running contracts for oil, paint, nails, but not for guns; generally, they are supplied by special tender.

2329. Notwithstanding the existence of the Government gun factory, are not iron guns still contracted for in the proportion of five-sixths or four-fifths?—Yes.

2330. Are not the guns supplied by contract principally by two houses?—Principally by Walker of Gospel Oak, and Hood of Low Moor. Asbury supplies some, and Pegg, late Bailey and Pegg, of Bank-side.

2331. Are the guns always paid for by weight?—Yes.

2332. I gathered from your accounts that every gun supplied by contractors is not only weighed and tested before being received into store, but is so issued that its whole future history can be traced?—Every gun has a registered number on one trunnion, and the contractor's name on the opposite, so that we can identify every particular piece. We know the number of the gun, we know who is the contractor, and by turning to our books we can tell the day on which it was landed, the day it was proved, and when it was weighed and received.

2333. The gun will bear those marks as long as it is in existence?—Yes; the superintendent of the gun factory selects guns for issue according to the registered numbers, of which there is a plan belonging entirely to his own department.

2334. Are not your books divided into those which relate to articles received from contractors, and articles received from different departments?—Yes.

2335. Are not those books, *mutatis mutandis*, pretty much the same in both cases?—They are exactly the same.

2336. What is meant by the phrase "transit stores"?—Stores sent down here ready packed, say from the Tower, for transmission in a War department vessel to Portsmouth, Plymouth, or Chatham, as the

case may be, or in the opposite direction, ascending from Chatham, Portsmouth, Plymouth, or Devonport to Woolwich for the Tower, not in sufficient quantities to make it worth while for the vessel to go through the pool; they are landed here to save expense, so that we send a full cargo up instead of sending perhaps only a third of a cargo; a lighter may suffice, instead of sending a vessel at all.

2337. (*Col. French.*) Do those stores consist of unserviceable articles, or articles requiring repair?—We receive from the Tower serviceable stores to be forwarded to different outposts as barrack stores. From Portsmouth and other places we receive, for instance, unserviceable clothing and bedding.

2338. (*Chairman.*) You have heard, I believe, the evidence that has been given on the subject of the principal military storekeeper here being the depository of the raw material which is to be used in the manufacturing departments. At present they have the custody of a large portion of the material which they are to use; is that not so?—Yes; timber, for instance, goes direct to whatever department it is to be used in.

2339. The supplies are forwarded, as we understood, to the several heads of those departments, on their requisition to the War Office. If you have the article in store for which they have made a requisition, they are sometimes referred to you?—Always. Before their requisition goes forward it is sent to us with a column to fill up, showing whether the article can or not be supplied by the storekeeper. We fill that up before the requisition goes to the War Office, and that practice is adopted in order to prevent the accumulation of stores which might be made available in either of the manufacturing departments.

2340. Generally speaking, do you find that you can fill up that column pretty extensively?—Only from any superabundance that we have in our stores from former supplies.

2341. Are you now the depository, to a large extent, of the articles used in the manufacturing departments?—I do not think we are, except it is serge, of which we have a large quantity.

2342. Have you much iron in store?—We have very little iron to spare; we may have some cut nails.

2343. Do you think any advantage would result from making the principal military storekeeper the depository of the raw material required in the manufacturing departments?—I do not see what the advantage would be.

2344. You have been here 42 years; did not that system exist for a considerable portion of that time?—It did.

2345. Was not that system changed, in consequence of the representations of the heads of the manufacturing departments, to their receiving the articles direct?—Yes.

2346. Do you think any advantage would result from reverting to the old plan?—I cannot see any difference myself.

2347. For instance, about 40,000*l.* a year is expended in foreign timber for the carriage department; that department wants particular timber, and consequently a very rigid selection is made; the timber when selected comes to the carriage department and you have nothing to do with it, have you?—No.

2348. It is never in your custody?—No.

2349. If a whole cargo could be bought cheaper by buying it "all round," might it not be desirable to make the storekeeper the depository for whole cargoes, each department selecting the timber which was applicable to their particular needs?—I am not aware that any department in the Arsenal uses foreign timber to any extent except the carriage department; deals are used by the several departments.

2350. Does your experience suggest any alteration in the system at present in operation?—I cannot anticipate the good that would result from any change.

2351. Do you share in the opinion which has been expressed by certain persons that inconvenience did result from the storekeeper having the custody of raw

material?—Very great inconvenience arose in the storekeeper's office, inasmuch as not sufficient time was given us to provide the stores.

2352. Would you rather be without the custody of raw material?—Yes, individually. But that is not the question. I understood the question to be, whether it would be better for the public, for the principal military storekeeper to have custody of the raw material or the different departments? I am not in a position to answer that question.

2353. How long have you been acting principal storekeeper?—Ever since Mr. Pellatt's death.

2354. Have there been "remains" taken during your experience?—Several.

2355. How often?—At the change of storekeeper.

2356. How often has that happened?—Four times.

2357. Are those the only occasions on which remains have been taken?—Only at those periods; we have had periodical surveys.

2358. Do those periodical surveys refer to quantity as well as quality?—Yes.

2359. But not to the quantity of the whole store?—No; the surveying officer goes into the storehouse and points out certain stores that he wishes to have verified by the ledger.

2360. Does not he have those stores counted?—Yes.

2361. Is that periodical survey made at regular or irregular intervals?—It has not been done here on account of our being so exceedingly busy; we cannot do it when we are in such an active state as we were during the Crimean war, and have been since.

Captain HENRY WILLIAM GORDON further examined.

2373. (*Chairman.*) I believe you have been present when we have asked the superintendents of the several departments their opinion as to whether it is more convenient that they should respectively have the custody of the raw material employed in those departments. Have you formed an opinion upon that subject?—A very imperfect one, from the short time I have been here.

2374. Is that opinion formed simply from your experience?—From my experience; principally from what I saw when I was with the army in the East.

2375. What is your opinion?—When I arrived at Balaklava I found the whole of the different departments were demanding stores from the authorities in England without the slightest reference one to the other, and the consequence was that, I suppose, between ten or eleven different parties were demanding stores which were coming out in large quantities, and at the same time the wants of one department might readily have been met by the surplus stores of another. When the army wanted warm clothing, there was plenty of warm clothing for a large portion of the army in the possession of another department, but no person knew where those stores actually did exist.

2376. Were not you director-general of stores?—Undoubtedly, but not at the time I am speaking of. I made the suggestion at once that not a single demand should be allowed to go from the army without passing through me.

2377. What was your office at first in the Crimea?—I went to collect the surplus stores of the army. An immense mass of clothing had been sent out, and there were other stores beyond the wants of that army. I was to collect them and to send them to Malta or Constantinople for storage.

2378. Do you include in stores military armaments and equipments?—Not armaments at that time. At the commencement my attention was principally directed towards clothing, surplus hutting, camp equipage, and any stores of that kind, and sending them away from Balaklava, to make room for stores that were actually required at the time.

2379. Does then the system exist in the field that there is one chief officer who has charge of the stores, just like the head of the commissariat?—It had not

2362. How long is it since a periodical survey was taken?—I cannot say exactly.

2363. Is the survey made by officers specially appointed for the purpose, or by the staff of this establishment?—It is done by officers from the War department; we accompany them, of course.

2364. So far as your recollection serves you, have those surveys been satisfactory?—Yes.

2365. Have any deficiencies in the stores been discovered on those surveys?—Never on those occasions. We have found deficiencies in the stores, such as canvas, but they have only arisen from clerical mistakes, which have been afterwards rectified.

2366. Have you ever discovered any actual defalcations of stores?—No.

2367. Are you sufficiently acquainted with the manufacturing departments to know whether "remains" have ever been taken of the stock of whatever has been in their custody?—Yes; it has been done.

2368. A "survey" or a "remain"?—A remain.

2369. When?—When Mr. Pellatt took charge as principal military storekeeper, he came from the carriage department, and there was a remain taken then.

2370. That would be a remain of material?—Yes, and everything in use in the establishment.

2371. Do not the articles as soon as they are manufactured pass into the custody of the storekeeper?—Yes.

2372. Are there not large quantities of waggons and carts in the carriage department?—Yes; but they are in the charge of the principal military storekeeper; they are deposited there for want of store room.

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obtained that position quite, but it would have attained it had we moved again. It had so far attained it that every demand for stores was made upon me from the army, and no person was allowed to demand stores except through me. I can mention one or two instances in which very serious difficulties arose. On the 6th and 7th of September the artillery found it impossible to mount five guns, two 10-inch and three 8-inch guns, in the right attack within 600 or 700 yards of the Redan, and of course they would have had a most material effect if they could have been mounted; they could not be mounted for want of 2½-inch rope. If one person had had charge of the stores, he could have put his hands at once on white rope. There were thousands of fathoms in the possession of the Land Transport Corps, but nobody thought of applying to them for it.

2380. Who was applied to for the rope?—There was no one channel through which to apply for it. The shipping was tried, the different departments were tried, but unhappily they did not go to the right department.

2381. Who did the captain of the battery, or whoever was the superior officer in the artillery, go to?—I do not know where he went; in this case he did not get the rope. He very likely went to the quartermaster-general, and the quartermaster-general was unable to tell him whether there was any rope of the description that was wanted.

2382. (*Col. French.*) Should the quartermaster-general have made a requisition to you?—Not at that time. If anybody towards the latter part of the war had come to me, I should have given the store, and have obtained a covering order from the chief of the staff. If I supplied rope for mounting guns, I should have asked for a covering order from the officer commanding the artillery.

2383. (*Chairman.*) You are referring to the conduct of an army in the field, and the necessity of having a director-general of stores, in the same way that there is a director-general of commissariat. My question was originally directed to the system adopted here, by which the officer at the head of a manufacturing department has custody of a large portion of the raw material used in those establishments. Formerly the custody of that raw material used to be

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with the principal military storekeeper. Have you any opinion as to the expediency of reverting to that old system?—Not to the expediency of reverting to the old system, except so far that each department should ascertain from every one of the others whether they can meet any portion of the demand of the stores required. For instance, not only should the storekeeper of the department be consulted, but the other departments should be consulted. If the carriage department required iron, besides going to the storekeeper, they should go to the gun factory, and also to the laboratory, to ascertain if they have iron that they can spare.

2384. Would there be any advantage in the principal military storekeeper having the custody of all raw material, and issuing it to the separate manufacturing establishments?—Certainly; as far as the public is concerned, I should say that there would be an advantage, because according to the present system the party receiving the stores expends them. He shows the quantity of stores manufactured out of them; but at the same time there is no intermediate check between the receipt and the expenditure. He is the person who makes the expenditure and shows the stores, the result of the expenditure.

2385. Although there is no intermediate check between him and another department, is there not between the different officers of his department? Does not one officer receive and the other manufacture? Is it necessary to have a check as between the head of that department and anybody else?—At present they receive the stores direct and expend them. I say that the public should have the benefit of having those stores passed through an independent party, who would issue them to the departments.

2386. Is not that a reason for his having the custody of the stores?—I mean that he could make his accounts work easier in the expenditure by having the custody of the raw material in his own control.

2387. Is not that a reason for his having the custody?—No. I think that is a reason against it.

He receives the stores, and actually expends them by conversion. But I say that an independent party should receive the stores, and issue them to him for conversion.

2388. (*Col. French.*) Take, for example, Colonel Wilmot, or any of the superintendents of manufacturing departments; they have to apply for what they want to the Secretary of State-for-War. Ought not the Secretary of State-for-War to know by a reference to your department what you have in your hands?—He knows that, so far as I am concerned; but he does not know it as far as the manufacturing departments are concerned.

2389. One department furnishes a document to the War Office, showing how what they have previously drawn has been expended. Ought not the Secretary of State-for-War to know whether any other department could supply the requirements for a particular store?—Undoubtedly.

2390. (*Chairman.*) Would there not be, as regards timber, an inconvenience in your having the custody of stores which require some years to season, inasmuch as they are responsible for the process of seasoning, which takes place under their control?—They would be responsible for the timber.

2391. Would there be any additional check in giving the principal military storekeeper the custody of the raw material beyond the fact that it would pass through his hands, and he would know how much he handed over to the different departments?—There would be no advantage beyond that.

2392. I thought you said that there would be an advantage in the storekeeper distributing the material to the different departments?—I think not, beyond the advantage of an intermediate check.

2393. Do you produce a return, prepared at our request, of the officers employed in the four departments in the Royal Arsenal, with a statement of their salaries, the number of men employed, with the weekly amount of wages paid?—I do. (*See Appendix, No. 7.*)

Adjourned.

LONDON.

Wednesday, 8th December 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. EDWARD JOHNSON examined.

LONDON.

Mr.

E. Johnson.

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2394. (*Chairman.*) Are you a partner in the house of Rabone, Brothers?—I am.

2395. They carry on business, I think, at Birmingham?—Yes.

2396. Am I right in supposing it to be one of the largest houses in Birmingham?—I think it is one of the largest.

2397. How do you describe yourselves?—We call ourselves merchants.

2398. You are not manufacturers, I believe?—No.

2399. Has your house occasionally had contracts or sub-contracts of any kind, to furnish supplies to the Government?—We have.

2400. A statement has been laid before the Commissioners, in which your name is mentioned, with respect to some shovels. Do you remember any transaction as to furnishing shovels to the Government?—Yes; we had a contract, not directly in our own name, but in the name of Gilpin, some three years ago.

2401. Was that Messrs. Gilpin of Cannock near Walsall, the edge tool manufacturers?—Yes.

2402. They were the nominal contractors with the Government?—Yes.

2403. And you made an arrangement with Messrs. Gilpin to furnish a portion of the supply?—Yes; they made the axes, and we undertook to furnish the shovels.

2404. Not being manufacturers, from whom did you get the shovels?—From Mr. John Sidaway, a manufacturer in the neighbourhood.

2405. What was the number?—10,000 shovels, I think.

2406. Was this transaction in the early part of 1855?—It was in April 1855.

2407. Where were the shovels to be delivered?—At Woolwich.

2408. Were deliveries made from time to time, or were all the shovels delivered together?—They were ordered to be delivered at different periods.

2409. When was the first delivery?—The first delivery was the 27th April.

2410. Were there some rejections at first?—At first we sent in 72, and we had only three rejected. On the 11th of May we sent 960, and they were all rejected. On June the 1st we sent in 12, they were likewise rejected. On June the 15th we sent in 240, and they were rejected.

2411. Were the causes of rejection notified to you?—They were.

2412. Do you remember what they were?—I do not recollect precisely, I have not the particulars; I believe it was for the steel not showing sufficiently clear.

2413. Were the shovels for field service?—Yes.

2414. Did the causes of rejection seem to you to be well founded?—I think not; there may have been something in it—the objections did not seem to me to be well founded.

2415. Were you responsible, being sub-contractor for Messrs. Gilpin, that they should be passed?—Yes.

2416. Were you to incur all the responsibility?—Yes.

2417. Did Mr. Sidaway who was the maker enter into a similar contract with you?—Yes.

2418. So that any loss from rejection would really have fallen upon the maker?—Yes.

2419. And only upon you as a sort of go-between?—Yes.

2420. What did you do upon the rejections? Did you come to Woolwich?—I understand that you have some sort of charge to make against me: perhaps you will be good enough to let me know what it is. I wish it to be distinctly understood that I am not here voluntarily. I am here in consequence of your request, owing to some representation that has been made; it is a transaction now three years ago.

2421. The statement supplied to the Commissioners is this, "Messrs. Rabone, Brothers, entered into a contract with the Government to supply 10,000 shovels: they delivered 1,000 to the store department of the Tower, of which a few were rejected"?—That is a mistake; it was at Woolwich. We delivered first 72; 69 of them were passed; and then we delivered 960, and the whole of them were rejected.

2422. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was the larger quantity which was delivered exactly the same kind of shovel as the 72?—I believe so, precisely.

2423. (*Chairman.*) "They then deliver a second thousand, and a large number are rejected;" is that correct?—It is only correct so far as I have stated, that we did not deliver the thousand that were passed.

2424. "Mr. Johnson comes up to London to see about it." You did so?—I did.

2425. "The explanation of the viewers is, that palm oil is a necessary ingredient in the manufacture of all articles for Government use." Was that said or implied by any of the viewers at Woolwich?—No; I had heard of it out of doors.

2426. "Mr. Johnson finding himself at the mercy of those viewers, four in number,"—did you see four viewers?—No.

2427. How many did you see?—I do not recollect above two.

2428. "Distributes as many 5*l.* notes among them"?—I never gave a 5*l.* note to a man at Woolwich in my life.

2429. Or five sovereigns?—No, I never gave 5*l.* at any time in my life.

2430. "And so gets through the contract without further trouble till the time for payment has arrived, and to get over the delay in passing the certificate of inspection another 5*l.* is necessary, and he then gets his money." Is that correct?—I never did anything of the sort. I never gave 5*l.* to get my money, nor a shilling to get the money.

2431. "At the same time he gives notice to the War Department that he shall expose the persecution he has endured at the hands of their subordinates

"to the Committee of the House of Commons as soon as it is nominated and its sittings commence"?—I never gave any such notice, nor, to the best of my recollection, stated that I should do so.

2432. Did you ever threaten any such exposure?—I never recollect anything of the sort. I once had a conversation with Mr. Howell, but I do not think I made any such threat or allusion.

2433. (*Colonel French.*) Had you any grounds for making such a threat?—I had only those annoyances I tell you about; those rejections, which seemed to me harsh.

2434. (*Mr. Turner.*) There may be a mistake about delivering at the Tower instead of Woolwich, but were not they viewed from the Tower?—I never saw any Tower viewers.

(*Mr. Elliott.*) They were not Tower viewers at that time. Tower viewers are at Woolwich by a recent arrangement.

2435. (*Chairman.*) You have denied this statement in terms. Perhaps you will tell us exactly, in your own way, what really took place, if anything?—I gave two men a sovereign each once, at Woolwich. I state that with great reluctance, because at the time I did it I had my own son up here, and the men were extremely civil, and showed us all over the place.

2436. Did you give the men a sovereign a piece for their civility?—Yes, and it seemed to me, from what I had heard, that trifles of that sort were expected.

2437. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were the persons to whom you gave the sovereign the viewers?—They were.

2438. (*Chairman.*) Can you give us about the date of this transaction?—It was in June, 1855.

2439. Do you know the names of the viewers?—I do, and if you compel me I must state their names.

2440. What were their names?—The name of one was Crawford, and the name of the other was Davies.

2441. Will you tell us exactly how it came to pass that you gave the sovereigns to them?—I do not know that I can tell any better how it came to pass than that I had the impression that these things were expected. There was a great press of work in the yard at that time, and I did it not only for passing our shovels, which I believed to be good, but because, notwithstanding that pressure, I expected that we should get an earlier report.

2442. (*Colonel French.*) Were you asked for the money?—No.

2443. Did the men hint that they expected a present?—No, I do not know that they did. I should have done pretty much the same if I had been showing gentlemen round a manufactory in our own town.

2444. (*Mr. Turner.*) Your real motive was not to reward the men for showing you round the premises, but because you thought such things were occasionally done, and it might, as you have already said, facilitate the passing of your goods, and also the forwarding of the report at an early period?—Yes.

2445. It was not for taking you round the premises that you gave them that money?—Not entirely that.

2446. (*Chairman.*) Have the two sovereigns grown into the four 5*l.* notes?—I do not know; that is the only particulars that I have down—those two sovereigns. I may have given money in half-crowns, five shillings, or ten shillings at other times. I never gave more than a sovereign at a time in my life at Woolwich.

2447. (*Mr. Turner.*) You did afterwards give small sums as high as 10*s.*?—Yes, I may have given other sovereigns, but I have no particulars of them.

2448. Was the money given all to the same parties?—I do not know whether it was all to the same parties. I cannot recollect so long ago as three years.

2449. Did you find any hesitation on the part of those viewers, although they did not ask for the money, as to receiving it?—No, I did not.

LONDON.

Mr.
E. Johnson.

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LONDON.

Mr.
E. Johnson.

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2450. (*Chairman.*) Perhaps, rather the contrary ?
—No ; I had no intimation that they wanted it.

2451. You did not give it both at the same moment.
Did anything pass when the first sovereign was given which led you to give the other ?—I am not sure whether anything passed. There might have been some intimation that the other expected one.

2452. This was in June 1855 ?—Yes.

2453. The deliveries at that time, under your contract, went on for some time ?—I believe it was completed at the end of the year, or the beginning of 1856.

2454. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have told us the amount of rejections early in the delivery ; will you state about the amount of rejections after those little douceurs had been given ?—I must tell you I believe the steel, or the position of the steel in the shovel, really was altered afterwards ; in fact the next quantity I have is, in July we sent in 360 and they passed 347. Then we had deliveries in August, one of 360, one of 480, one of 360, one of 240, those are all lumped together, and the rejections are only 67.

2455. (*Colonel French.*) Were any of those the shovels that had been rejected before ?—I do not think they were ; we sent them back to the makers.

2456. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were any of the same shovels that had been rejected sent back afterwards to Woolwich and passed ?—I cannot say that.

2457. (*Chairman.*) I understood you to say something about the steel being altered ; could the steel be altered in the same shovel, would not they have to make another shovel ?—They would have to make another shovel, and I am assuming that another was made.

2458. You say that you cannot state whether any of those that were rejected were afterwards passed. Do you believe that any of those that had been previously rejected were sent in again ?—I have no belief about it, because we sent them back to the makers. I have no idea whether they were the same or not ; I have no reservation about it.

2459. Did you examine them when they came back from the makers ?—They were sent direct from the maker to Woolwich ; they did not pass through our hands at all.

2460. (*Colonel French.*) Did you charge the maker with those sovereigns that you gave to the men at Woolwich ?—No, I did not ; it occurred to me since I have been asked the question that I ought to have done so. I did not charge them.

2461. (*Mr. Turner.*) Can you form any idea of what amount you gave after the two sovereigns ? You named half-crowns, five shillings, and so forth, at various times before your contract was delivered ?—I have tried to form an idea, but I do not think I ever gave 10*l.* in my life.

2462. As to this particular contract ?—It would be in that 12 months.

2463. Did you ever give money on any other occasion ?—No.

2464. Do you think the douceurs given by you during the delivery of that contract amounted to 10*l.* ?—They may.

2465. You found no viewers at Woolwich unwilling to receive those douceurs ?—I only recollect those two ; there were other men about.

2466. From your experience on that occasion, should you suppose there would have been any difficulty in seeing any of the men ?—I do not know that. I had no difficulty in what I did, but the amounts were trifling.

2467. (*Col. French.*) Were you satisfied with the advantage that you derived from it ?—I was so far that I got my goods passed ; the fact is, it would not answer my purpose to be coming up to Woolwich every week and explaining about these things.

2468. (*Chairman.*) How many times were you at Woolwich ?—I do not know ; I should think half a dozen times, or more.

2469. Have you had any subsequent contracts at Woolwich ?—No, not at Woolwich.

2470. That contract closed at the end of 1855, you say ?—Or the beginning of 1856.

2471. What is the date of the last delivery ?—I do not know that I can give you the date with authority, because this was the rough memorandum kept in our warehouse ; the last date is February 1856.

2472. Has that memorandum been prepared for this occasion ?—Not at all ; it is a list made up of the various rejections.

2473. Have you had any contracts at the Tower ?—We had one, I think, dated in January 1856.

2474. Had you any trouble about rejections there ?—We had a great number of things rejected.

2475. Was that a contract for hammers and tools ?—They were general tools ; I have not the contract before me.

2476. Did you come up to London about them ?—No.

2477. Who was the maker of the tools ?—A variety of makers.

2478. You say that you did not come up yourself ; did anybody from your firm come up to the Tower ?—No ; I believe there was no communication, except to get the goods away that were rejected.

2479. Did you ever directly or indirectly give or cause to be given anything to any one at the Tower ?—Never a shilling in my life.

2480. Did you ever directly or indirectly give anything at Woolwich, except in relation to this contract for shovels, of which you have spoken ?—Never ; I never saw a viewer at the Tower in my life. The only application I think I ever made to the Tower was to a Mr. Elliott about some hatchets ; he told me that the hatchets were properly rejected, and they were returned to us.

2481. (*Col. French.*) Did any one connected in trade with you ever suggest the advantage of giving a "tip" to the viewers ?—I had often heard of it before the affair at Woolwich, that it was necessary to do so.

2482. Can you name any one who has said so to you ?—No, I cannot.

2483. (*Chairman.*) You heard me read this statement ; it is asserted that you made this statement to a Mr. Moore ; did he have personal communication with you upon the subject ?—I have esteemed it a great hardship that such a charge should be made against us after the time ; I considered it due to you, gentlemen, to come and state the truth, as I have done to the best of my ability, and fully.

2484. Do you know Mr. Moore ?—I do.

2485. Were you in communication with him upon this subject ?—Yes ; some three years ago he came down to me and wanted me to give evidence, and I refused.

2486. Did you tell him in substance what you have told us to-day ?—Probably. I never stated what he has charged me with there.

2487. You make a distinction between 10*l.* and 20*l.* ?—He says I gave five pound notes ; I deny it.

2488. (*Mr. Turner.*) There were only two viewers that you recollect having given money to ? If you gave 10*l.*, does it not after all amount to each viewer having got 5*l.* from you ?—There were other people about the yard. I never gave any individual 5*l.* in my life, nor anything like it.

2489. (*Chairman.*) Did you ever give anything to expedite the obtaining of the certificate ?—Decidedly not. Moreover I never had any communication with any one to expedite the certificate.

2490. (*Col. French.*) Have you had any contracts direct with the Government ?—This last was direct.

2491. Would you object to state what your profit might have been on the occasion in question ?—It was a loss. I may safely state that we have lost on all the contracts we have had.

2492. (*Chairman.*) Do you now contract with the Government ?—No, we have declined. I do not think we have had anything for two years ; we have forms sent, but we do not fill them up.

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2493. (*Mr. Turner.*) You said, just now, that you did not give this money to facilitate the passing of the certificate?—Decidedly not.

2494. I understood you, in answer to a former question, to say that you did give the money to facilitate the passing of your goods, and to facilitate the passing of the report?—I did not mean the certificate.

A previous answer was read.

2495. Why did you wish to get an early report?—Because I did not want our goods to lie there.

2496. Does not the getting of an early report facilitate the passing of the certificate for payment? Is not one the consequence of the other?—It is simply this; if these goods go in on the 1st of June, and lie there till the 1st of July, I think it is longer than they ought to lie, and I should like to have our report, whether they are rejected or passed, earlier; the report I refer to is the rejection or the passing.

2497. I can understand that it is a desirable thing in itself to get your mind set at ease, whether your goods have passed or not; but upon the report depends the certificate for payment, does not it?—I had no allusion to the certificate for payment when I used the word “report.”

2498. Is not the one consequent upon the other? You get a report that the goods are passed, and upon

that report the certificate for payment is sent in due course?—Yes.

2499. I understand the course to be this—until you get over the first step, namely, the passing of your goods, no further step can be taken; the inspector makes a report, (the person who fills up the certificate for payment does not do it,) which is the first step of a series, which ends in your getting your money?—When I used the word “report,” I referred to the report of the passing or rejection of the goods. The statement read by the Chairman, I understand to apply to the certificate,—that I had given money to obtain payment.

2500. The other would be the happy sequence?—You will understand there are two notices; we get notice of rejection or passing.

2501. (*Col. French.*) Have you any objection to state to the Commissioners the cause of your loss?—It was in the expense of carriage to and fro; when goods are rejected we have to get them down to Birmingham and send them up again; it entails a heavy expense; I believe it ate up about all our profits.

2502. (*Mr. Turner.*) Is not the carriage to and fro of such articles as shovels, compared with their value, very considerable?—Yes, I state that I believe there was a loss; I have not gone through the account for the purpose of ascertaining whether we did gain or lose, but my impression is that we lost.

Mr. CHARLES SANDYS ELLIOTT examined.

Mr.
C. S. Elliott.

2503. (*Chairman.*) Are there any viewers at the Tower of the names of Crawford and Davies?—No; at the period mentioned by Mr. Johnson, the persons employed in the capacity of viewers at Woolwich were drawn from the manufacturing departments, from the Royal Carriage department, or any other, from which persons could be best spared; that was the practice in 1854 and 1855; at the present time, viewers, who have been brought up to the trade, have been detached from the Tower for the purpose of inspecting such tools as Mr. Johnson has mentioned in his evidence.

2504. Is there a difference between the course pursued now and that pursued in 1855, as to the communication of contractors with viewers? Mr. Johnson seems to have had no trouble in talking to any of the viewers that he mentioned?—The course of inspection at Woolwich at the present time differs from that in existence at the Tower.

2505. In what respects?—At the Tower the only person entitled to communicate with contractors upon the subject of their supplies, at the inspection branch, is the superintendent of inspectors; at Woolwich the supplies are delivered under the immediate superintendence of the storekeeper and deputy-storekeeper, in the military store office, and as the supplies are made, he draws assistants from the manufacturing departments to view the stores when delivered.

2506. As regards the facility of communication between contractors and viewers which appears to have been complete in Mr. Johnson's case, does that system now exist, as far as you know, at any Government establishment?—I think not.

2507. Can a contractor communicate with the viewers at the Tower?—Certainly not; a contractor has no opportunity, unless he obtains it by very indirect means indeed, such as the department has no control over, of ascertaining by whom the stores delivered are viewed; he necessarily knows the name of the inspector, because the inspector is a public officer placed over a division of the department, but the stores delivered are viewed by any viewer whose time may be most at leisure on the occasion of the delivery.

2508. Can a contractor come into the Tower, and see a viewer?—He cannot, except in the presence of the superintendent of inspectors; at Woolwich I have no doubt, although the stores are viewed by men attached to the manufacturing department, and not the

storekeeper's office, that the same system is pursued; Captain Gordon is thoroughly conversant with the principles laid down, as he has carried them out at Weedon, and I feel perfectly persuaded that he would adopt the same course at the station where he is now principal military storekeeper.

2509. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are the viewers at Mark Lane entirely under your control?—They were, until the arrangement of the military inspectors, who are attached to the clothing department by a recent order; the viewers are placed under the immediate direction of the inspectors, military and civil, and are taken away from my control as storekeeper.

2510. Is it possible, at that department, for a contractor to have any intercourse with the viewers?—I think not; the storekeeper is the officer intrusted with the communication with contractors respecting their supplies; contractors have waited upon me in the capacity of storekeeper, upon the subject of rejections, and I have personally attended to them; in other cases, when I have been absent from Mark Lane doing duty at the Tower, the contractors have seen the officers next in succession.

2511. At what date were the viewers at Mark Lane taken from under your control?—On the 2nd of November last, by a special order of the Secretary of State. The principal object for placing the viewers and labourers attached to the inspection branch at Mark Lane, at the clothing establishment, under the inspectors is, that there is no superintendent of inspectors.

2512. (*Chairman.*) This is the rule which is laid down at Weedon:—“All intercourse, communication, or correspondence between the inspectors and contractors is strictly forbidden.” “To place the inspectors in an unimpeachable position, strict orders have been given against the admission to the depôt of any persons, more particularly contractors, or their agents, except under a pass signed by the superintendent, or, in his absence, by one of the two chief clerks in his office.” Have you anything equivalent to that rule at the Tower?—Yes; soon after the same rule came into force at the Tower in 1856; it was so entirely opposed to what had been the practice for years previously, that the contractors went into the inspection floors as they had been accustomed to do, although an endeavour was made to enforce the rule; and a case happened where a viewer suffered a contractor to remain on the inspection floor,

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and answered him several questions respecting his supplies. It was made known to me by the contractor himself. I considered it my duty to make a special report upon the subject, and the viewer was reduced for a period of three months. Upon a subsequent report as to his general character, he was reinstated; but, in addition to this example that was made of a viewer, the principal military storekeeper caused a notice to be affixed to every inspection floor, warning the viewers that a recurrence of such a case would certainly

terminate in the dismissal of the viewer who was in charge of the room.

2513. Is that notice in existence now?—Yes, in every inspection room.

2514. (*Col. French.*) If the viewers are attached to a particular trade, would there be any difficulty in the contractors seeing them out of doors?—No; we cannot guard against that; we must rely, in some measure, upon the integrity and honesty of those whom we employ.

Adjourned to To-morrow at Twelve o'clock.

LONDON.

Thursday, 9th December 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

LONDON.

David Davies.

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DAVID DAVIES examined.

2515. (*Chairman.*) What are you?—I am master carpenter in the military store department of the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich.

2516. In 1855 had you anything to do with the receipt or viewing of tools?—For a short time in the early part of 1855, up to July.

2517. You have probably heard of the evidence which was given yesterday by Mr. Johnson, who was the sub-contractor to Mr. Gilpin, for the supply of certain shovels?—Yes, I saw it in the paper.

2518. Is there any other Davies besides yourself in that department?—Not who had examined anything in the shape of tools.

2519. Had you any examination of tools, or matters of that kind, at that time?—Yes, I examined some shovels at that time.

2520. Do you know Mr. Johnson?—No, I do not.

2521. The Commissioners feel it right to warn you to be perfectly candid in anything you say. It will be very much worse for you if you are not. Mr. Johnson has told us that he saw Davies—I suppose it must have been you—and that he gave you a sovereign?—I deny it positively. Never any such thing occurred, neither by Mr. Johnson, if such a person ever came to the arsenal, that I am aware of, or any other contractor.

2522. Would there be two persons to examine such shovels as those, one for the ironwork and the other for the wood?—Yes, I examined the woodwork.

2523. Did Crawford examine the ironwork?—Yes.

2524. There can be no mistake that Mr. Johnson is speaking of you two men. Do you mean to say that never, at any time, either Mr. Johnson or anybody else ever gave you anything?—Never.

2525. Was he alone when he came?—I do not know. I never saw him. I cannot answer that question whether I saw him. I might have seen him, but not to know the gentleman.

2526. Did any one come to Woolwich about those shovels?—Several contractors have been, but when a contractor comes to a viewer—

2527. You examined the woodwork, and Crawford examined the ironwork of these shovels. We have had official returns, and it appears that the inspection lasted many months. The first three or four lots, with one trifling exception, were rejected, and afterwards a great portion of the deliveries were passed. Mr. Johnson has told us in the first instance he gave

you a sovereign, and afterwards other monies?—I am sorry to say that Mr. Johnson is not speaking the truth.

2528. He is a gentleman who has rather a peculiar appearance, if he wore then, as he does now, double spectacles with sides; he was a person whose appearance you would not forget?—It is very possible. The viewers never have any conversation with contractors, without the deputy storekeeper being present.

2529. We are speaking of 1855?—The same rule existed then as at the present time.

2530. Do you remember a stout man, with rather a full mouth, who was interested in those shovels, being at Woolwich several times?—It is possible.

2531. It is not only possible, but the fact, that Mr. Johnson was at Woolwich several times?—I do not recollect him. I have no recollection of seeing the gentleman. I cannot tax my memory.

2532. Whom did you see about those shovels?—I do not recollect seeing anybody about those particular shovels.

2533. How long have you been in the service at Woolwich?—Twelve years.

2534. I assure you that the Commissioners are most anxious that no evil consequences should follow any frank disclosure by any parties before them; and although we have no absolute power to pledge to you or to any one indemnity for anything he may say, we can pledge this, that if you will speak with perfect frankness about whatever occurred three years ago, we will do our best to secure that that frankness shall not injure you; but if the Commissioners, after hearing your evidence, shall be of opinion that it is not true, then they will not only report accordingly, but it will be their feeling, as it will be the feeling of every honest man, that punishment should follow want of frankness. I do not wish to imply a doubt of your veracity, but if you would like to take a few minutes to reflect before you answer the questions, do so?—I require no consideration whatever. I have spoken the truth in this matter.

2535. Do you mean to pledge yourself that upon no occasion, from no person, you ever received any gratuity or reward during the performance of your duties, or connected with the performance of your duties at Woolwich?—Yes, I will pledge myself to that. I have too much respect for my situation, as well as the service. I have never done anything of the kind; never received anything, nor has any one offered me anything.

2536. I do not suppose that you are meaning any mental reservation. Did you receive any money in any shape whatever from any one?—Never.

2537. Had you some years ago occasionally the opportunity of showing people about the arsenal?—No; no more than I have at the present time. I have no power at the present time without I get the sanction of my superior officer.

2538. Was it customary at this time for persons to come pretty freely into the viewing place?—It was never the custom for any person to come without an order into any of the stores. No person was admitted except on business at any time.

2539. This gentlemen came on business. He came after his shovels were rejected, and he wanted to see the reason?—If he did come I must have referred him to the deputy storekeeper at the time.

2540. (*To Mr. Morris.*) Is there any doubt whether the witness Davies was one of the persons who did inspect those shovels?—I have no doubt but what he was.

2541. (*To Davies.*) Be cautious in your answers?—It needs no caution. I have spoken the truth, and I am sorry that any gentleman could act in such a malicious way, because he could not get his articles passed.

2542. On the contrary, he did get the articles passed. His story is this; in the first instance they were rejected, that he then saw you and Crawford, that you inspected the woodwork, and that Crawford inspected the iron; and that he gave you both money upon more than one occasion?—He is not speaking the truth. I say again, I am sorry he should act in such a malicious manner, which it really must be, to injure me and my family. I look upon it as malicious.

2543. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are you aware that Mr. Johnson is a person of the very highest personal character, connected with a firm of the highest respectability at Birmingham? that he came here to give the evidence which he gave yesterday, with very great reluctance and hesitation? that he had very great disinclination to name the persons to whom he had given the money, and that altogether it was a most painful examination to him? that he conscientiously went through it at the earnest desire of the Commissioners, and not by any malicious feeling of his own, as you have insinuated, but from a sense of public duty when he was pledged to fulfil that duty?—I have no doubt as to the respectability of the gentleman, or as to the character he may hold. I have always valued my character as much as any gentleman could possibly do; as much as Mr. Johnson could value his. I have no knowledge of Mr. Johnson whatever.

2544. (*Chairman.*) You say that occasionally persons have come in, but only with orders; have you never had liberty from your superior to take them about the place?—Friends of my own. I have repeatedly had an order from my superior officer for an hour or so, to show my friends round the manufacturing department, or any other department of the stores.

2545. So far from Mr. Johnson being actuated by a wish to injure anybody, he came to me at my private residence, with a letter from a personal friend of my own in his district, and made the most earnest request to be excused from giving evidence upon the subject; I had no course to take but to insist upon it as far as I could, and I was obliged to make it a personal request that he would give evidence; and partly because I made such a strong personal request, he consented against his own feeling to tell us what he did

tell us; do you still adhere to your statement that you never upon any occasion received money from Mr. Johnson?—I never did.

2546. Was anybody besides you and Crawford concerned in the inspections of these shovels of Gilpin's?—Not in 1855, from May to June. I have a record here of the articles inspected; I have seen by the paper that Mr. Johnson says that the contract was by Gilpin, that is what I go by; I have copied out a few of the articles sent in as they were received and rejected; up to July I examined the woodwork, but not after.

2547. I suppose the shovels being made of wood and iron, you might sometimes examine them in the presence of Crawford?—Frequently.

2548. The examination of the same tool would be going on at the same time by two different persons?—Sometimes it would occur that Crawford would pass one row of shovels, about 30, and I should follow him, he examining the ironwork and I the woodwork, following in that order so as not to delay time in going over them twice.

2549. Mr. Johnson told me privately, what I did not ask him in public—perhaps I ought to have done so—that the way in which it was done was this, that he gave a sovereign first to Crawford, and Crawford said, "Thank you, sir," and he said "I only examine the iron, this man examines the wood;" and then he gave you another sovereign. Mr. Johnson cannot be mistaken about that; and he has been either guilty of a most wicked, abominable falsehood, or the particularity with which he made that statement stamps it with truth?—Never. I denied that from the first time I came into the room. I deny it *in toto*.

2550. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you remember a gentleman coming with a boy, whom he wished you to show through the works?—I have no recollection of any such thing. As I said before, I have had friends of my own about the works. I am not aware that I took any one else through the Arsenal.

2551. Do you remember taking a gentleman and his son through the Arsenal?—I have not the slightest recollection of taking a gentleman round of the description you give.

2552. (*Col. French.*) Were there any other viewers employed in examining these shovels besides yourself?—After July, there were according to my paper, 72 field shovels supplied; 69 approved and three rejected; that was the first delivery. June 23rd, 240 field shovels, all rejected. August 15th, that was examined by my successor. There was another person appointed to inspect after that. The next was 60 supplied, and all approved.

2553. Were you inspecting then?—No, not at that time; all that I could have examined at the time was 72, when there were three rejected, and 240 when all were rejected.

2554. (*Chairman.*) Have you had any conversation with Crawford about this?—We came up together, and of course we had conversation; we were expressing our extreme surprise that such an assertion should be made.

2555. Has Crawford altogether denied it to you?—Quite so.

2556. Have you at all arranged what to say?—Not in the least; I came here I hope to speak the perfect truth, guided by no one.

2557. I am sorry Mr. Johnson is not present, but there can be no doubt about the identity of the persons who examined the shovels at the time that he mentions, therefore we have to choose between which of you is telling the truth?—I have a clear conscience, as far as I am concerned.

JAMES CRAWFORD examined.

2558. (*Chairman.*) What are you now at Woolwich?—Master-smith in the military store department.

2559. How long have you held that office?—Since 1856.

2560. What were you in 1855?—I was then working-foreman.

2561. In that character had you any thing to do with the inspection of iron shovels?—Yes.

2562. Do you remember a supply of a considerable

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quantity of shovels in the spring or early summer of 1855?—Yes, there was some from several parties.

2563. Gilpin's supply?—Yes.

2564. You heard the caution that we gave to Davies?—Yes.

2565. Consider that as repeated to yourself, and understand that straightforwardness will be the best policy. Have you read Mr. Johnson's evidence?—I saw it in the paper this morning.

2566. Mr. Johnson says that he came up to Woolwich in consequence of the rejection of his shovels. Did you see him?—There was a party came and he saw Mr. Pellatt. I was in the store at the time. Mr. Pellatt was deputy storekeeper, and his rejections were shown to him at the time.

2567. What sort of a looking gentleman?—Rather a stoutish man. I should not know him again if I saw him. I might know him.

2568. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was he alone?—He was alone; this party came along with Mr. Pellatt down in the stores.

2569. (*Chairman.*) Had you any conversation with him?—No, only with Mr. Pellatt.

2570. Did you never speak to this person?—No.

2571. Upon no occasion?—No.

2572. Never?—No.

2573. Was there any other person of the name of Crawford in that department?—No; there was one of the name of Crawford in the carriage department.

2574. Was he inspecting shovels in May or June 1855?—No.

2575. Mr. Johnson says that he saw a person bearing the name of Crawford. Did you inspect the ironwork or the woodwork of the shovels?—The ironwork—the pans.

2576. Did you point out the reasons of the rejections?—Yes, in the presence of the deputy storekeeper, Mr. Joseph Pellatt, who is at Devonport.

2577. Was Mr. Pellatt always present then?—Yes, he was always present with me at my examinations when any contractor or any agent came there to look at the rejections. I was not allowed to tell any person anything without him being there present.

2578. Do you mean to say that you never upon any occasion saw anybody with relation to the rejection of Gilpin's shovels, except in the presence of the deputy storekeeper?—Without the deputy storekeeper was with him no person was allowed in the stores without sanction from the office of the department and the storekeeper or some other officer with him.

2579. You never saw anybody about the rejection of Gilpin's shovels, except in the presence of Mr. Pellatt?—No.

2580. Are you certain of that?—Yes.

2581. Mr. Johnson tells quite a different story; he says, that he gave a sovereign to the man who inspected the ironwork (that is yourself)?—I deny it.

2582. Did he never give you anything?—No. I never received one farthing or any money at all from any individual.

2583. Mr. Johnson also says that you then said, "I only inspect the ironwork, and," pointing to Davies, "he inspects the woodwork"?—I deny it *in toto*.

2584. How should Mr. Johnson know the fact that you inspected the ironwork and Davies inspected the woodwork?—By coming up to the office about the rejections.

2585. Would the rejections show who inspected the woodwork, and who inspected the ironwork?—Yes, by the invoice; we fill it up with the reasons of rejection.

(*Mr. Morris.*) The viewer signs the report.

2586. (*Chairman.*) Are the reports submitted to the person whose goods are rejected?—No, they were not.

2587. How could Mr. Johnson know that Crawford inspected the ironwork of the shovels, and

Davies the woodwork?—There was no official communication whatever.

2588. (*To Crawford.*) How could he know?—Only through the office.

(*Mr. Morris.*) We did not give the names.

2589. (*Chairman to Crawford.*) You think that from somebody in the office Mr. Johnson learned that a person, whose name was Crawford, inspected the ironwork, and a person, whose name was Davies, inspected the woodwork. Who do you think would tell him?—That I cannot say.

2590. You say that he must have learned it at the office?—Yes; they go there to inquire when they get the return of stores.

2591. Mr. Morris says, that they did not tell him?—They always came to the office; where he got it from I cannot say.

2592. Mr. Johnson mentioned Davies as the man who inspected the woodwork; did you tell him that Davies inspected the woodwork?—No, not at all.

2593. Did you ever see him more than once?—No.

2594. Never?—No.

2595. Did you go on with the rest of the inspections?—Till July 1855.

2596. Did you, as well as Davies, then leave?—We were both examining at the same time.

2597. What became of you in July 1855?—Mr. Payne succeeded me.

2598. Who succeeded Davies?—The carriage-yard and Mr. Payne together.

2599. Have you had any conversation with Davies about this matter?—No; only what we saw in the paper this morning.

2600. What did you say?—We denied it *in toto*; we were quite ignorant of it; we said it was a great stigma on our character; we intended to have gone to our office first about it, to have seen the deputy storekeeper about it.

2601. Did you not hear anything about it yesterday?—No.

2602. Mr. Johnson has told the story with great particularity, that he gave you a sovereign, and you said, "I am the inspector of ironwork, and he," pointing to Davies, "of the woodwork"?—I never received anything.

2603. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you remember being civil to him about the place?—In the presence of Mr. Joseph Pellatt.

2604. Did not you show him over the place?—I never went one yard with him about the place; it is a thing I would never take the liberty of doing. I would ask the liberty for a stranger, but not for a contractor.

2605. (*Col. French.*) Do you know the gentleman we are speaking of?—No, not if I saw him.

2606. A gentleman wearing peculiar spectacles?—I do not recollect seeing such a person.

2607. (*Chairman.*) The Commissioners can at present see but one of two alternatives, either that Mr. Johnson is a malicious slanderer, or that you have done something which you would rather not confess?—I never did it; I would confess to it in a moment if it was true.

2608. I would recommend both you and Davies, if you can get leave of absence for a day or two, to go and see Mr. Johnson. No doubt until men are confronted with one another there is a possibility of explanation which may reconcile absolutely contradictory accounts. I think it is worth your while to see Mr. Johnson?—It is a very malicious thing against us.

2609. Were there any other persons besides yourself and Davies who inspected these shovels in June 1855?—No.

2610. (*Col. French.*) Do you remember anybody being with the gentleman who came about the shovels?—No.

2611. Any young gentleman?—No.

Mr. WILLIAM MORRIS further examined.

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2612. (*Chairman.*) Do you wish to offer any remarks with reference to this matter?—From what I read this morning in the paper, it appears that a bribe has been offered or received by two viewers in the inspection department over which I am principal at the present time, and that after this bribery the things were received. Now all that I wish to speak to is, that at that particular time there was a large quantity of tools of every description arriving into the arsenal. I was appointed in July 1855, when the late Mr. Pellatt was appointed. At the same time we found that Davies and Crawford were not sufficient to cope with the work that was coming in, and Mr. Pellatt communicated to Mr. Godley his ideas upon the subject in a letter, which probably had better put in.

The same was read as follows :

SIR, War Department, Woolwich, July 13, 1855.

AGREEABLY to your desire of 12th instant, I have the honour to report the only tools delivered at this depôt are pick and felling axes, bill-hooks, shovels, crowbars, and spades, which have hitherto been examined by the foreman of carpenters and the foreman of smiths belonging to the storekeeper's (this) department, the former the woodwork, the latter the iron and steel work; but a question having arisen within the last few days by two contractors respecting the examination of their bill-hooks and pickaxes, my attention was called to the subject, and considering it very important that these tools should be examined in the best possible manner, and having authority by a general order, dated 24th May 1833 (8/628) to request such practical assistance from any of the manufacturing departments of the of the Royal Arsenal I might require, and personally knowing that there were first-rate men, fully competent to test and judge of these articles in the Royal Carriage Department, I immediately called upon Colonel Tulloh to depute a competent person who is now examining the articles in question. This course, with your sanction, I propose to pursue in future, in addition to the examination by the foremen belonging to this department above mentioned, which I trust will ensure the supply of a *good and proper* article, and preclude the possibility of any complaint of their being issued from this department of a doubtful or inferior quality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRAS. PELLATT,
Storekeeper.

(*Witness.*) I have merely put in that letter to show that the officers of the department were fully aware of the importance of the duty of inspecting tools properly, and further, with regard to the charge that the first supplies of Mr. Gilpin were all rejected, I would beg to read the last paragraph of the specification by which the contract was made:—"If considered necessary, any of the foregoing tools will be cut or broken and heated in the fire to ascertain whether they are made in a proper manner, and in conformity with the terms of the specification; and should it prove on trial or examination that five articles in the hundred are found to fail, either from the iron or steel being of an inferior quality or workmanship, badly steeled or badly tempered, the articles so tried or examined will be rejected, together with the whole of the parcel or delivery to which they belong." That is the clause on which the first rejections were made, the steel was not found to be sufficiently well laid in. After this, the whole of the tools were inspected by Mr. Payne, assisted by the mechanics of the royal carriage department, and the result of the

two inspections was, on the 3rd of July, 60 were approved; on the 10th July 1855, 360 were received, 347 approved, and 13 rejected. Those were inspected by other persons than those who inspected them before; their duties were so heavy that we could not spare the time, that was the reason we applied to have an inspector appointed.

2613. (*Col. French.*) Do those papers afford any clue to the individuals who received the bribe?—They only lead to the inspector, who was Mr. Payne, and who is now superannuated. He lives in London, and you can have him here.

2614. Had Mr. Payne one man for the iron, and one man for the wood?—He had mechanics acting under him.

2615. We are speaking of a certain quantity of tools passed after a large rejection, and I wish, if possible, to find some clue to who the individuals were who inspected and passed those goods, as it would appear that they have received some present from Mr. Johnson, whoever they were?—That I cannot say, the inspector was Mr. Payne, who went through every tool himself.

2616. (*Chairman.*) Is there any alteration in the facility with which a person could walk into the inspector's room? There seems to be no doubt that Mr. Johnson was present in the place where his tools were inspected; this was in June 1855?—I am not aware of any; my predecessor was very particular.

2617. Was the rule the same?—Exactly; he would not allow a person to go into the stores without one of the officers being with him, first going into the office.

2618. I suppose you yourself have no recollection of this particular case?—I have not; I thought I had some recollection of a person of the name of Gilpin.

2619. Do you remember Mr. Johnson, a gentleman who wears spectacles with sides?—I do not.

2620. Can you undertake to give Davies and Crawford leave of absence, for the purpose of going to Birmingham?—Yes, I will take that upon myself.

2621. (*Chairman to Davies.*) Do either of you propose to go to Birmingham?—We shall be glad to see the gentleman upon the matter.

[*Davies and Crawford* were furnished with a letter from the Commissioners, addressed to Mr. Johnson, and they were informed that if Mr. Johnson failed to identify them, as the men to whom the money was given, the Commissioners would reimburse their expenses to Birmingham.]

2622. (*Chairman to Mr. Morris.*) I understand you to say, if the rules of the establishment which then existed had been strictly adhered to in June 1855, the contractor could not have seen the person who viewed his goods, except in the presence of a superior officer, such as Mr. Pellatt?—Not within the storehouses.

2623. Or within the premises?—No.

2624. In Woolwich arsenal?—No, I do not think he could. If I had gone down with a contractor I should have taken him to the viewer. I should have said "Now, Crawford, explain what the defects are." I might possibly have gone away for five or six minutes; it might have been done in that way; but not in any other way; we should not have gone and left the contractor with those persons in the storehouse for any time.

LONDON.

Tuesday, 14th December 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

LONDON.

Mr.
W. H. Colborne.
14th Dec. 1858.

Mr. WILLIAM HENRY COLBORNE examined.

2625. (*Chairman.*) What is your office?—I am clerk in the military storekeeper's office at Woolwich, under Captain Gordon.

2626. Was it at Captain Gordon's instance that you went down with Crawford and Davies to Birmingham on Saturday?—Yes, I went down on Saturday. Captain Gordon instructed me to do so on Friday.

2627. Did you go with any one else?—I placed myself in communication with Captain Rayner, who is barrack master at Birmingham. I went with him to the house of Messrs. Rabone Brothers. I was there introduced to Mr. Johnson, (who made the charge against Crawford and Davies,) and another partner in the house, Mr. Dickson.

2628. Were Crawford and Davies with you?—Crawford and Davies were close by. I gave Mr. Johnson the note that you had addressed to him, which was in my possession, and which explained to him the purport of my visit. He requested to have the attendance of his solicitor, Mr. Slaney. To that we could make no objection. I pointed out to him that I thought it was somewhat unnecessary, but he adhered to his wish, and his solicitor was sent for. On the arrival of his solicitor I called the men into the room. Mr. Johnson immediately addressed Davies by name, Crawford following close to him; he also said, "Ah, Crawford, I well remember you," so that the recognition was complete.

2629. Did Davies or Crawford say anything to Mr. Johnson?—Yes, they strongly protested that that was the first time, to their knowledge, they had ever seen him in their lifetime before, and they adhered to that statement with great calmness and great self-possession; in fact, I observed no variation at all in the conduct of the men.

2630. (*Col. French.*) Are you satisfied in your own mind that Mr. Johnson perfectly knew those individuals?—I am quite satisfied that he could not recognize them in the manner had he not known them.

The following letter from Mr. Johnson was read :

"Dear Sir, "Birmingham, Dec. 13, 1858.

"Your note of the 9th was presented to me
"on Saturday, the 11th inst., by Mr. Colborne and
"Captain Rayner.

"These gentlemen brought with them the two men,
"Crawford and Davies, and I am sorry to say that I at
"once identified them as the men to whom I gave
"money in 1855.

"Yours, &c.

"H. S. Selfe, Esq. "EDWARD JOHNSON."

(*Mr. Colborne.*) After the recognition of the men by Mr. Johnson he called into the room Mr. Appleford, a clerk in his employment, who stated that on the occasion alluded to he had accompanied Mr. Johnson to Woolwich, and was present during the interview. He also remembered both the men well. Davies, he said, he had an instant knowledge of, but from the difference in Crawford's dress he should not have remembered him so well at first, but no doubt existed in his mind as to his being the same man. I asked him if he saw any money pass upon the occasion. He said he did not, but he stated that he was aware, before they got to Woolwich, that it was Mr. Johnson's intention to present a compliment to

the men. He heard afterwards that he had done so, but he saw no money pass upon the occasion. That was the substance of his remarks. He remembered to have seen the men in Woolwich arsenal.

2631. (*Chairman.*) Did anything more take place?—Mr. Johnson then remembered that since he had attended before you a circumstance had occurred to his memory which would tend, were there any doubt upon his mind, to completely dissipate it, and to confirm in the strongest manner the truth of what he had stated. I requested him to inform me what it was, if it was agreeable to him; he declined doing so. I then pressed him, with the consent of Captain Rayner; I thought it would give the men a fair opportunity of explaining or rebutting the circumstance, but he consulted with his solicitor, and his determination was immovable to reserve it; he stated that he would communicate it in a letter addressed personally to you. With that I was obliged to be content, imagining that when I appeared before you I should become acquainted with that circumstance. I must confess I am very much disappointed at Mr. Johnson not having kept his word, for he told me that he would acquaint you with it. It was a fact, from his representations, of so important a character that it would no doubt have been of considerable assistance to the Commissioners in coming to a decision upon the point.

2632. (*Mr. Turner.*) You are quite certain that without you pointing out either of those men to Mr. Johnson, Mr. Johnson recognized the men on entering the room, and addressed them by name?—Most undoubtedly. Mr. Johnson repeated, what he stated before you, that it was merely from the civility and attention that he had met with from these men that he had given them the douceurs, and not with any hope or intention of bribing them in the execution of their duty.

2633. (*Col. French.*) Did Mr. Johnson mention having given money to any other individuals, any of the viewers?—He did not.

2634. He stated so here. I cannot understand why he should recollect these men so well, and should not recollect the others?—I had not heard till now that he alleged giving money to other persons. No remark was made of that sort during my interview with him. Will you allow me to remark that I asked Mr. Johnson as to the fact of no officer of the Department having been present, because it is quite contrary to the regulations that contractors should be in the store without the presence of an officer of the Department. He stated that he had applied for permission to go down, but that the gentlemen in the office were so much occupied that he was allowed to go without being accompanied by them; that he went into the cabin in the entrenching tool store, and there the fact took place. Perhaps you will allow me to put in a copy of the regulation of the Department, and a painted notice is affixed to the storehouses to that effect.

The same was read as follows :

"Notice.

"No person admitted without a written order from
"the storekeeper, deputy storekeeper, or some other
"officer of the Department, except officers in uniform, or known to be such; and all persons found

" in the storehouses or buildings without such written permission will be handed over to the police.

" FRAS. PELLATT, Storekeeper.

" WM. MORRIS, Depy.-Storekeeper.

" War Department, Woolwich,

" Nov. 9, 1855."

2635. (*Mr. Turner.*) Mr. Johnson, when he was here, mentioned the circumstance of his son being with him on this occasion, and that it was showing himself and his son through the place that particularly pleased him; did you hear any mention of his son?—I did; he referred to him; but from the reference he

made to him I imagined it was a youth,—a child possibly; but he spoke of his son accompanying him and his going over the different manufacturing departments and inspecting the machinery. He spoke of Crawford having shown him a planing machine and explaining the working of it, and endeavoured to call to his recollection what took place at the interview.

2636. As possibly his son was only a little boy, he might not be aware of the circumstance; you did not see the son to hear whether he could confirm Mr. Johnson's statement?—No, no further reference was made to him.

DAVID DAVIES and JAMES CRAWFORD further examined.

2637. (*Chairman.*) The Commissioners do not desire to examine you any further unless you wish to say anything; we have heard your statement, and you have heard what Mr. Colborne has said with reference to your interview with Mr. Johnson at Birmingham; do either of you wish to say anything with reference to what took place at Birmingham?—

(*Crawford.*) No, only the same that I did before.

(*Davies.*) I do not consider it was an identification, inasmuch as the letter was sent down to say that we were coming, and by what train; also that Mr. Colborne said while we were waiting outside, "Oh here they are, come in." At the same time, I must say that I have not the slightest recollection of Mr. Johnson. I was in hopes in going down by the train, that I should have recognized him as one I had seen before, but I could not call Mr. Johnson to mind in any way or shape.

(*Crawford.*) I never saw him to my knowledge before.

(*Davies.*) Respecting the examination of the tools, out of the 10,000 shovels which he supplied, all that I examined were 72 and no more; three were rejected out of the 72.

(*Crawford.*) Other parties came to examine afterwards from the carriage department.

(*Davies.*) There is one other thing Mr. Johnson charged me with, going up on the common with him; on denying which, he said "I am not quite sure," is he not as likely to make a mistake in the rest of his assertions as he did in that?

2638. (*Chairman to Mr. Colborne.*) Did Mr. Johnson say that?—Yes; Mr. Johnson endeavoured to call Davies's recollection to the fact that he showed him on to Woolwich Common; Davies stated that he never had shown him, I understood him to say, or anybody else during the time of his duty. Mr. Johnson stated that he was not quite certain about it.

(*Davies.*) I said "any of the contractors."

(*Mr. Colborne.*) Some remark to that effect.

2639. (*Col. French.*) Did you ask Mr. Johnson how he became acquainted with this man's name?—I did not; it did not occur to me.

(*Davies.*) It is a very trying thing to us to have to undergo this. So far as I am concerned, I always, as I stated before, endeavoured to maintain an unimpeachable character. I am sure my officers at Woolwich will give me a character which would be satisfactory to any one.

(*Crawford.*) I never had a blemish against my character all the years I have been there.

2640. (*Colonel French.*) Can you assign any motives for Mr. Johnson pitching upon you?

(*Davies.*) I cannot, indeed.

2641. (*Chairman to Davies.*) You cannot attribute it to malice?—I did say so the other day, but I recal that; I was excited the other day; I wish to recal the word "malice;" it must have been a mistake on his part.

2642. Can you form any idea how Mr. Johnson became acquainted with your names and became able to distinguish the one from the other; Mr. Colborne has already said that Mr. Johnson actually mentioned your name; when you came in he identified you at once as Davies?—No doubt he, as a contractor, has been at Woolwich, and there is no doubt he has been in the entrenching tool store to see the cause of rejections; it is quite possible he might then say to one of the labourers, "Who examines the shovels?" the answer would be, "Oh, Crawford examines the iron and Davies the wood;" that is very easily done.

2643. Still that would not lead to the identification of a person. He identifies you from Crawford; he therefore must have seen you. In that case you would have had an opportunity of seeing him, and he is a very remarkable man?—I have not said that I have not seen him, nor that he has not seen me, but I do not recollect seeing him; it is three and a half years ago, and never having seen him but the one time according to his own showing, I say it is impossible for me to recollect it; I cannot recollect his countenance in any way or shape. I think also, supposing such a thing to have occurred, it must appear a very ungracious act on the part of that gentleman to injure a person for treating him as he alleges with kindness and civility.

2644. (*Col. French.*) Mr. Johnson states that he came here reluctantly, but it was necessary that he should tell the truth, however much it might tell against himself?—(*Crawford.*) He said it grieved him very much. If we had been guilty men we should not have offered to go and face him in that manner. We volunteered to go down, and see Mr. Johnson. A guilty man would never go and face the person making the charge if he had been guilty of any crime; we never hesitated in the least to go.

2645. (*Chairman.*) You must see that it rests entirely between you and Mr. Johnson. We cannot believe you without believing him to be wilfully telling lies and guilty of a very malicious act?—(*Crawford.*) I should be very sorry to tell lies; I never did all the years I have been in the service.

LONDON.

Mr.

W. H. Colborne.

14th Dec. 1858.

David Davies

and

J. Crawford.

Adjourned.

[The body of the page contains several columns of extremely faint, illegible text, likely representing medical articles or reports.]

APPENDIX

TO WOOLWICH EVIDENCE.

APPENDIX No. 1.—(Question 169.)

A STATEMENT of all PURCHASES upon PUBLIC TENDER of FOREIGN TIMBER and DEALS delivered at the ROYAL ARSENAL, WOOLWICH, from January 1, 1854 to September 1855.

Date of Contracts.	Description.	Quantity.	Price.	Contractor.
1854.				
6 March	Pedook	80 to 100 loads	at 15 <i>l</i> . per load	Slee and Bulmer.
14 "	Deals—Petersburgh, 3 × 9 in.	1,000 loads	at 80 <i>l</i> . }	James Roberts.
14 "	" "	1,000 "	at 90 <i>l</i> . }	
14 "	" "	2,000 "	at 120 <i>l</i> . }	
14 "	Archangel, 3 × 11 in.	1,000 "	at 100 <i>l</i> . }	James Roberts.
14 "	" "	500 "	at 120 <i>l</i> . }	
14 "	Dantzic	100 "	at 7 <i>l</i> . 4 <i>s</i> . 11 <i>d</i> . per load	Slee and Bulmer.
14 "	Deals—American	50 "	at 58 <i>l</i> . 15 <i>s</i> . per 120, of 12 feet	
14 "	Petersburgh, 3 × 9 in.	1,000 "	at 70 <i>l</i> . per 120, of 12 feet	C. Snewin.
14 "	Archangel, 3 × 11 in.	1,000 "	at 89 <i>l</i> . " "	
17 "	Boxwood	720 lbs.	at 3 <i>d</i> . per lb.	Fauntleroy and Co.
17 "	Lignum vitæ	112 "	at 2 <i>d</i> . " "	
13 May	Deals, pine, 3 × 11 in.	50 "	at 9 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d</i> . each	William Harris
7 June	African log, 100 loads	100 loads	at 14 <i>l</i> . per load	James Roberts.
7 "	Teak	150 "	at 14 <i>l</i> . 7 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d</i> . per load	
7 "	"	150 "	at 14 <i>l</i> . 17 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d</i> . per load	Slee and Bulmer.
7 "	"	150 "	at 14 <i>l</i> . 19 <i>s</i> . per load	
21 "	African log	50 "	at 14 <i>l</i> . per load	James Roberts.
21 July	Teak	300 "	at 14 <i>l</i> . 12 <i>s</i> . per load	Slee and Bulmer.
21 "	Poles—Norway	50, 21 ft. 8 × 8 in.	at 2 <i>s</i> . 9 <i>d</i> . per foot	
21 "	"	20, 17 ft. 7 × 7 in.	at 2 <i>s</i> . 9 <i>d</i> . " "	James Roberts.
28 "	Deals—Archangel, 3 × 9 in.	3,000 "	at 78 <i>l</i> . per 120, of 12 feet	
31 "	African oak	150 loads	at 12 <i>l</i> . 14 <i>s</i> . 9 <i>d</i> . per load	Slee and Bulmer.
18 August	African	150 "	at 11 <i>l</i> . 18 <i>s</i> . per load	James Roberts.
18 September	Fir—Dantzic or Riga	80 "	at 4 <i>l</i> . 19 <i>s</i> . per load	Slee and Bulmer.
25 "	Deals—Petersburgh, Onega, &c.	5,000, 3 × 9 in.	1,000 at 78 <i>l</i> . }	James Roberts.
25 "	" "	" "	1,000 at 85 <i>l</i> . }	
25 "	" "	" "	2,000 at 90 <i>l</i> . }	
25 "	" "	" "	1,000 at 95 <i>l</i> . }	
15 November	Fir—Dantzic or Riga	2,000, 3 × 11 in.	at 95 <i>l</i> . " "	James Roberts.
15 "	Deals, 3 × 11 in.	80 loads	at 4 <i>l</i> . 19 <i>s</i> . per load	Langton & Robinson.
15 "	Fir—Dantzic or Riga	300 "	at 46 <i>l</i> . per 120, of 12 feet	Dowson and Co.
11 December	" "	20 loads	at 5 <i>l</i> . 9 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d</i> . per load	Cosser and Co.
	" "	20 "	at 6 <i>l</i> . 5 <i>s</i> . per load	
1855.				
2 February	Deals, spruce, 12 ft.	10,000, 11 × 3 in.	at 25 <i>l</i> . 9 <i>s</i> . per 120	Langton & Robinson.
2 "	" "	10,000, 9 × 3 in.	at 20 <i>l</i> . 14 <i>s</i> . per 120	
2 "	" " 21 ft.	2,000, 9 × 3 in.	at 64 <i>l</i> . 15 <i>s</i> . per 120	
2 "	Teak	100 loads	at 14 <i>l</i> . 19 <i>s</i> . per load	Slee and Bulmer.
2 "	Deals—Petersburgh	3,000, 11 × 3 in.	at 79 <i>l</i> . per 120, of 12 feet	
2 "	Oak—African	50 loads	at 10 <i>l</i> . 19 <i>s</i> . per load	James Roberts.
2 "	" "	50 loads	at 11 <i>l</i> . 7 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d</i> . per load	
10 March	Boxwood	5½ tons	at 28 <i>l</i> . per ton	Fauntleroy and Co.
10 "	"	½ " 2½ × 2¾ in.	at 24 <i>l</i> . " "	
10 "	Lignum vitæ	1½ " 6 × 8 in.	at 18 <i>l</i> . " "	
10 "	"	¼ " 3¼ × 3½ in.	at 14 <i>l</i> . " "	
24 "	Deals, spruce white	1,000, 3 × 11 in.	at 25 <i>l</i> . 9 <i>s</i> . }	Langton & Robinson.
24 "	" "	2,000, 3 × 9 in.	at 20 <i>l</i> . 14 <i>s</i> . }	
24 "	Fir—Memel or Riga	50 loads	at 4 <i>l</i> . 19 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d</i> . per load	Slee and Bulmer.
6 July	Deals, pine	300, 11 × 3 in.	at 40 <i>l</i> . per 120, of 12 feet	James Roberts.
11 September	Lime	3 loads	at 5 <i>l</i> . 10 <i>s</i> . per load	J. Banks.
11 "	Deals, white spruce	1,000, 9 in.	at 27 <i>l</i> . per 120, of 12 feet	Dowson and Co.
11 "	Boxwood	10 cwt.	at 35 <i>l</i> . per ton	Gabriel and Son.
11 "	Lignum vitæ	10 "	at 25 <i>l</i> . " "	
11 "	Ebony	5 "	at 28 <i>l</i> . " "	Haynes and Co.
11 "	Deals, spruce	4,000, 3 × 11 in.	at 22 <i>l</i> . 9 <i>s</i> . }	
11 "	" "	4,000, 3 × 9 in.	at 18 <i>l</i> . 9 <i>s</i> . }	Slee and Bulmer.
11 "	" Balbic	1,000, 3 × 11 in.	at 28 <i>l</i> . 7 <i>s</i> . }	
11 "	" Christiana	1,000, 3 × 9 in.	at 25 <i>l</i> . 0 <i>s</i> . }	J. Tyne.
11 "	Sabieu	150 loads	at 14 <i>l</i> . per load	
12 "	Porto Rico	300 "	at 15 <i>l</i> . 15 <i>s</i> . per load	Slee and Bulmer.
12 "	Deals	10,900, 3 × 9 in.	at 17 <i>l</i> . 9 <i>s</i> . }	
12 "	"	10,008, 3 × 11 in.	at 21 <i>l</i> . 18 <i>s</i> . }	J. Payne.
21 "	Fir—Dantzic	125 loads	at 4 <i>l</i> . 10 <i>s</i> . per load	
19 "	African oak	50 "	at 12 <i>l</i> . 15 <i>s</i> . per load	W. R. Chapman.
20 "	Teak	250 "	at 12 <i>l</i> . 3 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d</i> . per load	J. Roberts.
20 "	Spanish mahogany	100 "	at 12 <i>l</i> . per load	
20 "	Cedar	10 "	at 10 <i>l</i> . " "	A. Iveson.
20 "	Poles—Norway	50 "	at 1 <i>l</i> . 14 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d</i> . each	
21 "	Teak	100 "	at 12 <i>l</i> . 17 <i>s</i> . 6 <i>d</i> . per load	

APPENDIX No. 2.—(Questions 169 and 620.)

RETURN of TIMBER, DEALS, &c., bought by BROKERS, from September 1855 to October 1858, for the ROYAL ARSENAL, WOOLWICH, by order of the Secretary of State for War.

Date of Order.	Description of Wood.	Quantity ordered.	Price.	Service.	Amount paid, including Brokerage, Lighterage, and Surplus Quantities.	Where approved by Government Officer.	Names of Cargoes.	Sellers.	Brokers.
1855. Sept. 12	Deals, Archangel and Onega.	5,000, 3" × 11" & 9".	£ 23 0 0 pr. s. t. h. d.	Store Depart., Woolwich.	£ 3,259 0 2	Docks -	Louisa, Lucind, &c.	Slee and Bulmer.	Churchill and Sim.
"	"	6,800 "	23 0 0 "	"	6,977 14 0	"	June & July 14th.	Slee and Bulmer, and Langton.	"
"	"	3,700 "	23 0 0 "	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	Memel 2d.	400 "	16 0 0 "	Crimea -	145 13 9	"	Seller's stock	A. Rosling - Bainbridge	"
"	"	360 "	16 0 0 "	"	145 6 3	"	"	"	"
Sept. 13	Swedish -	3,600 "	17 0 0 "	"	1,032 1 9	"	Sundryships	Dowson -	"
"	Dantzic -	600 "	14 10 0 "	"	233 16 8	"	Sellers' stock	Boyson & Co.	"
Oct. 9	Quebec pine	770, 12" to 26"	20 0 0 "	"	359 4 0	"	Hungarian	Dowson -	"
Sept. 21	Oak, African -	150 loads -	11 10 0 per load	Carriage Dept.	2,093 7 8	"	Seller's stock	Langton -	"
Dec. 6	Teak - - -	100 "	13 17 6 "	"	2,002 7 2	"	Symmetry -	Tindall -	"
1856. Jan. 11	Deals, Archangel, yellow.	3,000, 3" × 11"	22 10 0 pr. s. t. h. d.	Store Depart., Woolwich.	1,938 19 9	"	Sundryships	Langton -	"
Feb. 20	"	"	22 10 0 "	"	2,026 1 10	"	Sidonia, &c.	Slee and Bulmer.	"
"	"	"	22 10 0 "	"	4,159 16 5	"	Concordia, and Metta and Max.	"	"
April 26	Sabicu - - -	200 loads - {	14 0 0 18" & up. 12 10 0 und. 18"	Carriage Dept.	2,470 8 6	Woolwich	Sundryships	J. G. Tyrie -	"
May 9	Boxwood, sound -	12 tons. -	22 0 0 per ton	Laboratory -	306 7 0	"	Seller's stock	H. Hayne -	"
"	" split -	48 "	11 0 0 "	"	481 5 0	"	"	Fauntleroy	"
"	Mahogany -	1 load -	15 0 0 per load	"	16 19 4	"	"	Slee and Bulmer.	"
"	Sabicu - - -	2 "	14 10 0 "	"	29 10 8	"	"	Langton -	"
"	Teak - - -	6 "	14 10 0 "	"	94 18 0	"	"	"	"
"	Deals, Quebec pine	200 pieces -	23 0 0 pr. s. t. h. d.	"	39 2 8	"	"	Slee and Bulmer.	"
"	" yellow -	5,000, 3" × 9"	13 10 0 "	"	"	"	Elna -	Cheswright	"
"	"	2,000, 3" × 11"	14 10 0 "	"	"	"	Gladiator -	Langton -	"
"	"	200, 21 feet -	1 3 0 per 40 ft.	"	3,747 10 4	Docks {	Amazon -	Dowson -	"
"	"	200, 17 feet -	1 2 0 "	"	"	"	Baltic -	Slee and Bulmer.	"
"	" cut into boards.	630 pieces -	22 10 0 pr. s. t. h. d. 3" × 11"	"	415 8 3	Woolwich	Seller's stock	Langton -	"
"	Mahogany planks	500 "	17 0 0 3" × 9" 0 1 0 per foot	"	52 19 0	"	"	Slee and Bulmer.	"
May 13	Teak - - -	30 loads -	14 10 0 per load	Carriage Dept.	443 14 10	"	"	"	"
May 15	Mahogany, Cuba -	200 "	12 12 0 "	"	2,628 17 10	"	"	"	"
May 19	Deals, Christn., 1st quality.	2,000 pieces -	18 10 0 pr. g. t. h. d.	Store Dept. -	864 0 0	Docks -	Orion -	"	"
May 26	Sabicu, Cuba -	50 loads - (12 "	14 6 0 per load 12 10 0 "	Carriage Dept.	859 4 0	Woolwich	Felicity -	Langton -	"
June 12	Teak - - -	370 loads -	13 7 6 per load	"	5,101 16 3	"	Margaret and Bangalore.	Slee and Bulmer, and Langton.	"
June 18	Ebony, black -	1 ton -	14 0 0 per ton	"	15 6 3	"	Seller's stock	Fauntleroy -	"
"	Lignum Vitæ -	2 "	10 0 0 "	"	20 8 9	"	"	"	"
"	Oak, African, 16" and upwards.	56 loads -	12 17 6 per load	"	3,052 9 9	Docks {	Madras and Pursuit.	Dowson -	"
"	" 14" & 16"	100 "	11 12 6 "	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	" 12" & 14"	144 "	10 12 6 "	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	Mahogany - -	200 "	15 5 0 "	"	3,119 4 0	Woolwich	Sundryships	Slee and Bulmer.	"
"	Boxwood - - -	1 ton -	20 0 0 per ton	"	20 11 2	"	Seller's stock	Fauntleroy -	"
"	Pine, yellow -	20 loads -	4 15 0 per load	"	215 11 4	Docks -	Ronachan -	Langton -	"
"	Fir - - -	300 "	4 15 0 "	"	1,489 5 5	"	Martin Fredk	"	"
"	Wainscot, Riga -	10 "	4 17 6 pr. 18 ft. cube.	"	142 13 5	"	Lady Margaret.	A. M. Sim -	"
"	Spars, Riga -	100 pieces -	9 10 0 per load	"	251 1 11	Woolwich	Seller's stock	Slee and Bulmer.	"
"	Uphirs - - -	100 "	0 0 3 per foot	"	42 3 4	"	"	"	"
"	Cedar, Cuba -	38 loads -	14 10 0 per load	"	944 6 1	"	Sundryships	"	"
"	" 39 "	39 "	9 10 0 "	"	"	"	Minchaha -	Boulcott -	"
"	Deals, white spruce	30,013 pieces -	11 12 6 pr. s. t. h. d.	"	6,593 8 7	Docks {	Benares, &c.	Slee and Bulmer.	"
"	Battens -	10,023 "	10 7 6 "	"	"	"	"	Sewells and Neck.	"
"	Deals, yellow Archangel, 3" × 9" & 11"	30,000 "	17 12 6 "	"	14,553 5 10	"	Germania, Plutus, and Christina.	"	"
June 23	Pine - - -	100 loads -	4 17 6 per load	Gun Factories	512 15 11	"	Screamer -	Douglas and Co.	"
"	Deals, 1st qy. pine	2,850 feet -	21 0 0 pr. s. t. h. d.	"	85 16 10	Woolwich	Sellers' stock	"	"
"	Mahogany - -	3,100 feet -	0 0 8 per foot	"	"	"	"	"	"
"	Porto Rico -	1 log -	15 15 0 per load	"	337 10 0	"	"	Slee and Bulmer.	"
"	Uphirs - - -	120 pieces -	0 0 3 per foot	"	"	"	"	"	"
July 29	Fir, Dantzic -	100 loads -	4 16 6 per load	Store Depart., Woolwich.	494 3 2	Docks -	Ald. Thompson.	Cosser and Sons.	"
"	Deals, Archangel and Onega.	5,000 pieces -	17 12 6 pr. s. t. h. d.	"	2,152 3 10	"	Christina -	Sewell and Co. and A. M. Sim.	"
"	Deals, American Spruce.	5,000 "	11 12 6 "	"	812 9 10	"	Majestic, Gilbert H. E. Booker.	Dowson and De Lisle.	"
Sept. 17	Fir, Dantzic -	250 loads -	4 15 0 per load	Laboratories -	1,250 1 5	"	Ald. Thompson.	Langton, and Cosser and Son.	"
"	Teak - - -	10 "	14 0 0 "	"	150 6 11	"	Crispin and John.	Dowson -	"
"	Pine, yellow -	30 "	4 17 6 "	"	257 5 8	"	Screamer -	Cosser and Son.	"
"	Deals, yellow -	800 pieces -	30 0 0 pr. g. t. h. d.	"	651 15 8	"	Seller's stock	Douglas -	"
"	" pine -	100, 3" × 11"	23 0 0 "	"	39 2 8	Woolwich	Prima -	Cosser and Son.	"
"	" white spruce	200, "	11 12 6 "	"	41 8 4	"	Kasan -	"	"
Dec. 6	Sabicu - - -	66 loads -	16 0 0 pr. load	Carriage Dept.	1,086 4 2	"	Sellers' stock	Slee and Bulmer.	"

Return of Timber, Deals, &c., bought by Brokers, from September 1855 to October 1858—continued.

Date of Order.	Description of Wood.	Quantity ordered.	Price.	Service.	Amount paid, including Brokerage, Lighterage, and Surplus Quantities.	Where approved by Government Officer.	Names of Cargoes.	Sellers.	Brokers.
1856. Dec. 22	Deals, yellow	2,500 pieces	£ 7 6 per s ^t .h ^d . average.	Laboratory	1,301 15 8	Locks	Indian and Plutus.	Pearson and Co., & Sewells and Neck.	Churchill and Sim.
"	Teak	24 loads	13 5 0 per load	"	327 2 5	Woolwich	Water Lily	Dowson	"
"	Boxwood	20 tons	12 0 0 per ton	"	374 19 3	"	Sellers' stock	Hayne & Co.	"
"	"	15 "	8 15 0 "	"					
1857. Jan. 10	Teak	50 loads	14 0 0 per load	Carriage Dept.	714 1 11	Docks	Water Lily	Dowson	"
May 22	Fir, Dantzic	200*	4 5 0 "	"	865 19 8	"	India	Langton	"
June 15	Deals, St. Petersburg, yellow.	500 pieces	12 15 0 pr.s ^t .h ^d .	Gun Factories	525 19 11	"	Miranda and E. Brockle-mann.	Matvieffe, Brandt, and Co.	"
"	"	1,000 "	13 15 0 "	"					
July 16	Deals, St. Petersburg.	1,200, 3" × 9"	15 18 6 "	Store Depart., Woolwich.	969 16 10	Selected at docks.	E. Brockle-mann.	Boulcott	"
"	"	432 "	15 18 6 "	"					
July 21	Deals, Archangel, yellow.	470, 3" × 11"	15 10 0 "	Laboratory	175 15 2	Docks	Active	Morgan	"
"	Deals, American, spruce.	4,800 "	10 7 6 "	"	975 9 3	"	Uriel and White Star	Boulcott and Dowson.	"
"	Deals, brown	1,200 "	10 12 6 "	"	249 13 5	"	Princess	Mews and Co.	"
"	Fir, Dantzic	37 loads	4 5 0 per load	"	366 13 3	"	Martin	A. M. Sim	"
"	Boxwood	30 tons	12 0 0 per ton	"	364 16 6	Woolwich	Sundry ships	Fauntleroy	C. Leary & Co.
Aug. 5	Fir, Dantzic	112 loads	4 18 6 per load	Carriage Dept.	557 2 4	"	Mittwock	Mews and Co.	Churchill and Sim.
Aug. 7	Boxwood	1 ton	18 0 0 per ton	"	30 12 8	"	Seller's stock	Fauntleroy	C. Leary & Co.
"	Lignum Vitæ	1 "	12 0 0 "	"	994 17 0	"	Augusta, Jeannette, and Mittwock.	Mews and Co.	Churchill and Sim.
"	Fir, Dantzic	200 loads	4 18 6 per load	"					
"	Poles, Riga fir	100 "	8 10 0 "	"	233 1 6	Docks	Eagle	"	"
"	Wainscot, Riga logs.	10 "	0 5 8 per foot cube.	"	147 6 9	Woolwich	Seller's stock	Dowson	"
"	Mahogany, Honduras.	40 "	19 5 0 per load	"	747 1 4	Docks	Sundry ships	Rolt and Co., and Bate-man.	"
"	Oak, African	100 "	15 0 0 "	"	2,285 6 6	"	Madras and Pursuit.	Dowson and Williamson.	"
"	"	100 "	10 11 0 "	"	2,315 11 1	"	Roehampton	Dowson and Langton.	"
"	Teak	200 "	13 15 0 "	"					
"	Deals, Quebec pine	2,000 pieces	23 0 0 per s ^t .h ^d .	"	694 13 7	"	Earl of Chester and Oregon.	Levy and Co	"
"	Pine, yellow	10 loads	4 15 0 per load	"	49 1 7	"	Charles Harrison.	Dowson	"
Aug. 24	Boxwood	5 tons	17 0 0 per ton	Laboratory	477 9 6	Woolwich	Seller's stock	Fauntleroy	C. Leary and Co.
"	"	20 "	10 0 0 "	"					
"	"	25 "	7 10 0 "	"					
Oct. 5	Deals, yellow pine	75 pieces	24 0 0 per s ^t .h ^d .	Store Depart.	52 5 4	"	Weser	Cheswright	Churchill and Sim.
Nov. 5	Teak	250 loads	12 7 6 per load	Carriage Dept.	6,366 11 2	Docks	Standard, Solo, Roehampton, and others.	Cheswright and Dowson.	"
"	"	250 "	12 7 6 "	"					
"	Cedar, Havanna	80 "	10 15 3 "	"	948 10 1	"	Hormann and Newcastle.	Public sale	C. Leary and Co.
"	"	20 "	9 0 5 "	"					
Nov. 23	Boxwood	40 tons	7 0 0 per ton	Laboratories	435 6 0	Woolwich	Seller's stock	Fauntleroy	"
"	"	9 "	15 0 0 "	"					
"	"	1 "	16 0 0 "	"					
"	Lignum Vita	1,000 lbs.	14 0 0 "	"	6 9 3	"	"	H. Hayne	"
"	Teak	300 feet cube	14 0 0 per load	"	88 15 5	"	"	Rolt and Co.	"
"	Deals, Archangel, yellow.	500 pieces	23 0 0 per s ^t .h ^d .	"	353 12 4	Selected in docks.	Heinrick and Elbing.	Cheswright	Churchill and Sim.
"	Fir, Dantzic	500 ft. cube	4 0 0 per load	"	42 1 7	Woolwich	J. Rutherford	A. M. Sim	"
"	Battens, spruce white.	250 "	9 0 0 per s ^t .h ^d .	"	28 7 7	"	Canada	Cheswright	"
Dec. 18	Staves, Dantzic, pipe.	1,000	160 0 0 permille	"	212 18 4	"	J. Baillie and others.	S. Købne	"
"	Staves, brown	1,000	90 0 0 "	"	212 18 4	"			
"	" Memel	2,000	125 0 0 "	"			Freundschaft	Wade & Co.	"
1858. Jan. 7	Spars, Riga	100	8 5 0 per load	Carriage Dept.	295 3 2	Docks	Elizabeth	Mews and Co.	"
Feb. 6	Deals, pine, Quebec	300	24 0 0 per s ^t .h ^d .	Store Depart., Woolwich.	133 13 11	"	Oregon	Cheswright	"
"	" spruce, 1st quality.	3,000, 3 × 9	11 7 6 "	"	882 17 8	"	Union and Alexander.	Boulcott, Dowson, Cheswright	"
"	"	2,000, 3 × 11	11 7 6 "	"					
Feb. 10	Teak	105 loads	11 3 0 per load	Carriage Dept.	1,175 5 10	"	Conrad	Public sale	Leary and Co.
"	Mahogany, Honduras.	100 "	13 13 0 "	"	1,478 11 9	"	Sellers' stock	Rolt and Co.	"
"	Spars, Riga	200	8 10 0 "	"	375 19 10	"	Eagle	Mews and Co.	Churchill and Sim.
"	Uphirs	200	0 0 2½ per ft.	"	70 9 5	Woolwich	Clio	Dowson	"
"	Cedar, Cuba	50 loads	9 7 6 per load	"	458 3 11	Docks	Laura Campbell.	Public sale	Leary and Co.
"	Deals, Quebec pine	2,400 ft. rung.	24 0 0 per s ^t .h ^d .	Laboratories	150 6 4	"	Oregon	Cheswright	Churchill and Sim.
"	" Archangel, yellow.	500 pieces	23 0 "	"	323 11 4	Selected in docks.	Holy Wood	Montgomery	"
"	Memel Staves	6,500 full sizes	122 0 0 permille	"	683 17 7	Docks	Minerva	Boyson	"
"	"	5,400 "	117 0 0 "	"	532 8 8	"	Sophie	Fowler	"
"	"	1,447 "	122 0 0 "	"					
"	"	232 brandy	92 0 0 "	"	181 5 5	"	Sir J. Rennie	Wade	"
"	"	240 barrel	61 0 0 "	"					
"	"	7,000, 6 feet	150 0 0 "	"	1,190 19 5	"	Minerva	Fowler	"
"	"	2,293, 5 "	113 0 0 "	"					
"	Mahogany, Cuba	11 planks	0 1 2 per foot	"	48 19 0	Woolwich	Seller's stock	Bateman	C. Leary & Co.
"	"	37 "	0 0 10 "	"	100 11 7	"	"	Oliver	"
"	Boxwood, 1st qu.	6 tons 3¼ to 4	15 0 0 per ton	"	90 18 0	"	"	Fauntleroy	"
"	"	16 3" to 5"	12 0 0 "	"					
"	" clean	16 "	10 0 0 "	"	395 18 4	"	"	"	"
"	" rough	14 "	8 0 0 "	"					
"	" rough and sound.	6 "	10 0 0 "	"					
"	" split	4 "	8 0 0 "	"	92 18 4	"	"	"	"

* 90 loads out of these 200 were subsequently sold by Government at 3½. 15s. per load.

Return of Timber, Deals, &c., bought by Brokers, from September 1855 to October 1858—continued.

Date of Order.	Description of Wood.	Quantity ordered.	Price.	Service.	Amount paid, including Brokerage, Lighterage, and Surplus Quantities.	Where approved by Government Officer.	Names of Cargoes.	Sellers.	Brokers.
1858. Feb. 4.	Boxwood, nearly clean.	8 tons	£ s. d. 10 0 0 per ton.	Laboratory -	£ s. d. 480 15 0	Woolwich	Seller's stock	Fauntleroy-	C. Leary & Co.
"	" rough and sound.	34 "	10 0 0 "	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
"	" split	8 "	7 0 0 "	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
Mar. 29	Walnut, black Canadian.	8 logs	0 3 0 per foot cube.	Carriage Dept.	162 12 2	Docks -	Commerce -	Levey and Co.	Churchill and Sim.
Mar. 24	Teak - - -	126 loads	11 15 0 per load	" -	1,515 10 1	" -	Allerton -	Bateman -	C. Leary & Co.
"	" - - -	120 "	12 10 0 "	" -	1,469 16 11	" -	M.S. Elphinstone.	Somes and Co.	"
April 3	Staves, Quebec	4,351, 3 in.	124 0 0 pr. mille	Laboratories -	1,985 18 6	"	Augusta -	Fowler -	Churchill and Sim.
"	" " "	2,492 "	124 0 0 "	" -	" -	"	Rankin -	" -	"
"	" " "	5,301, 2½ in.	110 0 0 "	" -	" -	"	Lotus -	Levey and Co.	"
"	" " "	7,829 "	110 0 0 "	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
April 7	Teak - - -	407 loads	12 12 0 pr. load	Carriage Dept.	5,234 4 2	"	Elizabeth	Rolt and Co.	C. Leary & Co.
April 24	Fir, Dantzic -	100 "	4 15 3 "	" -	495 18 3	Woolwich	George Linck	Cheswright	Churchill and Sim.
May 29	Sabicu 3. 3¼ x ¾	1,000 sup. feet.	3d. per ft. run. -	Gun Factories	57 19 8	"	Sellers' stock	Rolt and Co.	C. Leary & Co.
"	" 3. 1 x 1	2,000 "	2d. " -	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
June 3	Uphirs - - -	50 "	2d. " -	" -	18 18 11	" -	"	J. Adams -	Churchill and Sim.
"	Deals, Pets, yellow	2,625, 21. 3 x 9	15 0 0 per s.t.h.	Store Depart. Woolwich.	965 2 0	Selected in docks.	T. Kornerand Elizabeth.	Dowson -	"
"	" Archangel -	999 - 3 x 11	23 0 0 "	" -	677 10 9	" -	Prella -	Boulcott and Langton.	"
June 5	Battens, 1st quality	500 pieces	11 10 0 "	Laboratories -	69 18 2	Docks -	Rifleman -	Dowson -	"
"	Deals, Dantz. deck	300 "	0 18 6 each -	" -	284 8 10	"	Caudor -	Boulcott -	"
"	" St. Petersburg.	300 "	19 10 0 pr. s.t. h.	" -	162 15 11	Selected in docks.	Traveller -	" -	"
"	Deals, Archangel	200 "	25 0 0 "	" -	142 17 4	"	Mercury -	Cheswright	"
"	Boxwood, 3 x 8	147 tons	9 0 0 per ton	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
"	" 5 x 7 clean	1 "	9 0 0 "	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
"	" rough	1 "	12 0 0 "	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
"	" rough round	1 "	12 0 0 "	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
June 8	Oak, African	20 loads	15 10 0 per load	Carriage Dept.	1,735 2 8	Docks -	Madras and Pursuit.	Cheswright, Dowson, and Chapman.	Churchill and Sim.
"	" " "	10 "	10 10 0 "	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
"	" " "	50 "	15 0 0 "	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
"	" " "	50 "	10 10 0 mid.	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
"	" " "	"	9 10 0 small	" -	" -	"	"	"	"
"	Wainscot Memel	5 "	0 5 0 pr. cube ft.	" -	66 11 2	"	Melona -	Dowson -	"
"	Fir, Dantzic	200 "	4 5 0 per load	" -	Not invoiced	Woolwich	Fredk. Wm. IV.	Cheswright -	"
"	Pine, yellow	20 "	5 7 6 "	" -	" -	"	Europa -	Boulcott -	"
"	Boxwood	2 tons	17 10 0 per ton	" -	35 7 0	"	Seller's stock	Fauntleroy -	C. Leary & Co.
"	Ebony, black	1 "	14 0 0 "	" -	14 6 4	"	"	"	"
"	Lignum Vitæ	2 "	12 0 0 "	" -	24 4 10	"	"	"	"
"	Rosewood, Rio	23 planks	25 0 0 "	" -	124 9 11	Docks -	Sandford -	Cheswright -	"
"	Sabicu - - -	20 loads	13 10 0 per load less 2½ disc't.	" -	332 12 2	"	Kilham and Calipso.	Rolt and Co.	"
"	" " "	43 "	14 0 0 per load less 2½ disc't.	" -	593 17 10	"	Martha -	Rolt -	"
"	" " "	21 "	14 0 0 "	" -	298 12 4	Special selection.	Fleetwood -	" -	"
"	Mahogany, Cuba	45 "	11 14 4 "	" -	527 5 0	"	"	Public sale -	"
"	Cedar, Cuba -	64 "	12 3 10 "	" -	782 3 9	"	"	Cheswright -	"
June 21	Deals, 1st quality, St. Petersburg.	500 3" x 9"	11 10 0 per s.t.h.	Laboratories -	121 12 4	Docks -	London -	Sewells and Neck.	Churchill and Sim.
"	" " "	500 3" x 11"	11 10 0 "	" -	148 6 3	"	Amelia and Laura.	Dowson -	"
"	Fir, Dantzic	40 loads	3 12 6 per load	" -	170 16 4	"	Johanna and others.	Mews & Co.	"
June 22	Deals, yellow	1,906 "	23 0 0 per s.t. P. st.	Carriage Dept.	Not complete	"	"	"	"
July 29	Mahogany, Mexican	6 lots	10 2 0 per load	" -	" -	"	Gulfstream	Public sale -	Edwards and Son.
Aug. 13	Deals - - -	500 -	23 0 0 per s.t.h.	Laboratories -	326 14 6	Selected at docks	Panama -	Wm. Strong	Churchill and Sim.
Aug. 14	Teak - - -	138 loads	11 0 0 per load	Carriage Dept.	1,555 11 11	"	Zenobia and Flora.	Bateman -	C. Leary and Co.
"	" - - -	133 "	10 0 0 "	" -	Not invoiced	"	Zenobia, Flora, & Princess Royal.	" -	"
Aug. 31	Deals, spruce	500 22, 3" x 9"	10 7 6 per s.t.h.	Laboratories -	184 11 10	Docks -	Advance -	Dowson -	Churchill and Sim.

War Office, November 3, 1858.

THOMAS HOWELL, Director of Contracts.

APPENDIX No. 3.—(Question 902.)

STATEMENT drawn up by Messrs. CHURCHILL and SIM, in December 1856, with reference to ORDNANCE CONTRACTS for WOOD.

Messrs. Churchill and Sim, wood brokers, sworn brokers of the City of London, were employed as buying brokers for the War Department, from April 1856 to March 1857, for nearly all the foreign wood required in the Royal Arsenal.

They were consulted by the Director General of Contracts, soon after his appointment in 1855, as to the then existing system of contracts for wood, and had been occasionally

commissioned to make purchases, when additional quantities were required during the war with Russia, on the failure of contractors to complete an existing contract, or on mistrust of the ability to fulfil a contract, of those who might have made the lowest tender. The Director General, after taking office, was desirous to improve the system of contracts, yet like his predecessors in the contract branch, seemed very reluctant to forego the competition of contracts by tender; the authority of the House of Commons having been strongly expressed in favour of public contracts, it was to be determined whether Ordnance contracts for wood, and all other supplies of materials, which were not taken by public tender, could be deemed public contracts.

Contracts for public works, navy contracts, and for chartering of ships, are published by advertisement; forms

of tender are publicly exhibited, or issued to all applicants; bonds, covenants, and securities are given and taken; but for the Ordnance service a different course was adopted.

To a select list of past contractors was issued one common printed form of "Tender for Ordnance Contracts," in which was inserted the articles required; all other conditions being printed, competitors gave in their prices, and the contract was awarded to the lowest tender, by a simple official letter of acceptance, with instructions to deliver the wood at the indicated department in the Arsenal. No contract was signed, nor bond nor security given; the contract was interpreted to be made by accepting the tender, and the military and civil officers in the Arsenal having notice of the accepted proposal, received the goods, approved, rejected, sorted, or measured, deciding on the fulfilment of a contract by giving their certificate as a voucher for payment.

There is a condition in the tender of a fine or penalty for non-performance, which is not remembered to have been enforced in respect to foreign wood, and in rare instances for the default in the delivery of English timber.

Contractors were frequently after time in delivery, or at times failed in the supply; then notices of tender would again be issued, or sometimes one of the select list of contractors would propose to meet the deficiency, or the wants of the department, (with which his intercourse, or that of his agents, with the receiving officers, had made him acquainted), and then he received the order.

Such private orders were more likely to be beneficial to contractors than tenders. This was one of the advantages of being known, and on the select or office list; they would not be subject to check or enquiry, as to value, beyond the prices previously paid, and the approval of the receiving officers.

The question has been asked, what constitutes the *select list* of contractors for Ordnance contracts, and the reply has been given by the heads of departments in their evidence before the House of Commons. For wood the select list was chiefly made up of timber merchants, dealers, jobbers, and builders. (Of importing merchants and commission merchants the number was very small.)

If the circular notices were disregarded for some time, if the prices inserted were wide of the value, and no contracts were adjudged to the applicants, notices were no longer addressed to them.

If contractors defaulted, the penalty was to expunge their names: this was seldom or not rigidly done.

A few years since, in consequence of some dissatisfaction expressed by the trade at the class and limited number of contractors for wood, the names of many more timber merchants, and of some importing merchants, were added to the list, and it was distinctly made known that on a respectable introduction others could be added; some of these yet remain, others must have been passed over on failing to tender or to obtain contracts.

The plan of approval or rejection after delivery at the Arsenal tended to exclude many, especially the importing merchants, while it enabled the habitués to retain their hold. Their superior acquaintance with the wants of the several departments, and with the receiving officers, in the mode of delivery, measurement, and assorting, their personal intercourse (or that of their agents, when specially employed,) with timber masters, measurers, inspectors, and converters, all those who did the work under and for the military and civil receiving officers, gave them advantages over new competitors and importers, whose mercantile position precluded their entering into these details in person, and limited their dealing to the written contract.

Nothing could be more easy for a speculator than to buy up certain wood, or to agree with other speculators in holding back that for which a requisition was about to be issued by the officers in the Arsenal to the authorities in Pall Mall.

If they knew when a requisition was forthcoming, their operations in the market could provide for it before the notice of tender was issued.

Contracts, however, were often taken against the initiated by smaller dealers or jobbers, who, speculating on high prices without having the required wood, would execute their contracts if they could subsequently buy and deliver at an advantage; otherwise they would leave them unfulfilled for months, or more than a year, and with impunity.

It was proposed that the Director General should endeavour to contract for the War Department with the importing merchants in the same way as was done by timber merchants, dealers, builders, contractors, and public companies, whose consumption of marketable quantities enabled them to buy wood in the same form and condition in which it was imported.

The object would be obtained if the Director General were represented on 'Change by brokers commissioned to buy for the War Department, according to the commercial system adopted in all the great trades and pursuits, where public

bodies, companies, and absent principals have to intrust their interests to agents.

If brokers of sufficient influence with the principal importing merchants to have the sale of the best and largest imports were appointed, they should have liberal authority to act for, and should be confidentially intrusted with the orders of the Government.

They would have to withstand the influence of those who sought to maintain the old system; they would have to contend with the prejudices of the receiving officers, with the military executive, often opposed to civil administration, and not to overlook the fact that in many branches of the Arsenal the choice of materials for scientific construction was of the greatest importance.

Fully to carry out the object desired, the brokers would hope to be authorized to exercise their discretion in the time and mode of buying, whether goods should be bought on the spot or be imported; the brokers would seek to avoid the interference of direct or indirect negotiation between the contractors or agents and the executive officers, which in fettering their ability as government buyers would abate the moral responsibility that ought to rest on them when confidentially employed in a public capacity.

A minute or record of preliminary negotiations should be kept by the brokers, with reasons to justify the course adopted.

The brokers must aid the scientific and practical officers in their selection and approval, opening to them the widest area of choice, and advising them in their knowledge of all the imports, looking to and making the deliveries at the proper time and place, besides being careful that the sellers fulfil the obligations of the brokers' contract, drawn up with such clauses and conditions as may be required for the special service or department, according to the detail given by the heads of the same or the practice in existence.

The charge for buying brokerage is one per cent. on foreign and colonial wood, which it is submitted is a small remuneration for the above stated services.

Buying brokerage is paid in the wood trade, in the case of commissions given to brokers by companies or by special bargains for agency, when principals do not act for themselves or are absent. Dealers, builders, and all the trade who buy for themselves are not subject to this charge, but the selling brokerage forms as necessary an item in a mercantile account as the merchant's commission.

The *buyers* of furniture wood (as mahogany) and other hard woods pay brokerage in addition to a charge for providing the dimensions, both which the broker receives in addition to the *seller's* payment of brokerage and measurement.

If sales of English timber are made at outports, a large commission is deducted by the selling agent; in London the same brokerage as on sales of foreign wood would be incurred.

The Director General had partially adopted the system of buying through brokers, but hesitated on entirely breaking through routine, when the Under Secretary of State decided, in conjunction with the Right Honourable Clerk of Ordnance, thoroughly to test the mercantile course by giving to our firm the orders for foreign timber under the annual requisition of 1856 and 1857. That for English timber was reserved, pending the usual inquiry what amount could be supplied from the Woods and Forests; but was ultimately submitted and contracted for by tender on the old system. A portion of the contract for this same English timber was awarded to a contractor, who had been excluded from the select list (or should have been so), because of his default on several occasions in the delivery of foreign wood.

It was to escape the competition of such contractors that some of the principal dealers in English timber had expressed their willingness to the brokers to sell their stock by private treaty for five per cent. less than they had submitted or would submit by tender. However, the bulk of the contract was given to them at the prices of their tender, as they held most of the suitable stock. Wood used in the War Department can scarcely be compared with wood supplied for navy use, the greater part being unlike in quantities, description, assortment, and application. For the navy were required large imports from certain foreign countries and colonies; thus several cargoes of Canadian pine, masts, timber and elm, many cargoes of Baltic oak, fir and deck deals from Dantzic, cargoes of masts from Riga and New Zealand, cargoes of African oak, Indian teak, pitch pine timber, Spanish and Honduras mahogany, and cedar, distributed at the dockyards by direct importation, and contracted for one, two, and three years in advance. The contractors are therefore the importing merchants and shipowners. The contract is speculative, depending on prospective freights and first cost in the countries of production. The London market is peculiarly suited for obtaining the best supply for the works in the Arsenal; at

no other port is there sufficient to select from, and in the building trade of the Metropolis is consumed that which is rejected or unsuitable in the War Department.

The custom of landing or floating all the imports of wood in London provides for inspection, selection of necessary sizes and sorts, approval before purchasing or before removal, and buying of the merchant through his broker, on the same footing adopted by all buyers, who in such an entrepôt as London can often purchase for less than the import cost.

To show the saving effected in the purchase of wood for the War Department under our commission is difficult, without having access to the official returns of the prices previously paid at any given period, but it can be shown that it has been very large, and might have been larger if we had been unfettered by private offers made to the Director General and negotiations entered into with him.

While receiving from the Director General and his assistants the most ready co-operation in our endeavours to limit the expenditure, not being first in possession of all the orders to purchase, it has been difficult to withstand the importunity of sellers who might be the sole holders of the required goods, and to restrain the local officers from showing the wants of the department.

The custom was, to deliver all wood into the charge of the storekeeper of the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, by whom it was appropriated to the several departments; the custom likewise was, for the civil officers through the service of the timber masters and examiners of the particular department to select, measure, approve, or reject wood: the selection depended upon the use to which the wood was to be applied, which might or might not be known to the contractors: sample pieces were shown, with which no delivery could by possibility correspond; a few sample deals could be seen almost free from blemishes, that is, without knots, without sap on the edges, and without shake, or the action of the weather in seasoning.

Thousands of deals delivered were unlike the sample though good enough for the best work of the departments.

Had the examiners rigidly enforced the fulfilment of the contract according to sample, it would have been almost ruinous to contractors; but as those initiated became aware that this was not the practice, the execution of a contract was practicable, and at times very profitable.

On inspecting the stock of wood in the Arsenal, with the Director General, the Storekeeper, and the officers of the Royal Carriage Department, it did not appear to us that the selection made was superior to that of the best wood as imported and assorted in the public docks.

Some deliveries of hard wood were inferior, bearing the brand of rejection at the navy yards.

For the department of the Royal Laboratory the choicest selection of deals had been required, which being sometimes taken under special contracts, conveyed an impression that all the deliveries in this department were subject to very rigid inspection, whereas, out of thousands supplied in the Arsenal, a few hundreds only were needed in this branch. The same erroneous ideas prevailed with respect to hard wood used in this department.

The measurement of timber in the Arsenal was considered adverse to contractors, and additional prices were paid in consequence. On survey and inquiry we found this impression in a great degree erroneous. There can be no uniform measurement of timber if abatements for defects and irregularities of shape are made. This applies particularly to English timber, and not in the same degree to foreign timber, which is usually square or heven on the faces. The practice in the wood trade is to sell all timber by the same measurement as the customs take for revenue, and it seemed to us more satisfactory that this official measurement should be adopted in all public departments.

Since the change has been introduced at Woolwich, the timber masters escape the difficulty imposed on them of taking measurement with allowances, which, though done with fidelity, was often a matter of cavil and reflection.

Timber with defects in shape and quality is cast aside in selection made at the docks, so that under this revised plan no unsuitable timber is removed to the Arsenal, and all payments are made in accordance with the measurement of the Customs and that of the timber trade, as inscribed or marked on the logs.

At the time of our introduction the system of supplying all the departments of the Royal Arsenal through the Storekeeper was about to be changed, and shortly after this separate contracts were made for the several departments, viz., for the

Royal Carriage Department,
Royal Gun Factories,
Royal Laboratory,
The General Store (or Civil Officers).

The Royal Carriage Department is of the first importance in the amount of wood consumed, and has been the most difficult to bring into harmony with the arrangements under the Director General of Contracts. While the expenditure for wood had been greatly lessened, the supply is as serviceable as formerly.

The requisitions of the year 1856-7 were met by the following supplies, delivered under our commission, and the cost of the principal contracts appear to have been—

Gross Cost.		Per 120 R. St.	
£		£	s. d.
14,553	Archangel and Onega deals	-	17 12 6
6,593	American spruce deals	-	11 12 6
	And battens	-	10 7 6
		Per load.	
3,052	African oak, large	-	12 17 6
	" " middling	-	11 12 6
	" " small	-	10 12 6
5,101	East India teak	-	13 7 6
1,489	Dantzic fir timber	-	4 15 0
215	American pine	-	4 15 0
142	Riga wainscot, 18 feet each	-	4 17 6
251	Riga spars	-	9 10 0
5,748	Cuba mahogany, large	-	15 15 0
	" " middling	-	14 15 0
	" " small	-	12 12 0
3,329	Sabicu, large	-	14 0 0
	" " middling	-	12 10 0
944	Cedar, large	-	14 10 0
	" " middling	-	9 10 0
100	Sundry hard woods.		
1,500	Teak and Sabicu, before and after requisition.		

The gross cost, which includes the expense of delivery and brokerage, had exceeded 43,000*l.* for foreign wood, and the value of the English timber might be 20,000*l.* more. We are prepared to show that we purchased on the most favourable terms of which the market admitted.

In the course of dealing we became aware of the prices previously paid to some, who again expected to receive as much. We readily ascertained that five per cent. was the minimum of profit; that 10 per cent. was more often made, 20 per cent. frequently, and 30 per cent. and upwards in certain cases which will be cited. Without these exceptional cases, it may fairly be assumed that a saving of 10 per cent. had been effected under the system adopted by the Director General of Contracts, one per cent. for the broker's agency on his behalf being deducted.

Proceeding with the order of purchases for the Royal Carriage Department, the first item of 14,553*l.* is given as an illustration of the saving effected in one purchase; as soon as we were in possession of the order, in the month of June, we purchased the whole of these Archangel and Onega deals, to be delivered on arrival during the autumn by the only merchants who were about to import sufficient of these selected valuable deals, and the contract price was 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per standard. We had bought for the War Department, earlier, the same description of deals at 22*l.* 10*s.*, and this quotation in all probability would have formed the basis of calculation if an Ordnance contract had been promulgated. Whoever had entered into contract must have been supplied by the principal importing house. The small stock of other merchants, or importers, might aid in commencing a contract; but in completion, the contractor would have been entirely dependent on the chief importing house.

We think it is evident that the difference between 22*l.* 10*s.* and 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* has been saved by the introduction of these importing merchants, for the first time, as contractors with the War Department.

The sum, instead of being 14,553*l.*, would have been 18,500*l.*, exceeding 25 per cent. gain, without extending the comparison to the old system.

If we could look back to the prices which were paid in 1853, and before the war, the friends of the old system would perceive that 45*l.* was frequently paid, and that nearly 60*l.* was, we have heard, once the contract price, or 225*l.* per cent. over and above that at which our recent contracts have been faithfully executed.

14,553*l.* would, in the case cited, have been increased to 47,000*l.* and upwards, and by the more frequent contract price to 37,000*l.*, supposing that one third only of this large delivery of 30,000 deals had been sorted out, and paid for at the most extravagant rate by the old plan of competition in tenders, then 10,000 deals would have cost 14,500*l.*, for which sum we supplied 30,000 deals, so that 20,000 deals cost nothing. The second item of 6,593*l.* was expended in the purchase of 40,000 American spruce deals and battens, which were bought at different periods of the year at the uniform prices of 11*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* for deals, and 10*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* for battens.

This is an annual contract for the cheapest wood, to be used in making boxes, cases, or in other rough work. Some of the old stock in the Royal Arsenal we found to be mixed of first and second quality, according to the Canadian marks, but we thought it preferable to purchase none but American first quality as prescribed in the requisition.

Several of the old contractors from the select list were ready to contribute to this contract after we had fixed the price, and we had no hesitation in accepting their offer to do so, when they permitted us to select from cargoes which the importers refused to divide.

3,052*l.* for *African oak timber*.—This is a contract of more difficulty than any other, and has been left unfulfilled on more than one occasion before we were employed. Timber of large sizes was so scarce and valuable that 50 per cent. more than the prices at which we bought was paid for it.

In 1855 we assisted the Government in providing all that could be got, when a contractor was in default; likewise, in 1856, having the disposal of the only importation which contained the desired sizes, we were enabled to select what was required.

If the sum of 3,052*l.* had been increased 25 per cent. in the submission of proposals, we believe that it must have been paid in the appreciation of this wood, and in the difficulty of substituting any other for the construction of gun carriages. Timber is frequently offered at a lower rate, which, when inspected, has none of the qualifications required in respect to size.

5,101*l.* for *East India teak*.—We are always desirous of supplying the best converted teak, and have studied this in making a selection, because of the loss which arises in the conversion of timber that is defective in shape and quality. The price paid for deliveries just preceding our purchase was 14*l.* 10*s.* per load. We bought and delivered at 13*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* per load, a low market price during the year.

1,489*l.* for *Dantzic fir timber*.—The quality and size required for this timber, does not admit of comparison with the commonly received accepted term of best Baltic timber. The quality must be crown, or of the primest selection; the sizes are to be thirteen inches square, without sap. One choice importation has always been preferred, the lowest price of which had been 105*s.*, until we bought it for the above contract at 95*s.* per load. Allegations made that the market price of Baltic timber has been less are not pertinent to this particular selection.

251*l.* *Riga or Norway gyn-poles*.—This contract had been supplied in sawn pieces of Swedish or other timber, at 4*s.* per cube foot, and was difficult to execute at the required strength for gyn-poles. We have reverted to the use of Riga spars, which the officers preferred, as having the strength of the heart of the tree when the sap has been dressed off.

We have supplied a better article, and rather under the former prices:—

5,748*l.* for Mahogany.
3,329*l.* „ Sabicu.
944*l.* „ Cedar.

Contracts were made for these woods after negotiations had been opened by the contractors with the Director-General, or the local officers. We found that we could not purchase at lower prices by turning to other stocks. In some instances we reduced the prices below those which had been under negotiation with the local officers; in other cases the holders knew the strength of their position, and resisted abatement; better terms could be made if we knew the wants of the department before they became urgent.

Next in importance to the Royal Carriage Department is the Royal Laboratory, for which we have made the following purchases:—

£		£	s.	d.	
267	Boxwood (sound) - - -	24	0	0	a ton.
		20	0	0	„
		12	0	0	„
900	Ditto (split) - - -	10	0	0	„
		8	15	0	„
1,259	Dantzic fir timber - - -	4	16	6	per load.
477	East India teak - - -	14	0	0	„
297	American pine timber - - -	4	17	6	„
	Deals, 23 <i>l.</i> per standard hundred.				
651	Archangel deals (picked) - -	30	0	0	„
556	Ditto do. (not selected) - -	17	12	6	„
745	St. Petersburg deals - - -	16	12	6	„
3,747	Memel and Dantzic - - -	14	10	0	„
		13	10	0	„
	22 <i>s.</i> and 23 <i>s.</i> each 40 ft. deal.				
415	Sawn board do. do.				
230	Sundry mahogany and hardwood.				

At about the total cost of 9,500*l.*, in 1856.

It was expected that there would be the greatest difficulty in introducing the mercantile system of buying for this department. The rigid selection adopted in some cases was supposed to be applied to everything.

The Superintendent, Captain Boxer, soon satisfied us that such impressions were erroneous, and of his readiness to deviate from the old routine with due regard to economy in supplying materials for an establishment which may be called a factory. Having gained from him a thorough knowledge of the purposes to which the materials in wood were to be applied, it was essential to retain the existing custom of selection or rejection after delivery in the laboratory for one class of supplies; to permit the officers to sort their materials before removal, as another class; and yet to purchase the larger portion of the wood from the cargoes as imported on market terms. Following the table of purchases for the Royal Laboratory, first comes boxwood, 1,167*l.* This hard wood can only be received after the most careful selection, piece by piece, imported with the produce of Turkey; it has been sold with dyewoods, drugs, spices, &c., and scarcely deemed a branch of the wood trade; without reliable market value, the price depended almost on one dealer. We had already drawn the notice of the War Department to this singular trade, showing that our first purchases amounted to 744*l.*, the same quantity, quality, and selection, in every respect similar, having shortly before cost 1,092*l.*; 33 per cent. saved in the first purchase was increased on subsequent contracts, and the deliveries are made as perfectly as formerly. During this period there was no apparent difference in the importers' or market price of boxwood.

£
1,259 Dantzic fir timber,
477 East India teak,
297 American pine,

were purchases made for this department at market prices, on the same footing as for the Royal Carriage Department, taking care that the selection was suitable for the uses to which it was to be applied.

Next to the articles for selection after delivery in the Laboratory, we beg to draw attention to those which were subject to selection before removal.

651*l.* for *Archangel deals, picked, at 30*l.* a hundred*.—This contract had become so proverbially difficult, that few of the old contractors could estimate prices for the rigid scrutiny which the deals were supposed to undergo before reception.

As it is rumoured that 90*l.* a hundred, and on one occasion 120*l.* a hundred, had been given to an adventurous contractor, it is important to refer to official returns on this head; sometimes the price has been reckoned for the double hundred, which would thus represent 45*l.* and 60*l.* in comparison with our price of 30*l.*, and on which supposition we claim the advantage of 50 per cent. and of 100 per cent., while giving the same power to the officers of the department to select and reject as formerly,

556*l.* Archangel deals, at 17*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per load,
745*l.* Petersburg „ „ 15*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* per load,

show the advantage derived in this department when it has not been necessary to exercise the right of rejection, as well as in deviating from the old routine, that only one class of wood was suitable for the Royal Laboratory, but the item of 3,747*l.* for Memel and Dantzic deals, at 14*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* per standard hundred.

and 22*s.* and 23*s.* each Dantzic deals = 18*l.* 11*s.*, more fully shows the practical judgment of Captain Boxer, who, instead of following the rule of the department, always to have the costly or best Archangel deals, gave us authority to buy cheaper wood.

The Engineers procured Memel and Dantzic deals seasoned, and suitable for the buildings which they were constructing, and saved one third of the money which would have been paid for seasoned Archangel, in which case, instead of 3,747*l.*, the item would have exceeded 5,500*l.*, and on the old tender system, 11,000*l.*, or at the utmost price paid for this very Laboratory use, 14,500*l.*

For the Royal Gun Factories our purchases have amounted to 920*l.*, out of which 512*l.* was expended in buying timber at 97*s.* 6*d.* per load, and the remainder in sundry deals, boards, and poles. If we had not had ready access to the stocks at the public docks, the price of very large clean pieces of pine timber would probably have exceeded 120*s.* per load, a difference of 20 per cent. The selection was left to the practical men under Lieutenant-Colonel Wilmot.

The storekeeper's department :—

Gross Cost.		January to March 1856.					
£			£	s.	d.		
8,124	Archangel and Onega deals	-	22	10	0	per 100.	
	May 1856.						
864	Christiania deals	-	18	10	0	"	
	July—September 1856.						
2,152	Archangel deals	-	17	12	6	"	
812	American spruce	-	11	12	6	"	
494	Dantzie fir timber	-	4	16	6	per load.	

The large purchase of Archangel and Onega deals was made at a period when the storekeeper received the supplies and appropriated them for the several departments; the price had been accepted by the Director-General after finding no other contractors on equally favourable terms. The war had not ended, and a short supply of Russian deals remained in this country. The other purchases were made according to the contracts then in course of delivery, in the Royal Carriage Department.

Reviewing the purchases of wood for the War Department in 1856, it is shown, in particular cases cited, that the saving effected had been very large, when compared with the prices of 1853-4-5; and all other purchases during 1856 had not borne the average profits which used to accrue to the contractors under the old system.

The illustrations, which, with the scanty information at our command, we have given of special cases in the annexed tables, show a sum of 6,000*l.* to 7,000*l.* saved in the expenditure of 21,000*l.*

In the expenditure of 44,000*l.* at market prices, further credit is taken for the contractor's profit, the average of which we have assumed to be 4,400*l.*

The advantages of buying at the market prices of the day are attainable by adopting the custom of merchants, which cannot be carried out in a Government department without the intermediate agency of a broker.

The broker is the true legitimate agent to carry out the mercantile system; his services, practical knowledge, and influence are secured at an insignificant expense compared with the gross saving; for his one per cent. the Government gains ten as a minimum, and 20 and 30 per cent. or upwards in great contracts: the credit of the system is upheld, and the genial influence of Government consumption is spread over the trade, without premium to the favoured or adventurous. The requirements of the War Department are met as regularly as those of other large consumers of wood from the wide range of our London imports.

The prices would not be artificially raised by expectant contractors, and the attempt to forestal the market by purchasing, in anticipation or foreknowledge of the Government demand, would be too dangerous to venture on. The publicity of prices is at all times a check on the due fulfilment of the broker's duty to the department under which he is employed.

It was not without surprise that we found most of the eminent contractors under the old system endeavouring to contract through our intervention, indeed affording us material assistance, only complaining that the prices obtainable were inadequate, especially for selection. We have had to contend with the open hostility of some few, whom we could not deem eligible as contractors under our responsibility, and who, we fear, have tried to prejudice the officials against the change, advocating a return to the so-called open contracts. Some of the disappointed on the watch in the Arsenal have been ready to question the deliveries in anonymous or avowed communications to the heads of departments, have (surprisingly) become acquainted with the prices paid, and of course represented how much better they could have done.

The change of system has given satisfaction to the importing merchants and those members of the timber trade who can now participate in contracts for the War Department through private negotiation, which they had been unwilling to entertain by open tender.

The payment from the Government (though at times deferred) is more secure than the credit which old contractors generally required from the importing merchants. If it were not so, it would rather be the interest of the importers of wood (and much business is still so done) to sell the cargoes, as imported, to the dealers, who would contract with the Government for the division or selection.

The importers are satisfied now that, according to the state of the market, they can sell to the Government or to the trade, and would regret to be thrown back on those who are discontented at the so-called interference of importers and brokers, with their prescriptive rights.

The change of system has not seemed to give entire satisfaction in all the receiving departments of the Arsenal. The Storekeeper, Mr. F. Pellatt, co-operated heartily in opening the business, and has continued to take a broad, comprehensive view of the gain resulting therefrom.

The Superintendent of the Royal Laboratory has made the reception agree with the buying, studiously considering with us, and defining by our contracts the most suitable supply for the service.

For the Royal Gun Factories the same care has been bestowed in the practical departments.

In the Royal Carriage Department all were opposed to change in the public contracts. Military rule was there deemed superior to the control of civilians, or even of a Director General. No wood has been received unfit for the service; no loss has been suffered in the measurement; and a large amount of money has been saved. Yet the principal officers, dissatisfied with the changes, have sat in judgment on the purchases made by the brokers and declared them unsatisfactory, not condemning the quality or availability of the supplies, but alleging that, as they found on subsequent inquiry the quotations of some wood were lower at the time of purchasing, a larger saving should have been made, or would have accompanied their administration, totally forgetting their reiterated argument, that price must be secondary to efficiency.

It is, however, necessary to say that, in carrying out our contracts, the duty of the receiving and inspecting officers has been faithfully and scrupulously performed.

To the Secretary of State we must turn for a just appreciation of the invaluable services of the Director General of Contracts, for approval of the changes introduced by him, and for permission to extend those mercantile principles which in this statement are shown to have caused so great a diminution in the expenditure for wood.

(Signed) CHURCHILL AND SIM.

London, December 1856.

APPENDIX No. 4.—(Question 1321.)

REPORTS ON ELLIS AND Co's CLOTH.

SIR, November 15, 1858.

I ENCLOSE an abstract of the reports of officers of Royal Artillery on the wearing qualities of cloth supplied by Messrs. Ellis and Co., as requested by the Royal Commissioners.

It is necessary, in order to a right understanding of the question, to bear in mind that it was upon a portion of a supply of 13,000 yards that the difference of opinion arose between the inspectors and the contractors as to the quality of the cloth. When the authority was given for decision by arbitration, the contractors sent the remainder of the supply to Weedon. This had never been seen by the inspectors, and as a portion of this remainder was quite equal to pattern, the difference of opinion, as given by the officers, is thereby accounted for.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GEO. GRANT,
C. Comg. Royal Artillery.

E. L. Dew, Esq.

Horse Guards, November 11, 1858.

Abstract of the Reports of Officers of Royal Artillery on the Wearing Qualities of Cloth supplied by Messrs. Ellis and Co., as compared with Cloth of a similar description supplied by other Contractors.

Opinions of officers who had a good opportunity of comparison :—

Ellis's cloth wears better	-	-	-	2
Ellis's cloth wears equal	-	-	-	9
Ellis's cloth wears inferior	-	-	-	14

Opinions of officers who had not a good opportunity of comparison :—

Ellis's cloth wears better	-	-	-	2
Ellis's cloth wears equal	-	-	-	4
Ellis's cloth wears inferior	-	-	-	5

(Signed) CHAS. BINGHAM,
Deputy Adjutant-General.

The Royal Commissioners on Army Clothing,
&c. &c. &c.

APPENDIX No. 5.—(Question 2104.)

PAPER put in by Mr. BISCHOFF.

WITH reference to Quartermaster Grant's comparative statement of the cost of artillery clothing, whereby it will be seen that the estimate saving of 15,000*l.* could only arise under certain peculiar circumstances which are assumed by Mr. Grant.

1st. The prices of clothing with which the comparison is made, were arranged between the War Department and the contractor without any competition. The Government were under engagement to take coatees from the contractor for three years; but the tunic being substituted it became necessary to arrange a new price, or pay the contractor compensation. The prices quoted by Mr. Grant are believed to be the highest the Government ever paid to a contractor for artillery clothing.

The contractor did not make the profit supposed by Mr. Grant, because the clothing supplied by him differed most materially with that since made at the Woolwich workshops, viz. :—

The tunics were larger in the skirts and took 20 per cent. more cloth.

The staff serjeants' and serjeants' cloths, were 30 per cent. better, costing respectively 17*s.* 6*d.* instead of 13*s.* 6*d.* per yard and 11*s.* 6*d.* instead of 8*s.* 6*d.* per yard.

The serjeants' basted tunics and overalls, which Mr. Grant compares merely with materials cut out, were partially made up by the contractor at an expense of from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* each, and were always required of large sizes so as to be altered to fit any man.

Formerly only the horse artillery wore overalls, and those of a superior quality to the present. Now the whole of the field batteries have overalls; and Mr. Grant compares the contractors price for about 600 pairs of superior overalls supplied to the horse artillery, with the price each of 4,586 pairs common overalls made at the Woolwich shops.

The standard of height of the artillerymen has been very much reduced.

2nd. A tender was put out by the director of contracts for artillery clothing on the 26th November 1857, on which Hebbert and Co. tendered on the 5th December 1857 as follows :—

Privates' tunic 21*s.* 2½*d.* using government cloth at 8*s.* 3*d.* per yard.

Privates' trousers 12*s.* 5*d.*, using government cloth at 7*s.* 3*d.* per yard, only 1*s.* 8½*d.* per suit more than Mr. Grant's estimate, but 5*s.* 5½*d.* less than Mr. Grant's standard of price on which he makes the saving. The tender was not accepted, as it is believed it was not the lowest.

Hebbert and Co. also tendered for to the Admiralty and obtained a contract for supplying the royal marines artillery clothing in 1856. The price obtained for the privates' tunic was 17*s.* 6*d.* each; and the whole of the tunics for 2,000 men were supplied at this price.

Mr. Grant's estimate is 18*s.* 8½*d.* each. Therefore it cannot properly be called a saving to the Government when that saving arises only on comparison with prices that happened to be obtained by a contractor for a small portion of artillery clothing, and under peculiar circumstances—the Government never having paid such high prices, either before or since the time instanced. Moreover, the prices obtained by the contractor were for more costly work than that performed by Mr. Grant.

Consequently the gross profit of 10,151*l.* detailed in Mr. Grant's statement (page 127), being founded upon such a basis is of little value and is not real.

3rd. There is another item in the statement which is incorrect. Mr. Grant takes credit for "extra price of superior cloth,"

	£	s.	d.
12,145 yards of No. 3. blue, at 2 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	1,518	2	6
10,143 yards of No. 4. blue, at 2 <i>s.</i> 0 <i>d.</i>	1,014	6	0
Total	2,532	8	6

whereas the fact is, that the old pattern cloth was much heavier, stronger, and more genuine than the new pattern, the one weighing 11*lb.* 10*oz.* per yard and the other only 11*lb.* 7½*oz.* per yard. The former could not have been obtained from a respectable factor under from 7*s.* 4*d.* to 7*s.* 6*d.* per yard, the contractor being in some measure responsible for its wear. The prices paid by the Government for the new pattern cloths (vide Appendix to Evidence "Contracts' Committee") was 8*s.* 1*d.* to Messrs. Ellis and Co. for the tunic cloth, and 7*s.* 3*d.* to Messrs. Dolan and Co. for the trouser cloth; consequently the saving of 2,532*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*, referred to above, is quite imaginary, and is not an actual saving to the public.

4th. Mr. Grant also credits in his account the sum of 3,731*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.* for saving on royal engineers clothing, but it is unaccompanied with any details, or otherwise it no doubt could be explained away in the same manner as the saving on the artillery clothing.

5th. Credit is taken for 336*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* for "persons formerly employed in duties connected with clothing" at Woolwich. This is an incorrect credit, because the contractor delivered the major portion of the clothing at Woolwich in materials, the Government allowing a sum to the master tailor for making them up, who again employed the soldiers in question. The contractor would, if desired, have delivered the clothing made up, and at less expense to the Government, as an excess of material was always required by the master tailor when the clothing was sent unmade.

6th. In the statement of Mr. Grant, only 691*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.* is charged for the staff and regimental tailors employed in the shop, whereas he in his evidence stated he had about 150 soldiers employed, which he paid on a reduced scale, viz., 2*s.* 8*d.* for a tunic, instead of 4*s.* 6*d.*, which he paid to a civilian for the same work. These soldiers cost the Government 46*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* per man per annum (see page 933, Report of Select Committee on Army and Ordnance Expenditure, August 1, 1850), consequently there is an amount of 7,046*l.* 5*s.* 0*d.* with which, there can be no doubt, the work performed at the shop is chargeable. This sum is the difference of 1*s.* 10*d.* each tunic, retained by the Government when paying for work executed by a regimental tailor, in consequence of his receiving other pay, rations, and barrack-room.

7th. The aggregate wages specified in Mr. Grant's estimate for making up clothing, cutting out, and incidental, is 4,593*l.* 13*s.* 9½*d.*, which sum is composed of such items as 1*d.* for cutting out a pair of serjeant's overalls, and so on. This estimate is so far below the cost to an army clothier that it is believed it would not be borne out by the real amount of cash actually paid away in wages at the Woolwich workshops during the period stated.

8th. Mr. Grant takes credit for saving 1,317*l.* on the undress jackets. Undress jackets are paid for by stoppages from the men, and were formerly supplied to the quartermaster's stores from the cheapest source, and in whatever way the officers thought proper. The greater portion were made up in the regimental shop as now, the cloth being obtained by contract. Therefore the saving, if any, is only the difference shown on comparing one year's work with another.

9th. When all these points are considered, and a fair addition made to the account, for interest of money, loss and waste of materials in store, expenses incurred by the War Department in purchasing and inspecting the cloths, and carriage to Woolwich, it would then be clear, that if the clothing was put up to public competition, it would be far less trouble to the War Office, and much less expensive to the public, than the present system pursued at Woolwich.

Moreover, in the time of war, with a scarcity of recruits, an increased establishment of soldiers must be kept in the shops, if the whole body of the artillery are to be dependent upon them for its clothing.

APPENDIX No. 6.—(Question 2327.)

SPECIMENS OF FORMS.

A. No. 1.

Estimates 1859-60. Military Store Office, Woolwich, 1858.
REQUIRED to complete Demands made upon this Office, and to keep up the Store for the Supply of future Demands for the Year 1859-60.
Woolwich Storekeeper's Estimates for Miscellaneous Stores for 1859-60.

ARTICLES.	Issued in 1857-8.	In Stores, Date hereof.	Expected from Contractor and Manufacturing Departments by the end of Financial Year, March 31, 1859.	Total.	Ordered for Issue and probably required to complete Financial Year to March 31, 1859.	Available for 1859-60.	Total required for 1859-60.	Proposed to be provided for 1859-60.	Amount Land Service.			Amount Sea Service.			TOTAL.		
Buoys, night, life	85	86	30	116	116	—	190	190	—	—	—	1,900	—	—	1,900	—	—
Paint, white lead ground in oil, Cwts.	443	—	200	200	112	88	489 0 2	401 0 2	110	—	—	350	—	—	460	—	—
Ordnance iron guns } 8in. 65c.	74	458	196	654	400	154	882	650*	4,692	12	—	32,350	3	—	37,542	15	—

* 100 of the Guns will be cast in the Royal Gun Factories, Woolwich, and are included in the estimate of the Superintendent of that Department. They are, consequently, not included in this valuation.

A. No. 2.

Military Store Office, Woolwich, 1858.
ABSTRACT of Stores demanded for Service at Home and Foreign Stations for the Year 1859-60, forming the basis of the Annual Estimate Demand from this Station.
A Statement to accompany the Estimates for 1859-60, showing the Quantities of Guns, Carriages, Shot, Shell, &c., required for Issue to Outports, and for Store at Woolwich, during the Year 1859-60.

NATURE OF STORE.	Portsmouth.	Pridy's Hard.	Chatham.	Upnor.	Devonport.	Bull Point.	Director of Artillery.	Gibraltar.	Malta.	Cape Town.	Simon's Town.	Graham's Town.	Natal.	Bernuda.	Halifax.	Hong Kong.	Colombo.	Total.	Woolwich.		Total required 1859-60.	RE-MARKS.
																			Station.	Other Stations, and for Store.		
Buoys, night, life -	51	—	17	—	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	105	—	85	190	
Paint, white lead ground in oil, Cwts.	—	—	—	—	—	3 2 0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1 0 0	—	1 0 2	—	400 0 0	401 0 2	
Ordnance iron guns } 8in. 65c.	248	—	192	—	242	—	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	100	882	

A. No. 3.

No. 3.

Extract Form.

Military Store Office, Woolwich, August 27, 1858.

Very immediate.
SIR, We beg to send you an extract from the Board's order, dated the 25th August 1858, Demand No. $\frac{75}{3} \frac{181}{181}$ s. for India, to be sent in the proportions as under:—

Cartridges, rifle musquet, the bullet to be of the reduced diameter		} 5,000,000	
1st Proportion.	To Calcutta	-	1,147,000
	„ Bombay	-	500,000
	„ Madras	-	500,000
		2,147,000	
2nd do.	To Calcutta	-	1,853,000
	„ Bombay	-	500,000
	„ Madras	-	500,000
		2,853,000	

N.B. The amount to be packed in boxes of 1,000 cartridges each.
(Signed) WM. MORRIS,
The Superintendent, Royal Laboratory.

A. No. 4.

Demand } B.
Form. }

Office of Ordnance, Woolwich, April 5, 1859.

Running Contracts and Tower.
Miscellaneous }
1858-59. }
REQUIRED to complete demands made on this Office.
for Malta, Demand No. $\frac{37}{135}$ ordered April 1, 1859.
From whom to be obtained. Quantity. Value.
Messrs Badger & Co., Dudley. { Nails, iron, No. 32. } 2,000 £ s. d.
lbs. } 16 13 4
To be delivered into the charge of the P. M. Storekeeper, Woolwich, by the 21st May 1859.
(Signed) H. W. GORDON,
P. M. Storekeeper.

The Director of Stores,
War Office, Pall Mall.

Contracts }
1859-60. }

War Department, Woolwich, April 5, 1858.

REQUIRED to complete Demands made upon this Office, and to keep up the Store for the Supply of future Demands, being in part of the Annual Estimate Demand for the Year 1859-60.

Description of Stores.	Issued in the Year.		Quantity which ought to be kept in Store as Reserve.	Required to complete out- standing Orders.	Total Reserve, and out- standing Orders.	In Store, and to be delivered into Store.	Required on the present Requisi- tion.	In what Time required.	Remarks.	Value.
	1856-7.	1857-8.								
Oil, linseed, raw, gallons	8,200	9,460	5,000	3,824	8,824	1,327	7,497	2 months	Contractor's Name. Messrs. Pinchin & Johnson	£ s. 1,124 11

To the Director-General of Stores, War Department, Pall Mall. (Signed) H. W. GORDON, P. M. Storekeeper,

Miscellaneous }
1859-60. }

War Department, Woolwich, April 5, 1858, No. 5,500.

THE Stores contained in this Demand were sanctioned by Secretary of State by Letter dated April 1, 1859, ³⁷Malta for Malta. ₁₃₅

	Quantity now demanded.	How proposed to be supplied, and in what Time required.	Remarks.
Estimated Value. £4,987 10s. { Ordnance, iron guns, 68-pr. 95c. 9 ft. 6 in. }	50	By Tender. 20 to be delivered by the 24th June 1859. 30 to be delivered by 1st .Sept. 1859.	The necessary drawings and specifications to govern the supply of these guns can be seen by parties desirous of tendering, upon applica- tion to the Superin- tendent of Royal Gun Factories.

To the Director of Stores, War Office, Pall Mall. (Signed) H. W. GORDON, P. M. Storekeeper.

A. No. 5.

7350 28/10 (5051 21/10.) Woolwich.
1749
400 yards web, hemp, 4 inch, at per yard.
400 " " diaper, 2 inch, "

Which undertake to deliver, subject to the terms and conditions annexed, at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, in one month from order.

Mr. Mellor

War Office, Pall Mall, S.W.,
June 10, 1857.

The articles enumerated in the annexed schedule being required for the service of this department, should you be desirous of tendering for the same, you are requested to fill up and sign this form of tender, as herein pointed out, and return it to this office on or before 14th July next, addressed to "The Under Secretary of State for War;" taking special care to mark upon the outside "tender for hair cloths," any omission in this respect may lead to the offer not being duly considered.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CONTRACT.

Description of the Stores.—The articles required are to be of the qualities and sorts described, and equal in all respects to the patterns and specifications, which may be inspected on application at the Storekeeper's Office [or Gun Factories, or other Department, as the case may be], Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and to be delivered by the contractor at his own expense at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, within the time or times specified.

* Parties tendering are, for their own security, recommended to inspect minutely the patterns and specifications, as the contract is entirely governed thereby. They are also to satisfy themselves that the reference number on the pattern and the number inserted in the specifications agree in every instance; in case of any apparent discrepancy, it is to be referred for explanation to the Director of Contracts.

Receipt or Rejection.—Previous to the articles being received into store, they will be examined* by the officer or officers appointed for that service, and if found inferior, or defective in quality, they will be rejected, and the contractor is to remove the same at his own expense, within ten days after he is required to do, without any allowance being made to him for such rejected articles.

Duplicate patterns.—Duplicate patterns will be delivered by the War Office to the party whose tender may be accepted, on payment of their value, when application is made for them, but the contractor will understand that the original pattern will be used for governing the reception or rejection of the supply.

Inspection.—The stores will be inspected within 30 days from their delivery (except in such cases where a longer period may be stated in the specification), and a certificate passed to the Accountant-General, War Office, Pall Mall, London, within ten days afterwards, for such quantities as may have been found of proper quality.

Certificate.—If the deliveries under the contract be divided into proportions, a certificate will be passed as aforesaid, for each proportion, within forty days after the delivery thereof, provided the same shall have been delivered within the specified period, of proper quality, and an adequate further delivery shall have been made towards the completion of the contract.

Payment.—Payment will be made direct to the contractor, and not to an agent or attorney, by bills of exchange, to be drawn upon Her Majesty's Paymaster-General, Whitehall, London, at seven days' sight; which bills, however, must not be drawn until advice shall have been despatched from the office of the Accountant-General, authorizing him so to draw, and which authority will be despatched thence within sixteen days from the receipt in that office of the certificate, accompanied by his bill in original and duplicate, from the station at which the articles were delivered, showing the due delivery of such articles according to the terms and conditions of the contract in question, or within sixteen days after the removal of objections which may arise thereon.

Penalty for non-fulfilment of contract.—Should the contractor neglect or refuse to supply the articles contracted for, or any portion thereof, within the period or periods specified, the Secretary of State for War shall be at liberty,

at any time after the expiration of any one of the specified periods, to purchase the said articles from other persons, and to charge the difference between the price paid for such articles so obtained and the contract prices, to the contractor, which difference may be deducted from any sums due to the contractor under this or any other contract, or demanded of him to be paid within 14 days to the Paymaster-General, to the credit of the War Office; or the said Secretary of State for War shall be at liberty, instead of purchasing the said articles of other persons, to require the contractor to pay the following penalties, namely:—If the said articles shall not be supplied within the period or periods specified, a penalty of one per cent. on the amount of the supplies still remaining to be furnished within such period or periods; if they shall not be supplied within fourteen days after such period or periods as aforesaid, a penalty of two per cent.; and if they shall not be supplied within twenty-one days after such period or periods, a penalty of four per cent.; and if they shall not be supplied within thirty days after such period or periods, a penalty of six per cent. (but such penalties shall not be cumulative), and every such penalty may be deducted from any sum that may be due to the said contractor under this or any other contract, or may be recovered from the said contractor as and for liquidated damages. In addition to the above the Secretary of State for War shall be at liberty, if he think fit so to do, to terminate the contract at any one of the specified periods at which default shall have been made.

Contract and bond.—The contractor (if required) to bring forward two sufficient securities, to enter into a bond, in amount not exceeding half the value of the stores to be provided, for the due performance of the contract, and half the expense of the stamps is to be paid by the contractor.

No fee or gratuity.—The contract to be declared void, should the contractor, or any person employed by him, pay or offer to pay any gratuity or reward to any person in the employment of the War Office, for anything to be done by such person concerning the execution of the contract, for the passing or discharging any debenture or imprest for the payment of money in pursuance thereof.

Member of the House of Commons.—No member of the House of Commons to be admitted to any part or share of the contract, or to any benefit to arise therefrom.

Power to reject tenders and personal liability.—The Secretary of State for War reserves to himself the power of rejecting any or all of the tenders, or of accepting such portion thereof as he may think fit, and he is not to be answerable in his private capacity, nor in his own person or estate, for anything connected with or arising out of the contract.

THOMAS HOWELL,
Director of Contracts.

I, the undersigned, do hereby agree and bind myself to provide and deliver the articles enumerated in the list or schedule hereunto annexed, to which I have affixed prices, within the period above specified, and I do hereby agree to abide by and fulfil all the terms and conditions above-mentioned, or in default thereof to forfeit and pay to Her Majesty, Her heirs or successors, such penalties or sums of money as are above-mentioned.

Dated the 20th day of June 1857.

(Signature) JOHN MELLOR,
(Address) 15, Cheapside,
(If in London district) E.C.

(Witness's Signature) JOHN BROWN,
(Witness's Address) 4, Cripplegate.

Parties making tenders are desired to be particular in filling up, dating, and signing their respective tenders, inserting their address, and having their signature witnessed, also in inserting the address of the witness; and they are desired to fill in their prices at "per cwt." "lb." "doz." "each," &c., as specified, and not to make any alterations in these denominations.

7142 12/11
893

200 hair cloths, 15 feet long, 12 feet wide, at 2l. 10s. each.

The party whose tender may be accepted, is to supply such numbers of the above at the aforesaid prices as may be demanded by the Secretary of State for War, at any time between the 1st January 1859 and 31st December 1861, and is to deliver the same into store at the Royal Arsenal, at Woolwich, into the charge of the storekeeper, in such

reasonable time as shall be named in the warrant for each supply.

Should the contractor object to the shortness of the time named in any warrant for the supply of the articles therein stated, such objection must be made immediately on receipt of the warrant, otherwise it will not be entertained.

The contract to be terminable on the 31st December 1859 or 1860, upon three months previous notice being given by either party.

Referred to the storekeeper, Woolwich, for opinion as to whether the above price is fair and reasonable.

(Copy) R. GWYN,
For D. C.
July 1, 1857.

Royal Arsenal, July 2, 1858.

The price above quoted is such as has for the last three years been paid for the article, and is considered to be fair and reasonable.

(Copy) F. PELLATT,
P. M. Storekeeper.

B. No. 1.

No. 114, May 10, 1858.

War Office, Pall Mall,
Director of Contracts' Department,
May 5, 1858, 7309

30

Ordered that the offer of the following persons be accepted for the supply of the under-mentioned articles, stated in Mr. Vincent's letter of the 12th February last, to be required for Ceylon Government, viz.,

J.B. Hanna, Donald, and Wilson, Paisley,
1/4
248 For hoisting crabs.

See enclosure.

A true extract,

W. CHEETHAM.

By order of the Director of Contracts.

The Store Account Office.

7309

22

2 wrenches or hoisting crabs to lift 10 tons, at 60l. each.

2 do. do. 5 " " 35l. "

2 do. do. 3 " " 15l. "

To be delivered at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, in six weeks from date of order.

N.B. Parties tendering are particularly requested to inspect the specifications before submitting their price.

Director of Contracts' Department,
March 29, 1858, 73'3'115.

Requisition, No. 3706.

The tenders of the under-mentioned parties have been accepted for the supplies of the iron ordnance specified against their names in the enclosed lists for the sums stated, and the deliveries to be made as therein detailed.

Messrs. HOOD,
Earl Street, Blackfriars.

G. BYHAM,
For Director of Contracts.

The Director of Stores.

Messrs. Hood and Co.

50 guns, iron, 10-inch,	86 cwt.	21l. per ton.
125 " " 8 " 65 " 20l. "		
50 " " 68-prs. 95 " 21l. "		
75 " " 32 " 58 " 20l. "		

To be delivered as follows, viz.—

Total deliveries, 22 by 23rd May 1858.

22 " 31st " "
88 in June " "
88 " July " "
80 " Aug. " "

SS
80

300

B. No. 2.

CONTRACT LEDGER.

S/4.

Hood, Messrs. T. & C., Earl Street, Blackfriars.

No. of Warrant, or No. of Certificate where no Warrant has been given.	Time limited for Delivery.	Description of Articles, &c.	Number or Quantities to be supplied.	Deliveries by the Contractor.					
				25 June 1858.	21 July 1858.	29 July 1858.	17 August 1858.	29 Sept. 1858.	7 October 1858.
Price per Ton.		Ord. 29 March 1858.	73 3 115						
		No. 23. June 1858.		Certified 30 June '58.	Certified 26 July '58.	Certified 3 Aug. '58.	Certified 19 Aug. '58.	Certified 30 Sept. '58.	Certified 11 Oct. '58.
				0	1	9	3	11	11
				£261	£1,459	£4,768	£7,862	£4,483	£3,937
				4	3	13	3	7	11
£ s. d.		Guns { 10-inch 86 cwt.	50	3	—	77	22	8	10
21 0 0		8 " 65 "	125	1	7	19	44	25	29
20 0 0		Iron { 68-prs. 95 "	50	1	7	20	11	11	—
21 0 0		32 " 58 "	75	2	—	15	23	16	19
20 0 0									
Time of Deliveries.									
22 by the 23 May 1858.									
22 " 31 "									
88 in June "									
88 " July "									
80 " August.									

*HANNA, DONALD, and WILSON, Messrs., Paisley.

Number and Date of Warrant, or Number of Certificate where no Warrant has been given.	Time limited for Delivery.	*Name of Contractor and Description of Articles.	Number or Quantity contracted for.	Contract Price.	Value of Contract.	Deliveries by Contractor.	Amount of Certificate.	Date when forwarded to the Acct.-General for Payment.	By whom certified.
		Ord. 5 May 1858 7309 30				12 August 1858.			
		No. 19. August 1858.							
	In 6 weeks from order.	Ceylon Government.							
		Wrenches or { 10 tons -	2	60	— — Ea. 120	2	— —		
		hoisting crabs { 5 " -	2	35	— — — 70	2	220 — —	Augt. 16	W. MORRIS.
		to lift - - { 3 " -	2	15	— — — 30	2	— —	16 Augt. '58.	
				H. & Co.					
				Fines to be levied per Ord. 9 July 1858 7115 1835 L 4233.					

B. No. 3.

STOREHOLDER'S CONTRACT ORDER BOOK.

Reed. 11th May 1858. From Hanna, Donald, and Wilson.
Order 5th May 1858 7309

Ceylon Government.

Wrenches or hoisting crabs, to lift { 10 tons, 2.
5 " 2.
3 " 2.

In six weeks from order.

Reed. 18th May 1858. From Stubs and Co.
Warrant 1771. Ord. 19th Feb. 1858 57 W 467

Steel, shear, 1½ in. x 1, 100.
By 7th June 1858.

Reed. 6th April 1858. Hood, T. and C., Messrs.
Order, 29th March 1858, 73 3 115
Woolwich, 1858-9.

Ordnance, iron guns { 10 inch, 86 cwt., 50.
8 " 65 " 125.
68 " 95 " 50.
32 " 58 " 75.

22 by 23rd May 1858.

22 " 31st " "
88 in June "
88 " July "
88 " Aug. "

B. No. 4.

No. 16.
W

No. 31. Earl Street, Blackfriars,
Reed. 17th August 1858. May 27, 1858.

INVOICE of STORES delivered at the Royal Arsenal for Inspection.

Warrant No. _____
Ordered 29th March 1858. 73·3·115.

	Quantity.			Reasons for Rejection.
	Supplied.	Approved.	Rejected.	
Ordnance { 10-inch, 9 ft. 4 in.	4	4		
Iron Guns { 8-inch, 9 feet -	2	2		
{ 32-prs, 9½ feet -	3	3		

Per "Resolute" steamer.

H. STANDERWICK,
For D. M. Storekeeper.
16/8/58.

T. & C. HOOD.

Attest with
No. 23, June 1858.

RECAPITULATION.		APPROVED.	
Ordnance	10-inch, 86 cwt., 9 ft. 4 in.	-	22
	8-inch, 65 cwt., 9 feet	-	44
Iron Guns	68-prs., 95 cwt., 10 feet	-	41
	32-prs., 58 cwt., 9½ feet	-	23

The Inspecting Officers,
at

MEMORANDUM.—The Contractor is requested to attend to the following
Directions, viz. :—
His Place of Residence and date of Delivery to be written on the
two lines at the head of the Invoice.
If the Stores are supplied on Warrant, the Number of the Warrant
to be inserted, as well as the Date of the Order, on the lines
against "Warrant No." and "Ordered."
The Number or Weight of the Articles supplied to be entered in
the first column, under the printed word "Supplied."
The Contractor to sign his Name under the Articles supplied.

158.	28/5/58.
10-inch, 86 cwt. No. 7835,	cast May 3rd.
" 7836,	" April 23rd.
" 7837,	" " 30th.
" 7838,	" " 20th.
8-inch, 65 cwt. No. 7839,	" May 3rd.
" 7840,	" " 5th.
32-prs., 58 cwt. No. 7841,	" " 5th.
" 7842,	" " 7th.
" 7843,	" " 4th.
No. 16.	
W	

No. Earl Street, Blackfriars,
Recd. June, 1 1858.
INVOICE of STORES delivered at the Royal Arsenal for
Inspection.
Warrant No.
Ordered 29th March 1858. 73·3·115.

		Quantity.			Reasons for Rejection.
		Supplied.	Approved.	Rejected.	
Ordnance	10-inch, 9 ft. 4 in.	2	2		
	68-prs., 10 feet -	1	1		
Iron Guns	8-inch, 9 feet -	3	3		
	32-prs., 9½ feet -	2	2		

Per "Contest." H. STANDERWICK,
For D. M. Storekeeper.
T. & C. Hood. 16/8/58.
The Inspecting Officers,
at

MEMORANDUM.—The Contractor is requested to attend to the following
Directions, viz. :—
His Place of Residence and date of Delivery to be written on the
two lines at the head of the Invoice.
If the Stores are supplied on Warrant, the Number of the Warrant
to be inserted, as well as the Date of the Order, on the lines
against "Warrant No." and "Ordered."
The Number or Weight of the Articles supplied to be entered in
the first column, under the printed word "Supplied."
The Contractor to sign his Name under the Articles supplied.

4.	2/6/58.
No. 16.	
W	
No. Earl Street, Blackfriars, Recd. June 3, 1858.	
INVOICE of STORES delivered at the Royal Arsenal for Inspection.	
Warrant No.	
Ordered 29th March 1858. 73·3·115.	

		Quantity.			Reasons for Rejection.
		Supplied.	Approved.	Rejected.	
Ordnance	8-inch, 9 feet -	3	3		
Iron Guns					

Per "Resolute." H. STANDERWICK,
For D. M. Storekeeper.
T. & C. Hood. 16/8/58.
The Inspecting Officers,
at

MEMORANDUM.—The Contractor is requested to attend to the following
Directions, viz. :—
His Place of Residence and date of Delivery to be written on the
two lines at the head of the Invoice.
If the Stores are supplied on Warrant, the Number of the Warrant
to be inserted, as well as the Date of the Order, on the lines
against "Warrant No." and "Ordered."
The Number or Weight of the Articles supplied to be entered in
the first column, under the printed word "Supplied."
The Contractor to sign his Name under the Articles supplied.

11.	4/6/58.
No. 16.	
W	
No. Earl Street, Blackfriars, Recd. June 7, 1858.	
INVOICE of STORES delivered at the Royal Arsenal for Inspection.	
Warrant No.	
Ordered 29th March 1858. 73·3·115.	

		Quantity.			Reasons for Rejection.
		Supplied.	Approved.	Rejected.	
Ordnance	10-inch, 9 ft. 4 in.	4	4		
	68-prs., 10 feet -	5	5		
Iron Guns	8-inch, 9 feet -	8	8		
	32-prs., 9½ feet -	3	3		

Per "Contest" steamer. H. STANDERWICK,
For D. M. Storekeeper.
T. & C. Hood. 16/8/58.
The Inspecting Officers,
at

MEMORANDUM.—The Contractor is requested to attend to the following
Directions, viz. :—
His Place of Residence and date of Delivery to be written on the
two lines at the head of the Invoice.
If the Stores are supplied on Warrant, the Number of the Warrant
to be inserted, as well as the Date of the Order, on the lines
against "Warrant No." and "Ordered."
The Number or Weight of the Articles supplied to be entered in
the first column, under the printed word "Supplied."
The Contractor to sign his Name under the Articles supplied.

74.	8/6/58.
No. 16.	
W	
No. Earl Street, Blackfriars, Recd. June 14, 1858.	
INVOICE of STORES delivered at the Royal Arsenal for Inspection.	
Warrant No.	
Ordered 29th March 1858. 73·3·115.	

		Quantity.			Reasons for Rejection.
		Supplied.	Approved.	Rejected.	
Ordnance	10-inch, 9 ft. 4 in.	4	4		
	68-prs., 10 feet -	1	1		
Iron Guns	8-inch, 9 feet -	6	6		
	32-prs., 9½ feet -	5	5		

Per "Contest" steamer. H. STANDERWICK,
For D. M. Storekeeper.
T. & C. Hood. 16/8/58.
The Inspecting Officers,
at

MEMORANDUM.—The Contractor is requested to attend to the following
Directions, viz. :—
His Place of Residence and date of Delivery to be written on the
two lines at the head of the Invoice.
If the Stores are supplied on Warrant, the Number of the Warrant
to be inserted, as well as the Date of the Order, on the lines
against "Warrant No." and "Ordered."
The Number or Weight of the Articles supplied to be entered in
the first column, under the printed word "Supplied."
The Contractor to sign his Name under the Articles supplied.

No. 16.
W

No. Recd. Earl Street, Blackfriars,
June 17, 1858.
INVOICE of STORES delivered at the Royal Arsenal for
Inspection.
Warrant No.
Ordered 29th March 1858. 73·3·115.

		Quantity.			Reasons for Rejection.
		Supplied.	Approved.	Rejected.	
Ordnance, Iron Guns	8-inch, 9 feet -	1	1		
	68-prs., 10 feet -	2	2		
	10-inch, 9 ft. 4 in.	1	1		

Per "Resolute" Steamer.
H. STANDERWICK,
For D. M. Storekeeper.
16/8/58.
T. & C. HOOD.
The Inspecting Officers,
at

MEMORANDUM.—The Contractor is requested to attend to the following
Directions, viz. :—
His Place of Residence and date of Delivery to be written on the
two lines at the head of the Invoice.
If the Stores are supplied on Warrant, the Number of the Warrant
to be inserted, as well as the Date of the Order, on the lines
against "Warrant No." and "Ordered."
The Number or Weight of the Articles supplied to be entered in
the first column, under the printed word "Supplied."
The Contractor to sign his Name under the Articles supplied.
115. 18/6/58.

No. 16.
W

No. Recd. Earl Street, Blackfriars,
June 21, 1858.
INVOICE of STORES delivered at the Royal Arsenal for
Inspection.
Warrant No.
Ordered 29th March 1858. 73·3·115.

		Quantity.			Reasons for Rejection.
		Supplied.	Approved.	Rejected.	
Ordnance, Iron Guns	10-inch, 9 ft. 4 in.	3	3		
	8 " 9 feet -	11	11		
	32-prs., 9½ feet -	5	5		

Per "Contest."
H. STANDERWICK,
For D. M. Storekeeper.
26/8/55.
T. & C. HOOD.
The Inspecting Officers,
at

MEMORANDUM.—The Contractor is requested to attend to the following
Directions, viz. :—
His Place of Residence and date of Delivery to be written on the
two lines at the head of the Invoice.
If the Stores are supplied on Warrant, the Number of the Warrant
to be inserted, as well as the Date of the Order, on the lines
against "Warrant No." and "Ordered."
The Number or Weight of the Articles supplied to be entered in
the first column, under the printed word "Supplied."
The Contractor to sign his Name under the Articles supplied.

No. 16.
W

No. Recd. Earl Street, Blackfriars,
June 28, 1858.
INVOICE of STORES delivered at the Royal Arsenal for
Inspection.
Warrant No.
Ordered 29th March 1858. 73·3·115.

		Quantity.			Reasons for Rejection.
		Supplied.	Approved.	Rejected.	
Ordnance, Iron Guns	10-inch, 9 ft. 4 in.	4	4		
	68-prs., 10 feet -	2	2		
	68-inch, 9 feet -	10	10		
	32-prs., 9½ feet -	5	5		

Per "Contest."
H. STANDERWICK,
For D. M. Storekeeper.
16/8/58.
T. & C. HOOD.
The Inspecting Officers,
at

MEMORANDUM.—The Contractor is requested to attend to the following
Directions, viz. :—
His Place of Residence and date of Delivery to be written on the
two lines at the head of the Invoice.
If the Stores are supplied on Warrant, the Number of the Warrant
to be inserted, as well as the Date of the Order, on the lines
against "Warrant No." and "Ordered."
The Number or Weight of the Articles supplied to be entered in
the first column, under the printed word "Supplied."
The Contractor to sign his Name under the Articles supplied.
169. 29/6/58.

No. 16.
W

No. 19. Abbey Works, Paisley,
Recd. 12th August 1858. July 10, 1858.
INVOICE of STORES delivered at the Military Store Depart-
ment at Woolwich for Inspection.
Warrant No.
Ordered 5th May 1858. 7309
30.

		Quantity.			Reasons for Rejection.
		Supplied.	Approved.	Rejected.	
Wrenches or crabs, hoisting, complete, to lift	10 tons -	2	2		1/4 248
	5 " -	2	2		
	3 " -	2	2		

HANNA, DONALD, & WILSON.
W. M.
J. WHITE,
For D. M. S.
The Military Storekeeper
at Woolwich, S. E.

MEMORANDUM.—The Contractor is requested to attend to the following
Directions, viz. :—
His Place of Residence and date of Delivery to be written on the
two lines at the head of the Invoice.
If the Stores are supplied on Warrant, the Number of the Warrant
to be inserted, as well as the Date of the Order, on the lines
against "Warrant No." and "Ordered."
The Number or Weight of the Articles supplied to be entered in
the first column, under the printed word "Supplied."
The Contractor to sign his Name under the Articles supplied.
123. 21/7/58.

B. No. 5.

REGISTER of INVOICES, Military Store Office, Woolwich.

Names of Contractors.	Description of Articles.	Date of Delivery.	Date of Inspection.	No.	Date of Invoice.
				102	July.
				103	
				104	
				105	
				106	
				107	
				108	
				109	
				110	
				111	
				112	
				113	
				114	
				115	
Stubs & Co. - -	Steel - -	20 July	3 Aug.	116	19 "
Churchill and Sims -	794 deals -	21 "	23 July	117	19 "
Walker & Co. - -	14 guns - -	21 " {	3 Sep. }	118	8 "
		9 Oct. }			
Neale, Horne, & Co. -	370½ tons coals	19 "	19 July	119	19 "
Wm. Cottom - -	Iron drums -	21 "	26 "	120	20 "
Moreton and Foster -	20 shot bearers	20 "	23 "	121	20 "
Moser and Sons - -	50 tongs - -	20 "	24 "	122	20 "
Hanna, Donald, & Co.	6 crabs, hoisting	20 July 1858.	7 Aug. 1858.	123	10 July 1858.
				124	
				125	
				126	
				127	
				128	
				129	
				130	
				131	
				132	
				133	
				134	
				135	
				137	May.
				138	
				139	
				140	
				141	
				142	
				143	
				144	
				145	
				146	
				147	
				148	
				149	
				150	
				151	
				152	
				153	
				154	
				155	
				156	
				157	
Hood, T. & Co. - - -	9 guns - -	28 May	11 Aug.	158	27 May 1858.
Moser and Sons - -	1,000 hoof picks	28 "	10 June	159	28 "
James and Shakspeare	4,000 copper rivets.	28 "	1 "	160	28 "
Holgate & Co. - -	Harness - -	28 "	26 "	161	28 "
				162	
				163	
				164	
				165	
				166	
				167	
				168	
				169	
				170	

B. No. 6.

Recd. 17th August 1858.

Military Store Office, Woolwich,
May 28, 1858.

SIR,

PLEASE to cause the following Articles to be examined,
and their state to be inserted:—
From Messrs. T. & C. Hood.
Per "Resolute."
Invoice, May 27, 1858.

				S.	R.	U.
Guns, Iron	10-inch, 86 cwt.	4	-	-	4	
	8 " 65 "	2	-	-	2	
	32-prs. 58 "	3	-	-	3	

CAST:—

No. 7835 May 3	No. 7839 May 3	No. 7841 May 5
" 7836 April 23	" 7840 " 5	" 7842 " 7
" 7837 " 30		" 7843 " 4
" 7838 " 20		

Proved 19th and 27th July /58.
P. M'KINLEY, M.P.,
For Sup. R. G. Fs.
H. A. RUSSELL,
For P. M. Storekeeper.

107.

The Superintendent,
Royal Gun Factories.

EXAMINATION REQUEST ON DEPARTMENTS.
No. 23.

Recd. 12/8.

Military Store Office, Woolwich,
July 21, 1858.

SIR,

I have to request you will be pleased to depute a
competent person from the Department under your direc-
tions to assist in the examination of the following Articles
supplied by Contract, in pursuance of Order, dated the 5th
May 1858.

From Hanna, Donald, and Wilson.
Invoice dated 10th July 1858.
Wrenches or crabs, hoisting, to lift 10 tons, 2.
complete 5 " 2.
3 " 2.

H. A. RUSSELL,
For D. M. Storekeeper.

The Inspector of Machinery.

The crabs referred to have been tested; they are complete
in every particular, and are approved of.

R. J. FRAZER,
For the Inspector of Machinery,
Absent on leave.

B. No. 7.

NOTICE OF REJECTED STORES.
No. 20.

W

Military Store Office, Woolwich, S.E.
1858.

THE under-mentioned Articles delivered by you in
pursuance of the Order dated
are rejected, having on inspection been found inferior to the
Sealed Patterns by which the Contract was made; the more
particular defects or objections to which will be pointed out
on application to the Storekeeper; and you are requested
to remove the same, and replace them by others of the
proper description without delay.

Warrant No.
Invoice dated October 22, 1858.
Buckles, iron, polished, } 1,000 { Rollers large, and buckles
roller, 1¼ - - - } badly made and finished.

H. A. RUSSELL,
For P. M. Storekeeper.

Messrs. Moreton and Foster,
12, Clements Lane,
E. C.

B. No. 8.

REQUISITION for CONTRACTORS' BILLS in DUPLICATE.
Military Store Office, Woolwich, S.E.,
August 13, 1858.

1. A Certificate in your name, for the Articles enumerated
on the accompanying Copy of Certificate, being ready for
transmission to the Accountant-General's Office, War
Office, Pall Mall, I am to request you will have the good-
ness to send me immediately your Bill in original and
duplicate, to accompany the same, showing the price of
each Article, and the total amount for the Certificate.

2. The Bill should contain your full name and address,
be signed by you, or by some authorized person in your
behalf, with the date, letter, and number of the communi-
cation from the Director of Contracts accepting your
tender.

3. Your certificate will not be passed for Payment until
the return of the enclosed Copy, accompanied with your
monied Bill and Duplicate to this Office.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
H. H. RUSSELL,
For the Principal Military Storekeeper.

To Messrs. Hanna, Donald, and Wilson,
Paisley, N.B.

Receipts of Daily Journals—continued.

	Receipts.	S.	R.	U.
1858. Aug. 17	From Messrs. T. & C. Hood. Ord., 29th March 1858, 73'3·115. Invoices 27th May, 1st, 3d, 7th, 14th, 17th, 21st, and 28th June 1858.			
34	Ord- nance { 10-inch, 26 cwt., 9ft. 4in. 8 „ 65 „ 9ft. - iron { 68-prs., 95 „ 10 ft - guns { 32 „ 58 „ 9½ ft. -	22 44 11 23		

T. and C. Hood.

B. No. 11.

MEMORANDUM of TIME ALLOWED to CONTRACTORS
for DELIVERY of STORES.

Names.	Page.	Date to be reported.
Hanna, Donald, and Co. -	248	by 20 June 1858
Stubs and Co. - - -	2	„ 11 „ „
Badger and Co. - - -	26	„ 16 „ „
Pontifex and Wood - -	86	„ 20 „ „
Johnson and Son - -	39	„ 20 „ „

B. No. 12.

REPORT of STORES NOT DELIVERED in the TIME SPECIFIED.

Military Store Office, Woolwich,
June 25, 1858.

RETURN of STORES which were due from Contractors, and not delivered on the 24th June 1858.

Names of Contractors.	Date of		No. of Warrant.	Description of Articles.	Total of Orders.	For what Service required.	Quantity to be delivered by this Date.	Quantity delivered in part thereof, including that waiting inspection.	Remaining due at this Date, including that deli- vered but rejected.	Remarks.
	Contract.	Order.								
Messrs. Hanna, Donald, and Wil- son, Paisley.		5 May 1858 $\frac{7309}{30}$		Wrenches or hoist- ing crabs to lift { 10 tons 5 „ 3 „	2 2 2	Ceylon Government	2 2 2	Nil. „ „	2 2 2	4/248

W. MORRIS,
D. M. Storekeeper.

The Director of Stores,
War Office, Pall Mall.

B. No. 13.

The DIRECTOR of STORES.

L. 4237.
Rec. July 13,

Contract Department,

P. 297. July 9, 1858, $\frac{7115}{1835}$
Woolwich, Return of Defaulters, dated the 25th June 1858.

The Fines to which Messrs Hanna, Donald, and
Wilson, of Paisley, have rendered themselves liable,
 $\frac{7309}{30}$ are to be enforced on account of delay in their
contract dated the 5th May last, for the supply of
wrenches.

(Signed) W. CHEETHAM,
for D. C.

B. No. 14.

JOURNAL of INSPECTION of STORES.

No. of Invoice.	Dates, Names of Contractors, Description of Articles, Services, &c.	Quantities			Reasons for Rejection.
		In- spected.	Ap- proved.	Re- jected and to be re- turned.	
1858. 123	July 10, 1858. Hanna, Donald, and Wilson. Wrenches or { 10 tons crabs, hoist- { 5 „ ing, to lift { 3 „	2 2 2	2 2 2		
	W. M.				
184	July 28, 1858. Moreton and Foster. { Intrenching Barrows { Hand single { Intrenching { Hand single	1 24 32 36	1 24 32 36		
	W. MORRIS.				
26	August 5, 1858. Almond and Co. Brazils unstrained, doz.	50	—	50	Very light, from 13½ to 17 lbs. the dozen.
	Hides, bridle - -	20	16½	3½	Flawed.
	W. MORRIS.				August 7, 1858.

B. No. 15.

REPORT OF VESSELS' ARRIVAL.

—	Date.	Hour	Vessel.	Master's Name.	Stores.	Where from.	Unloaded.				Foreman.	No. of Crane.	No. of Freight.
							Begun.		Finished.				
							Hour.	Date.	Hour.	Date.			
285	1858. July.												
286													
287													
288													
289	20	10	Metcalfe	Hy. Loter	6 crabs -	Hanna, Donald, and Wilson.	11	20	2½	20	Everington	10	
290	21	9½	Pacific	Kent -	794 deals	Churchill and Sim -	2½	21	3	22	Heyward -	Canal.	
291	„	9¾	Sarah -	Littlebay	14 guns -	Walker and Co. -	11½	21	5½	21	Dismore -	18	
292	22	6	Contest	Jales -	9 guns -	Hood and Co. -	6	22	8	22	White -	9	
293	„	11	Sarah -	Kent -	606 deals	Churchill and Sim -	4	22	5	23	Heyward -	Canal.	
294													
295													
296													
297													
298													
299													
300													

B. No. 16.

Copy.

Counterpart.

DEPOSITS FOR USE OF PATTERNS.

No. 29. Military Store Office, Woolwich,
9th day of Nov. 1858.
Received of H. W. Gordon, Esq., C.B., P.M.S., the following duplicate patterns, which I engage to return in the same good condition that I now receive them, with the first delivery of the articles of the same description; and when the whole of the patterns which I now receive are returned, I will also return the counterpart of this receipt, which shall be an acknowledgment of my having received back the sum of five shillings, which I now deposit as a security for the return of the patterns uninjured.
(Signed) MOSER and SONS.
Witness, J. White.

No. of Pattern.	ARTICLES.	Date of Return.
	Combs { Curry. Mane, with sponge.	

No. 29. Military Store Office, Woolwich,
9th day of Nov. 1858.
Received of H. W. Gordon, Esq., C.B., P.M.S., the following duplicate patterns, which I engage to return in the same good condition that I now receive them, with the first delivery of the articles of the same description; and when the whole of the patterns which I now receive are returned, I will also return this counterpart of receipt, which shall be an acknowledgment of my having received back the sum of five shillings, which I now deposit as a security for the return of the patterns uninjured.
(Signed) MOSER and SONS.
Witness, J. White.
. This Receipt is to be exhibited with any Pattern that may be returned in part, that the same may be written off, as received in the proper column.

No. of Pattern.	ARTICLES.	Date of Return.
	Combs { Curry. Mane, with sponge.	

B. No. 17.

ORDNANCE REGISTER and WEIGH BOOK.

Weighed, August 1858.
From Messrs. T. and C. HOOD.
Proved July 19 and 27, 1858.

Recd. Aug. 17, 1858.

For H. M. Service.

Supplied. Approved. Rejected.

Guns, Iron { 10-inch, 86 cwt. - 4 4 0
8 " 65 " - 2 2 0
32-prs., 58 " - 3 3 0

Register.	Founder.	Nature.	Weight.
7835	Loromoor -	10-inch, 86 cwt. -	Cwt. qrs. lbs. 86 2 14
7836	"	" " -	86 0 0
7837	"	" " -	86 3 10
7838	"	" " -	86 2 14
		Ord., 29 Mch. 1858, 735115. Certified, 19 Aug. 1858.	346 0 10
7839	"	8-inch, 65 cwt. -	65 3 0
7840	"	" " -	66 0 0
		Ord., 29 Mch. 1858, 735115. Certified, 19 Aug. 1858.	131 3 0
7841	"	32-prs., 58 cwt. -	58 2 14
7842	"	" " -	58 2 24
7843	"	" " -	58 3 14
		Ord., 29 Mch. 1858, 735115 Certified, 29 Aug. 1858.	176 0 24

C. No. 4.

RECEIPT BOOK OF STORES.

	Receipts.	S.	R.	U.
1858. Nov. 5	From Dover, per "Sebastopol," per order, October 12, 1858, <u>57</u> Dover. <u>92</u>		D	
	Ordnance, { guns { 18-pr. -	14		
	iron { 12-pr. -	6		
	carronades, 12-pr.	17		
	Per order, October 29, 1858, <u>57</u> Shorncliff. <u>50</u>		R	
	Barrels, cartridge { half -	32		
	quarter -	90		
	Baskets, bottle 20 Rubbish			Tin
116	Bottles, tin, for oil { 5 gallons	11		4
	2 "	3		
	Boxes { small arm ammunition	53		
	shots and shell -	186		
	Cases, packing -	19		
	u.			
	Crates " - - 3 Wood			
	Cylinders, zinc - -	165		
	u.			
	Kegs, paint - - 2 Wood			
	{ 1 ton	3		
	u.			
	Vats, packing { $\frac{3}{4}$ " 2	3		
	{ $\frac{1}{2}$ " 2	4		
	{ $\frac{1}{4}$ " 2	6		
	Wood			
	Iron, old, lbs. - - -	16		
	Wood, old, feet - - -	4		
	(Signed) John Gange.			

C. No. 5.

TRANSIT BOOK.

Where from, and Description of Store.	No. of Cases or Packages.	Remarks.
From Dover, per "Sebastopol," for the Tower, 5/11/58.		
Chests, arm - - -	5	
Vats, packing, contain- } 1 ton "	1	
ing great coats - } $\frac{3}{4}$ " -	2	

C. No. 6.

Military Store Office, Woolwich,
November 6, 1858.
SIR, PLEASE to cause the following articles to be examined
and their state to be inserted:—Per order, February 24, 1857,
275-23
115 From Dover, per "Sebastopol."

(549)

	S.	R.	U.
Ordnance, { Guns { 18-pr. - - 14			
iron, { 12-pr. - - 6			
Carronade, 12-pr. - 17			

(Signed) JOHN KEEN,
Pro P. M. Storekeeper.

The Superintendent,
Royal Gun Factory, Woolwich.

C. No. 7.

CONVERSION BOOK.

Date.	To Conversion.	D.	S.	R.	U.	Date.	From Conversion.	S.	R.	U.
	From Chatham, per "Bomarsund." (383.)									
	Ordnance, { 10-inch 86 cwt.	2					Ordnance, { 10-inch 86 cwt.	2	1	
	iron guns { 8-inch 65 "	5					8-inch 65 "	4	1	
	{ 68-pr. 95 "	2					68-pr. 95 "	1		
	{ 32-pr. { 48 "	2					32-pr. { 48 "	2		
	{ 42 "	3					{ 42 "	3		

C. No. 7.

In support of Form C. No. 7.

Military Store Office, Woolwich, March 25, 1857.
SIR, PLEASE to cause the following articles to be examined and their state to be inserted:—From Chatham, per
"Bomarsund."

383.

	D.	S.	R.	U.
Ordnance, { 10-inch, 86 cwt.	2		2	
iron guns { 8-inch, 65 "	5		4	1
{ 68-pr. 95 "	2		1	1
{ 32-pr. { 48 "	2		2	
{ 42 "	3		3	

(Signed) J. BAKER, P.C.
(Signed) J. D. HARRY, for the Storekeeper.

The Superintendent, Royal Gun Factory, Woolwich.

C. No. 8.

RETURN of STORES required to be examined by the MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENTS to decide on their STATE.

Military Store Office, Woolwich,
November 1858.

Description of Stores.	Quantity.								To which Department each Article appertains.	How recommended to be disposed of.	Remarks.
	In Store.			State decided on after examination.							
	S.	R.	Obs.	S.	R.	Obs.	U.				
Boxes, pipe, cast iron, for wheels, of sorts.	90	190	-	-	-	-	280	Royal carriage department.			
Wrenches, iron, of sorts.	-	36	-	-	-	-	36	Ditto - -	The iron to be re-manufactured.		
Boilers - - -	-	6	-	-	-	-	6	Ditto - -	To be recast.		
Casks, small, for water.	-	102	-	-	-	-	-	Royal laboratory -	To be broken up.		
Cases, quadrants -	-	16	-	4	8	-	4	Royal gun factories	4 to be broken up.		

C. No. 9.

REPORT BOOK of VESSELS ARRIVED.

Date. 1858.	Hour.	Name of Vessel.	Name of Master.	Stores.	Port where loaded.	Unloaded.				Landing Foreman.	No. of Crane.	No. of Freight.
						Commenced.		Finished.				
						Hour.	Date.	Hour.	Date.			
Nov. 3	4	Sebastopol	W. Anders	Ordnance, &c.	Dover	6 a.m.	4	5 p.m.	4	White	4	549

D. No. 1.

No. 270, August 1858.

30.

It is requested that in any further communication on this subject, the Number and date of Order may be quoted; and that the communication may be addressed to

The Under Secretary of State,
War Office, Pall Mall,
STORES. S.W.

Original Order.

No. $\frac{75}{3}$
181

S.

Very immediate. War Office, Pall Mall, S.W.
Sir, August 26, 1858.

THE Secretary of State for War having authorized the under-mentioned stores to be sent to the place named below;

I have to request that you will issue the same, and transmit a report thereof to this office, quoting the order and number of demand.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) GEO. D. RAMSAY,
Assistant-Director of Stores.

For the service of India. To be sent out in the proportions stated below.

Ordered by Assistant Under Secretary of State.

Date of order, August 25, 1858.

The Military Storekeeper.

Extract made, August 27, 1858.

L Cartridges, rifle musket, the bullet to be of the reduced diameter } 5,000,000

The above to be sent out as follows:—

1st proportion { To Calcutta - - 1,147,000
„ Bombay - - 500,000
„ Madras - - 500,000
2,147,000

2nd proportion { To Calcutta - - 1,853,000
„ Bombay - - 500,000
„ Madras - - 500,000
2,853,000

Total - - - - - 5,000,000

N.B.—The ammunition is to be packed in boxes of 1,000 cartridges each; the 1st proportion is to be forwarded by the overland route, via Southampton, that for Madras and Calcutta to be delivered at Southampton not later than the evening of the 2nd proximo, that for Bombay, the evening of the day but one before the sailing of the steamer on the 4th proximo.

The 2nd proportion is to be forwarded by the ordinary route, as soon as it can be made.

30.

5,232
25-8.58.

No. $\frac{75}{3}$
179

EXTRACT from a LETTER, dated War Office, Pall Mall,
August 24, 1858.

The under-mentioned ammunition, reduced diameter, to be prepared by Captain Boxer, for issue to India; viz.—

3,000,000 rounds for Calcutta.
1,000,000 „ „ Madras.
1,000,000 „ „ Bombay.

of which 1,147,000 rounds for Calcutta, 500,000 for Madras, and 500,000 for Bombay, are to be sent overland immediately, the remainder to go by the ordinary route as soon as it can be made.

(Signed) GEO. D. RAMSAY.

The D. M. Storekeeper,
Woolwich.

D. No. 2.

Red Number.	Received.	Store Account Office, Date of Order.	Store Account Office, Number of Demand.		Stations.	Date		Departments.	Articles.
			M.	S.		Of Extract.	When sent.		
						1858.			
1606	5 Nov.	1 Nov.		55 Artillery 545	Mauritius, Royal Artillery.	8 Nov.	10 Nov.	Laboratory -	Tubes, friction, &c. &c.
1611	6 ,,	2 ,,	6223		Shorncliffe, No. 12 field battery.	6 ,,	,, ,,	Carriage department.	Caps, sponge, &c. &c.
1614	,, ,,	5 ,,		<div>59 Fort William 3</div>	Fort William, Scotland, storekeeper.	16 ,,	16 ,,	Gun factories,	Brushes, paint, with handles.

D. No. 3.

SPECIMEN of BOOK for ENTERING all ORDERS in detail for HOME STATIONS.

Ordered 24th August 1858, No. $\frac{75}{179}$ 3, and 25th August 1858, No. $\frac{75}{181}$ 3, S.

The under-mentioned ammunition, reduced diameter, to be prepared by Captain Boxer for issue to India; viz.

L 3,000,000 rounds for Calcutta -
1,000,000 " " Madras - } 5,000,000
1,000,000 " " Bombay - }

of which 1,147,000 rounds for Calcutta, 500,000 for Madras, and 500,000 for Bombay, are to be sent overland immediately, the remainder to go by ordinary route as soon as possible.

Extract sent, August 27, 1858.

D. No. 4.

INDIA.—DEMAND BOOK.

No. $\frac{75}{179}$ 3 Ord. 24th August 1858. and No. $\frac{75}{181}$ 3 S. Ord. 25th August 1858. Mr. Ramsay's letters, 24th and 26th August 1858.	For Calcutta.	For Madras.	For Bombay.	Marchwood, per "Balaklava," 28th August 1858.	No. 270, August 1858.
L Ammunition, reduced diameter, to be prepared by Captain Boxer, rounds 1,147,000 rounds for Calcutta, 500,000 rounds for Madras, and 500,000 rounds for Bombay, are to be sent overland immediately, the remainder to go by the ordinary route, as soon as it can be made.	3,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	Calcutta, 1,147,000. Bombay, 500,000. Madras, 500,000. Total, 2,147,000. Return made 28/8/58. Reported 30th Aug. in part.	

Extract made, August 27, 1858.

D. No. 5.

SHIPPING ORDER (No.).

To Southampton, per "Balaklava," for Overland Route to India.

For Calcutta—
Cartridges, ball, cases - - - 1,147

For Madras—
Cartridges, ball, cases - - - 500

For Bombay—
Cartridges, ball, cases - - - 500

(Signed) H. BLAKENEY,
August 27, 1858.

(Signed) F. EVINGTON,
The Principal Foreman,
Storekeeper's Department. August 30, 1858.

D. No. 6.

Referred to by Art. 456,
page 117.

Form S.—No. 29.

COUNTERPART to be retained by the Consignee.

LADEN on board the "Balaklava," W. Pellatt, master, the several stores under-mentioned, in good order and condition, measuring tons, feet, which he hereby promises and engages to deliver (danger of the seas excepted) to Storekeeper Marchwood, and to received the freight for the same in due course of office at after having produced to the proper officer the requisite receipt or certificate on this bill of lading of the due delivery of the said stores at the aforesaid place of destination. Dated at Woolwich, this 30th day of August 1858.

"The officer who gives the receipt for the articles mentioned in this bill of lading, is to specify therein the date of the vessel's arrival and the date of her being finally unloaded, and to put the date of his signing the receipt immediately under his own signature, and if any delay arises in unloading the vessel, the cause of such delay is to be expressed by the said officer in his receipt. If the stores receive damage, the nature of that damage is to be stated, together with the expense of repairing them, should they be repairable upon the spot; and the master must not fail to report to the consignee the arrival of the stores previously to their being landed."

W ↑ D

For shipment to India, per Overland Route.

For Bombay—
Cartridges, ball, cases - - - 500 { 1,000 rounds in each case.

For Madras—
Cartridges, ball, cases - - - 500 Ditto.

For Calcutta—
Cartridges, ball, cases - - - 1,147 Ditto.

(Signed) WM. MORRIS,
D. M. Storekeeper.
(Signed) WM. PELLATT,
Master.

E. No. 1.

SPECIMEN OF STORE LEDGER.

—	No. of Voucher.	Receipts.	Clothing.										—	No. of Voucher.	Issues.	Clothing.									
			Aprons, blue cloth.	Coats, Great.						Drawers, pairs.	Gloves, pairs.	Aprons, blue cloth.				Coats, Great.						Drawers, pairs.	Gloves, pairs.		
				Drivers.	Watch.	Waterproof.	Royal Artillery.		Drivers.							Watch.	Waterproof.	Royal Artillery.							
							Sergeants.	Common.										Sergeants.	Common.						
			S.	D.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.				S.	D.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.	S.
1858.		The State	268	42	.	30	.	411	7,382	3,438	1,719		1858.	69	Aldershot, nil	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
May 11	87	Royal Artillery	.	55	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		April 6	78	Littlehampton	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	.	56
" "	88	" "	.	55	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		12	103	Aldershot	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
June 7	81	Malta	91	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		"	110	"	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
" 26	134	Clothing Estab- lishment.	.	.	10	.	.	.	.	.	.		14	11	Hongkong	.	.	.	.	.	37	.	.	.	56
													"	131	Cahir	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
													"	134	Portobello	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
													"	135	Limerick	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
													"	137	Athlone	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
													15	156	Bombay	.	78	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	78
													"	157	"	.	78	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	78
		Receipts	359	152	10	30	.	411	7,382	3,438	1,719		"	164	R. Battery	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
		Issues	330	.	.	.	.	2	42	.	1,196		"	165	No. 10 Battery	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
		Remain	29	152	10	30	.	409	7,340	3,438	523		17	169	India	.	78	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	78
													"	170	"	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	78
													"	171	"	.	78	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	78
													"	172	"	.	18	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	73
													26	227	Devonport	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
													29	243	Woolwich	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
													30	247	Leith Fort	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
													"	263	Hilsea	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	56
															Issues	330	.	.	.	.	2	42	.	.	1,196

F. No. 1.

STORE C.—No. 4.

HOME.

Station.—Woolwich.

Christian and Surname of Storekeeper. WILLIAM MORRIS.

REQUISITION FOR IMPREST.

For the Month of November, 1858, £30,000.

THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL, War Office, Pall Mall, London, S.W.

N.B.—This requisition is to be despatched so as to arrive at the War Office, on or before the 23rd of the Month preceding that for which the Imprest is required, agreeable to Circular No. 272, dated 21st June 1858, Genl. No. 1. The amounts to be received by the Accountant within the period to which this Requisition relates are 207 to be shown in one total, as "Probable Receipts," and the sum "Required to be issued," is to be regulated accordingly. The Rank of the second Officer or Clerk, as the case may be, is to be stated, and if there is no such Officer at the Station, this fact is to be shown in the place for his signature.

MILITARY STORE DEPARTMENT, Woolwich, October 22, 1858.

STATEMENT of the Cash Transactions of the Storekeeper in Explanation of the Advance of Money required by him for the Service of the Month of November 1858.

ACTUAL STATE OF THE ACCOUNT WITH THE WAR OFFICE TO THE DATE OF THIS REGISTRATION.									
Balance due to the War Office on the 1st October 1858, as per Account Current to 30th September 1858, being the last rendered by the Storekeeper.			£ s. d.						
			12,155 11 7						
RECEIPTS.									
IMPRESTS.									
Amount received for October 1858 - -			£ s. d.		14,000 0 0				
Ditto, ditto, ditto - - -									
<i>Extra Receipts as per Vouchers to be rendered with the next Quarterly Ac- count Current, viz.—</i>									
Amount received for Rents, Sale of Old Stores, &c.			55 19 8						
Ditto, ditto Income Tax -									
Receipts not included under above heads									
Probable receipts which will be available during the ensuing month.									
Total - -			£26,211 11 3						
Balance brought down - - - - -			£ s. d.		7,274 14 2½				
Probable receipts during the Month of October			50 0 0						
Ditto, ditto, ensuing Month - - -			50 0 0						
Balance required to be now issued - - -			30,000 0 0						
Total - -			£37,374 14 2½						
PAYMENTS.									
Amount expended since the last Account Current was rendered (as per Office Books), and for which Vouchers have been duly signed, and will be trans- mitted to the Accountant-General on 31st October 1858.			£ s. d.		18,936 17 0½				
Balance due to the War Office this day - - - -			7,274 14 2½						
Total - -			£26,211 11 3						
<i>Probable amount to be further required, viz.—</i>									
To complete the Services of the current Month - - -			£ s. d.		7,274 14 2½				
Incidents - - - - -			£ s. d.		2,128 0 0				
Laboratory - - - - -					12,300 0 0				
Carriage - - - - -					13,100 0 0				
Gun Factories - - - - -					2,500 0 0				
Repairs - - - - -					30 0 0				
Repository - - - - -					42 0 0				
Total - -			30,100 0 0						
Total - -			£37,374 14 2½						

We do hereby certify, upon honour, that all the above particulars are correct according to the Records and Vouchers in the Store Office, for actual Payments and Receipts, and in regard to the probable receipts and requirements for payment of the public services for the period of this requisition.

WILLIAM MORRIS, D.M. Storekeeper.
Second Officer or Clerk
of the Store Department.

Dated at Woolwich, this 22nd day of October 1858.

F. No. 2.

IMPRESTS.—CASH.

Accountant General's Branch.

War Office, Pall Mall,
October 27, 1858.

SIR,

I am to inform you that an imprest
in your name for the sum of 15,000*l.*
marked vote 8, No. 176, can be received

1st issue on the
28th October 1858.2nd issue on
15th November 1858.

on your personally producing this letter
at the office of H.M. Paymaster General,
Whitehall, between the hours of ten and
three, and affording such an explanation
of the nature of the imprest, as shall
satisfy him that you are the party
entitled to the payment.

I am &c.

Signed R. N. WILKINSON,

W. MORRIS, Esq., for the Accountant-General.
Deputy Military Storekeeper,
Woolwich.

F. No. 3.

IMPREST No. 177.

Ordnance
£15,000Royal Arsenal, Woolwich,
October 27, 1858.

On demand, please to pay the manager of the London
and County Bank at Woolwich, on order, the sum of
fifteen thousand pounds, being the amount of an imprest
for November 1858, drawn in pursuance of the order of
7th July 1851, No. 69.

Signed by W. MORRIS,
Deputy Military Storekeeper.

To Her Majesty's
Paymaster-General, Whitehall.

APPENDIX No. 7.—(Question 2393.)

1.

Royal Arsenal, Woolwich,
October 26, 1858.

RETURN of the NAMES of the OFFICERS, &c. employed
in the Military Store Department, with their
Salaries; the number of Men employed, with the
weekly amount of Wages paid.

Rank.	Name.	Salary per Annum.
Principal Military Store-keeper.	H. W. Gordon, C.B.	750
Deputy Military Store-keepers.	W. Morris	440
	W. H. Parkyn	370
	W. T. Forster	260
	A. H. Young	260
	J. D. Harry	250
	H. A. Russell	250
Military Store Clerks, 1st Class.	T. Manford	220
	H. Blakeney	200
	J. Keen	200
	H. R. H. Hewitt	200
	N. Phillips	200
	J. Bacon	200
	S. O. Rogers	146
	J. H. Sanderson	140
	R. W. Cass	110
Military Store Clerks, 2nd Class.	E. Nicoll	110
	T. Pease	110
	J. Browne	110
	J. White	110
	J. C. Freeburn	110
	H. Standerwick	100
	H. J. Mills	100
	R. Olpherts	100
	E. C. Greenep	100
	A. M. Norris	100
	W. H. Colborne	115
Temporary Clerks.	G. Arnold	100
	J. Stratton	100
	J. Bristow	100
	F. E. Thompson	100
	J. Sargent	100
	E. S. Quinland	100
	W. Grant	100
	R. O. Day	100
	T. Pope	105
	G. Collier	105
Storeholders	C. H. Martin	105
	J. H. Nightingale	105

Number of men employed - - - 546
Average wages weekly - - - 475*l.*

H. W. GORDON,
Principal Military Storekeeper.

2.

Royal Arsenal, November 5, 1858.

RETURN of the NAMES of the OFFICERS belonging
to the ROYAL CARRIAGE DEPARTMENT, with their
Salaries; the Number of Men employed, with the
weekly Amount of Wages paid.

Rank.	Name.	Salary per Annum.
Superintendent	Col. A. T. Tulloh	500
Captain	Capt. H. Clerk	200
Captain instructor	Capt. B. O. Farmer	200
Principal clerk	F. J. Fullom	360
Clerks, 1st class	C. A. Ellis	250
	J. R. Manifold	240
	R. E. Nicholson	190
Clerks, 2d class	St. J. A. Clerke	190
	J. H. Chapman	210
	C. J. Bridgford	110
Clerks, 3rd class	S. Toms	110
	G. L. Murphy	110
Extra clerk	S. E. Hare	100
	R. W. Urquhart	100
	T. H. Ibbotson	100
Temporary clerks	E. A. Roberts	100
	G. M. Tapp	100
	G. Hart	100
	J. F. Hogg	100
Constructor	J. W. M. Millard	270
Assistant ditto	N. Norman	180
Assistant ditto	E. Denton	140

Number of men employed - - - 2,220
Amount paid for wages weekly - - - 2,600*l.*

ALEXANDER T. TULLOH,
Colonel, Royal Artillery,
Superintendent of Royal Carriage Department.

3.

Royal Arsenal, November 3, 1858.

RETURN of the NAMES of the OFFICERS belonging to the ROYAL LABORATORY DEPARTMENT, with their SALARIES; the Number of Men, &c. employed, with the weekly Amount of Wages paid.

Office or Situation.	Name.	Salary per Annum.
Superintendent	Capt. E. M. Boxer	£ 500
Captain inspector	Capt. G. H. Fraser	200
Captain instructor	Capt. A. Orr	200
Principal clerk	W. E. S. Oram	340
Clerks, 1st class	C. D. Piper	250
	W. S. Thorpe	250
	J. S. Greensill	220
Clerks, 2nd class	M. L. Hillier	190
	J. Weld	190
Clerk, 2nd class, supernumerary.	R. Forrest	190
Clerks, 3rd class	J. Knight	110
	J. Farrell	110
	J. Davidson	270
Managers	W. Tozer	270
Temporary clerks	R. White	100
	A. W. Pocock	100

No. of hands employed (foremen, men, and boys), 3,150
Average weekly pay - - - 2,300*l*.

E. M. BOXER,
Superintendent of Royal Laboratory.

4.

Royal Arsenal, 4th November 1588

RETURN of the Names of the Officers belonging to the ROYAL GUN FACTORIES, with their Salaries; the Number of Men employed, with the weekly Amount of Wages paid.

Rank.	Name.	Salary per annum.
Superintendent	Col. F. Eardley-Wilmot	£ 500
Captain instructor	Capt. W. H. Haultain	200
Principal clerk	J. Baker	320
Clerks, 1st class	W. J. Elliott	250
	T. H. Monk	280
Manager	W. H. Keyte	270
Proof master	P. M'Kinlay	200
Examiner of ordnance	G. Goldsack	182
	L. C. Tarn	100
Temporary clerks	E. Rudd	100
	T. J. Blair	100
	R. M'Grath*	80
	R. Sloane*	80

* Late non-commissioned officers.

Number of men employed - - - 606
Amount paid for wages weekly - - - 630*l*.

J. EARDLEY-WILMOT,
Lieut.-Col. Royal Artillery, and
Superintendent of Royal Gun Factories.

SUMMARY.

Departments.	Officers.		Number of Foremen, Artificers, Labourers, and Boys employed.	Average Annual Pay.
	No.	Annual Salary.		
MILITARY STORE DEPARTMENT	39	£ 6,580	500	£ 25,900
ROYAL CARRIAGE DEPARTMENT	22	3,960	2,200	135,200
ROYAL LABORATORIES	16	3,490	3,150	119,600
ROYAL GUN FACTORIES	13	2,662	606	32,760
Total	90	16,682	6,476	313,460

H. W. GORDON, Principal Military Storekeeper.

APPENDIX No. 8.—(Question 2327.)

STATEMENT delivered by Captain Gordon with reference to the preparation of the yearly estimates.

With reference to the estimates, the heads of the manufacturing departments have a known basis for their preparation, both as to the quantities and description of raw material, as well as of the sums of money, they may require for labour.

The course pursued is as follows:—All demands, from every source, for stores likely to be required for the ensuing year, whether for land or naval service, are forwarded to the Principal Military Storekeeper at Woolwich by the post office, and on receipt it is his duty to abstract them, so that it may be seen at a glance the total quantity of any particular store required.

This abstract is naturally the basis of every thing, and from it the Principal Storekeeper prepares his estimates, and shows in separate statements how he would propose the several stores should be obtained, whether “by contract,” “from the Tower,” or “by manufacture by the departments,” specifying which.

Each of these statements show the “average issues of each store during the previous” “two years,” “the quantity that ought to be always available as a reserve,” the

“quantity that will in all probability be required,” taken from the basis. The statements also show “what quantity “is in store” to meet the demands in part and also what stores are likely to be received prior to the 31st March ensuing.

With this information fully before him, the Director of Stores submits the estimates, after such revision as he may deem it necessary to make, to the Secretary of State for War, who finally decides upon the adopting of them, or otherwise, as the case may be.

After approval this department receives the statement showing what stores they may be called respectively to manufacture, and they prepare their estimates accordingly; but although the estimates may receive approval, it does not at all follow that the stores as estimated may be required, as changes must naturally take place in any estimate, and it must be borne in mind such estimates give no authority to any department to manufacture, but each must await the regular demand of the Storekeeper, framed upon orders from time to time received from the War Office, desiring the issue of such and such stores, and for which he (the Storekeeper) is responsible that he makes timely provision, meeting in anticipation the ordinary wants of the service.

(Signed) H. W. GORDON,
Principal Military Storekeeper.

APPENDIX No. 9. (*Question 116.*)

The Commissioners having applied to the War Department for a Return of obsolete Stores at Woolwich, with their approximate value, and remarks as to what services they may be applied, the following Return and explanatory letter were furnished:—

Royal Arsenal, Woolwich,
March 15, 1859.

RETURN of STORES recommended by the BOARD of SURVEY assembled on the 4th March 1859, to be sold.

Articles.	Quantity.	Remarks.
Bags { Kit - - - - -	520	} Not required for any service.
" " sea - - - - -	21	
Belts, cholera - - - - -	56	} Unserviceable.
Bluchers - - - - -	647	
Boots { Bluchers - - - - -	441	} Most of these are unserviceable.
" with spurs - - - - -	15	
Boots { Mud - - - - -	1,876	} At not less than 12s. per pair.
pairs { Thigh - - - - -	189	
Winter knee - - - - -	47	} Unserviceable.
Bottles - - - - -	66	
Boxes { Brass balls - - - - -	168	} Unserviceable.
Shaving - - - - -	151	
Buttons, dozens, military - - - - -	27	} Obsolete.
Capes, blue cloth - - - - -	1	
Comforters - - - - -	7	} Unserviceable.
Cloth, mixed - - - - -	8	
Coats { Watch - - - - -	50	} Obsolete.
Sheep skin - - - - -	89	
Cloaks - - - - -	17	} Unserviceable.
Covers, horse, horse hair - - - - -	98	
Clasps, stock - - - - -	333	} Obsolete.
Epaulettes, Norfolk Militia - - - - -	59	
Gaiters, pairs - - - - -	2,964	} Unserviceable.
Gauntlets, leather - - - - -	1,348	
Guards, sabre - - - - -	800	} Obsolete.
Lambs wool, coloured - - - - -	148	
Gloves { Leather - - - - -	25	} Do.
Rifle - - - - -	3	
Havre- { White - - - - -	67	} Unserviceable.
sack { - - - - -	10	
Holdalls - - - - -	Nil.	} Do.
Hoods, great coat - - - - -	28	
Hip { Serjeants - - - - -	951	} Unserviceable.
Privates - - - - -	500	
Jackets, Turkish contingent - - - - -	197	} Do.
Knapsacks with straps - - - - -	14,555	
Knots, shoulder - - - - -	4,599	} Quite useless for the service.
Leggings, waterproof - - - - -	780	
Mits { Grey woollen - - - - -	42	} Do.
Leather - - - - -	2,304	
Muffetees, red worsted - - - - -	120	} To be sold to the troops.
British, G. L. - - - - -	14	
Overalls { Land Transport - - - - -	28	} Unserviceable.
pairs { Turkish Contingent - - - - -	41	
Blue leather strapped - - - - -	57	} Unserviceable.
Pockets, cap - - - - -	2	
Breast pieces - - - - -	1,154	} Obsolete shirts.
Rollers - - - - -	159	
Sashes, silk - - - - -	205	} Useless for the service.
Shabracques - - - - -	8,544	
Shirts { Cotton - - - - -	2,259	} Unserviceable.
Merino - - - - -	242	
Stocks { Leather - - - - -	313	} Useless for the service.
Stuff - - - - -	858	
Straps { Great coat - - - - -	1	} Unserviceable.
Mess tin - - - - -	131	
Strappings, boots, pairs - - - - -	254	} Of no use to the service.
Tins, oil - - - - -	161	
Thimbles - - - - -	298	} Unserviceable.
Valises, blue cloth - - - - -	20	
Wings, pairs - - - - -	1,070	} Not adapted for the service.
Tufts - - - - -	7	
Plates, chaco - - - - -	15	
Plumes, feather - - - - -		
Caps, forage - - - - -		
Padding, mixed, yards - - - - -		

The actual state of the above stores was only arrived at after the Board assembled. The money value of the stores could not be furnished from Woolwich.

(Signed) H. W. GORDON,
Principal Military Storekeeper.

Military Store Office, Woolwich,
March 15, 1859.
SIR, In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, on the subject of obsolete stores at this station, I have the honour to inform you that it is quite true that, at the time of the recent visit by the Royal Commissioners to Woolwich, there were certain stores on the ledger on charge as obsolete, although they were not really so; for instance, the waggons which the Royal Commissioners were informed were obsolete (in reply to question 2147, Woolwich), were ordered by the Secretary of State for War to be issued, and the stores sent from Weedon, such as socks, &c., upon which

the recent Board of Survey sat, and who, after full consideration, recommended by far the larger portion to be issued, leaving the remainder for sale as unserviceable; to which may be added the 574 sets of saddlery provided for the Cossacks of the Sultan, recently ordered to be sold.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. W. GORDON,
Principal Military Storekeeper.

The Director of Stores,
War Office, Pall Mall.

APPENDIX No. 10.—(*Question 45.*)

War Office, Pall Mall.
April 8, 1859.
SIR, With reference to the examination of the Woolwich store ledger, I am directed by Secretary Major-General Peel to acquaint you, for the information of the Commissioners for inquiring into the Military Store and Clothing Depôts, that the store ledger, from 1st December 1856, to 31st March 1858, has now been very carefully examined in this office,

and that, all the questions arising out of that examination having been satisfactorily settled, the account has been finally passed. I am to add, for the information of the Commissioners, that the whole of these questions, which were by no means numerous, arose on slight matters of detail, the objections to which have been completely cleared away.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ROSSLYN.

E. L. Dew, Esq.

TOWER.

Monday, 6th December 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. RICHARD EATON examined.

1. (*Chairman.*) You are principal military storekeeper here?—Yes.

2. How long have you held that situation?—Three years last July.

3. Where were you previously?—I was storekeeper at Devonport.

4. How long have you been in the service?—In five months I shall have been 50 years.

5. What is your salary?—850*l*.

6. Is that the highest salary which you can receive?—It is. I have an allowance for house rent in addition to that salary.

7. Probably you have had as much experience in storekeeping as any man in England, after 50 years' practice?—My first 12 years in the service were served as a clerk in the Tower; since then I apprehend that I have had as much experience as storekeeper as most people.

8. Have you generally the custody of all the stores here?—Yes.

9. Do you give any security?—I do myself, and two friends jointly and severally for 2,000*l*. altogether.

10. Have you not, besides having the custody of the stores, the superintendence of the books?—I have the entire control of the establishment.

11. Do you pay the wages?—Yes.

12. You have been good enough to prepare a statement showing generally the duties of your office?—Yes.

The same was read as follows :

Military Store Office, Tower,
December 4, 1858.

STATEMENT, showing the Duties appertaining to this Department, and the Mode of Proceeding in the Performance thereof.

The department is charged with the provision and supply of accoutrements, &c. for sea service, as well as for the whole army, camp equipage, barrack and hospital bedding, furniture, and utensils, clothing, &c. for military prisons, tools of all descriptions, and other miscellaneous stores, besides a variety of stores for colonial, convict, and other services, for which repayment is subsequently claimed by the War Office; and although the provision of small arms, with the exception of materials required by the London gunmakers, does not emanate from this department, the whole of the receipts and issues thereof devolve upon it.

The extent of provision necessary for the various services is determined by the annual estimates submitted to Parliament, which are prepared in this department, with reference to the authorized annual demand from home and foreign stations, and in regard to regimental and other supplies, are calculated upon the issue of previous years.

The business is divided into seven branches, each branch being in charge of a deputy or assistant military storekeeper, with a certain number of clerks for conducting the same, viz. :—

1. Provision, estimate, and correspondence.
2. Contract and receiving.
3. Inspection.
4. Home issuing.
5. Foreign do.
6. Ledger.
7. Cash.

1. PROVISION, ESTIMATE, AND CORRESPONDENCE BRANCH.

In this branch the requisitions found necessary, from time to time, to replenish the store, or to meet special orders, are prepared from prescribed forms, and submitted to the Director of Stores for his sanction. These requisitions are entered in books kept for the purpose, called provision books, and on the approval thereof, and contracts being entered into for the supply by the Director of Contracts, the same is duly notified to the Director of Stores, and by him to this office, when the particulars are noted against each entry, and the order is then passed to the contract and receiving branch.

In some cases of urgent, special, or small supplies, the value being under 5*l*., inquiry is made of several parties as to the price at which the articles can be obtained. A form and an order (termed a contingent order, is given to the party, naming the lowest price. A monthly report is made to the Director of Stores of all purchases so made, for approval, the amount of which varies considerably, but may be estimated on an average at about 200*l*. monthly.

All orders for the provision and issue of stores, and letters having reference thereto, are registered in this branch, and passed for action to the particular branch to which they refer.

Letter books are kept, in which all letters of the different branches, and replies to references from the War Office, &c., are entered, and the decision thereon recorded on their receipt.

In this branch provision is made for all patterns, and specifications for the same compiled, for governing the supplies of all stores. These patterns are subjected to the approval of the inspectors, to whom also the specifications are submitted for any alteration that may be deemed necessary. The patterns being thus completed are finally submitted to the Director of Stores for his approval and sealing; the specification is also submitted for his approval, after being signed by the storekeeper and superintendent of inspectors.

A register of patterns is kept in the pattern room, and when a pattern is lent to a contractor a deposit is required of its value; and he is also required to sign an acknowledgment that the duplicate pattern lent to him corresponds in every particular with the standard pattern upon which his contract is based.

2. RECEIVING AND CONTRACT BRANCH.

On the receipt of the orders notifying contracts for stores, they are entered in detail under the contractor's name in the contract ledger, and noted in the diary of contracts due. The orders are then sent to the superintendent of inspectors, for his information and guidance.

Every delivery of stores by a contractor is accompanied by a delivery voucher, and the stores are counted by the receiver, who signs the voucher as to the number of articles delivered.

The document is then entered in the receipt register, and the quantities charged are posted in the contract ledger to the credit of the contractor. This document is then forwarded to the superintendent of inspectors, who returns it, with the result of the in-

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spection, which result is posted in the contract ledger; and such stores as are approved are charged to the storekeeper by an entry in the daily report or journal of receipts.

The daily report is subsequently sent to the superintendent of inspectors, for examination, and receives his signature. The stores approved are sent from the inspector to the storeholder, accompanied by a transit note; and it is the duty of the storeholder to check the daily report with this transit note, in order that the storekeeper may be correctly charged with the stores actually passed into his store.

The proceeding with regard to arms set up by the London gun trade is somewhat different.

Upon receipt of an order, the number authorized is at once entered in the gunmakers' ledger, and the weekly delivery upon that order by the whole trade posted until the specified number is completed.

In addition to this, the order is apportioned, according to instructions received from the War Office, among the trade.

The materials for setting up the arms are issued to the trade from the Tower, and are posted on one side of the account, and the corresponding receipts of finished arms on the other side, showing the number certified for payment monthly, with the date of certificate granted for payment.

Certificates for payment are generally granted on the completion of a contract or warrant; but when the delivery is to be made at several periods, certificates are granted for such portions as are delivered and approved at those periods.

These certificates are made out from the contract ledger, and after a careful examination, attested by the initials of the parties who prepared and examined the same being attached, they are forwarded to the superintendent of inspectors, to be verified by his signature. They are subsequently signed by the principal military storekeeper in charge, and forwarded, together with the contractor's moneyed invoice (in duplicate), to the accountant-general, for payment. Any penalty for non-fulfilment by the contractor of his contract within the stipulated period is noted on the certificate, in order that the accountant-general may deduct the amount therefrom.

The stores returned to the Tower from out-stations, regiments, &c., are examined by the inspectors; a form of inspection report is prepared, and forwarded to the inspection branch, which is returned, showing the result of the inspection, according to which the stores are brought on charge in the daily report or journal of receipts, such as are serviceable being sent into store for future issue, if repairable for repair, and if unserviceable they are sent to the sale room, to be sold by public auction.

3. INSPECTION BRANCH.

Course of Inspection of Stores.

Stores delivered for inspection in the first instance are counted by labourers attached to each floor, styled "receivers," by whom the delivery vouchers which accompany the goods are signed, prior to being sent to the receipt branch for entry in contractors' ledger.

The stores so delivered are not examined by the viewers until the delivery voucher has been entered in the office books, and sent to the superintendent of inspectors.

The delivery voucher is then passed to the inspector, becomes his authority to examine the goods submitted, and is henceforth called an "inspection" note.

The inspection note is given to the sub-viewer, appointed to compare the supply with the pattern and specification.

The sub-viewer employed is assisted in his judgment by the principal viewer, and the goods are finally accepted or rejected, as may be determined by the inspector.

The result of the inspection is recorded on the

inspection note, and in the viewers' journal, and the contractor is apprized as to the causes of rejection (if any) by the superintendent.

The inspection note is then sent to the receipt branch, where the approved and rejected quantities are entered in the contractors' ledger, and where the former are also entered in the receipt journal.

The daily report or receipt journal is subsequently sent to the superintendent, for verification and signature.

The stores approved are sent by the inspector to the storeholder, accompanied by a transit note signed by the inspector and viewer.

4. HOME ISSUING BRANCH.

The orders from the Director of Stores, for issue of stores to the various services, are daily received through the provision branch, are entered in numerical order in a register, and are then copied into order books, separate ones being kept for each service, an entry being made of the same in a similar book for the use of the packing foreman; extracts are also made by or for the several storeholders, and under their superintendence the stores are sent to the packing floor, accompanied by a transit note.

When the stores are ready, notice is given by the packing foreman to the home issuing branch, by delivery note, which is examined, and, if found correct, issuing vouchers are prepared for land carriage. This is signed by the carrier, and subsequently forms the office invoice. A carrier's note showing the packages, is given at the same time, which has to be produced, signed by the consignee, previous to carriage being paid.

Delivery and receipt vouchers are then made out; the former is retained by the consignee, and the receipt is returned signed, and held in readiness to be surrendered with the storekeepers' ledgers.

Daily reports of each issue are sent to the office of the Director of Stores.

Each issue paper bears a number, taken up consecutively through the year on invoice register.

5. FOREIGN ISSUING BRANCH.

When the orders of the Director of Stores are received for issue of stores, they are registered and entered in order and packing books, the former for use in the office, and the latter for use in the storehouse, from which also extracts are made by the storeholders, who deliver the stores to the packing floor, accompanied by a transit note. On the stores being packed and reported ready, and the measurement ascertained, application is made for tonnage to the War Office, and on intimation from that office that a vessel has been appointed by the Admiralty, it is recorded in a register book.

When the ship is ready to receive the stores, a delivery note, specifying the station, service, &c., and detailing the packages, with the amount of tonnage inserted against each, is given to the shipping foreman, with instructions to ship the stores in craft provided by the contract lighterman, for conveyance to the vessel, and to whom notes are furnished in duplicate, on one of which the mate gives a receipt for the stores shipped, and by which the lighterman's claim for lighterage is checked. Custom-house certificates are furnished in duplicate, to enable the broker to clear the stores at the Custom-house.

When the vessel has received all the stores, bills of lading are prepared in triplicate, one, the "original," for the master, describing the packages and loose articles, which, on the receipt of the stores, is signed by the consignee, and upon which payment for freight is obtained by the owner or broker of the vessel. The other two documents are signed by the master, one forming the invoice (stamped), from which the stores are posted, and the other the receipt, to accompany the ledger, for examination at the War Office. A counterpart bill is also transmitted to the consignee through the War Office.

A cargo note, showing the amount of tonnage for which the vessel was appointed, and that actually shipped, is forwarded to the naval superintendent at Deptford, for his information.

When orders for the issue of stores for which repayment is to be made to the War Department (*e. g.*, for colonial service, &c.) are completed, reports are made to the War Office. All stationery for various services at foreign stations, and medical stores for the army, are received in transit, and shipped by this department.

6. LEDGER BRANCH.

The following is a description of the ledgers into which it is found necessary to divide the business of this branch, viz. :—

1. Small arms, implements, and materials for small arms.
 2. Accoutrements, ammunition, and unserviceable arms and accoutrements.
 3. Clothing and materials.
 4. Tools and ironmongery.
 5. Miscellaneous, A to H.
 6. Ditto, I to Z.
 7. Camp equipage.
 8. Packages.
 9. Bedding, bedsteads, and brushes.
 10. Unserviceable stores.
 11. Ironwork, including fire engines, grates, ranges, and pumps.
- Articles in use.
Patterns.

The ledgers are posted from the daily reports or journal of receipts, and form the invoices of issues, the latter being subsequently examined by the receipt vouchers obtained from the station or regiment to which the stores were forwarded.

The ledgers are submitted annually to the War Office, for examination, together with the vouchers in support thereof.

7. CASH BRANCH.

The duties of this branch consist of the payments of the salaries of the officers and clerks, and of the wages of the military store department, and wages of the small arms departments at the Tower and Thames Bank, and also freight and carriage of stores, dock charges on saltpetre, &c. &c. The cash to meet these payments is obtained by imprests, duly authorized, from the paymaster-general, averaging about 3,500*l.* monthly, which is received in two payments, one half being receivable on the 1st and the other on the 15th of each month.

SALES BY AUCTION.

These take place periodically, as unserviceable or obsolete stores accumulate; and when a sufficient number is collected to form a sale, a catalogue is prepared, and submitted to the Director of Stores, with the reasons assigned against the various articles for their sale.

No stores are allotted for sale without having previously been condemned as unfit for further service by the inspection branch; and before the catalogue is finally prepared for submission to the Director of Stores, the storekeeper, accompanied by the superintendent of inspectors, as well as the inspectors and storeholders, make a survey of the whole, and satisfy themselves that none of the stores are fit for use in the department, and are inapplicable to the public service generally, so far as they can form a judgment, and to which effect a certificate is attached to the catalogue.

When authority for the sale is received, the day is fixed for it, and publicity is given to the proceeding by public advertisements and posting bills. The proceeds of each sale are duly credited in the storekeepers' accounts of the current quarter.

R. EATON,

Principal Military Storekeeper.

13. You have also put in, what is in part already in print, (see *Appendix*, No. 17, to last Report of the Contracts' Committee, Parl. Paper, No. 438, 1858,) a statement of your staff. Is that correct?—Yes. That shows the salary of each individual at the present moment. There has been an alteration since the department was classified under Mr. Godley's arrangement. (*Appendix* No. 1.)

14. Has there been any addition to the establishment since that return in July last?—I am not quite sure whether there has not been an addition of one assistant military storekeeper.

15. What are the weekly wages paid by you?—I think from 600*l.* to 700*l.*; I do not think they are more than that.

16. What other transactions in connexion with cash have you?—We pay the labourers of the small arms' establishment, which is independent of my charge altogether, so far as the control of it is concerned, and we pay the weekly wages of the Thames Bank establishment. That establishment is for the repair of small arms; and the wages of the two establishments amount, probably, to nearly 100*l.* weekly.

17. Has not Captain Jervis the control of the small arms department?—In London he has.

18. Have you any other payment to make?—Not as regards wages. I pay certain charges for carriage, and certain freight and dock charges upon the importation of Grouh saltpetre, and the rent that accrues upon it by its being kept in the docks.

19. For the purpose of meeting those charges, do you, in the usual way, draw by imprests upon the War Office?—Upon the 23d of each month I prepare a statement, showing my balance in hand, and what I consider I shall require to meet the payments of the ensuing month; and about the last day of the month, or the beginning of the following month, I get that imprest granted me for the month, of which I am authorized to obtain one half on the 1st of the month, and the other half on the 15th of the month.

20. Is that a new arrangement?—Yes; I used to receive it all at once till about May or June last; in fact, till the business at Weedon took place.

21. What amount do you draw for the various purposes you have spoken of?—On the average about 3,500*l.* monthly.

22. Is your cash account examined from time to time?—I surrender my cash account quarterly. Within fourteen days of the termination of the quarter, I send in my account, supported by vouchers of payment for the whole amount. That is according to the established custom of the service by the Ordnance regulations.

23. What amount of carriage have you to pay in the course of the month?—The amount is trifling. The regular carriers' bills come in quarterly. Those are checked but not paid by me. They are paid by the accountant-general.

24. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have stated, I think, that you make a monthly demand for the amount you require for the following month, and you show the balance which you have on hand. What is the average amount of that balance on hand?—Occasionally it is almost exhausted; at other times it may be as much as 1,000*l.* It varies from 400*l.* to 1,000*l.*

25. When you have 1,000*l.* on hand, do you make any allowance for that in your demand for the month following?—I make a less demand in consequence.

26. Has any officer from the War Office at any period been sent down here to compare your cash balance with the actual cash on hand? Have you been required to produce the cash balance?—Not until two or three months ago, when a gentleman came from the accountant-general's department. I had a slight knowledge of his person, but he introduced himself by placing before me the order he had received.

27. What was the order?—It was to authorize him to inspect my cash account, and to call upon me to produce the balance.

28. No doubt you were able to do so?—I did so,

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and satisfied him in about half an hour. I do not think he was here longer.

29. Then, as at Woolwich, we may consider as one of the results of our investigation that a check has been put upon the cash keeper?—I believe he was making a round to several stations as well as the Tower.

30. Was that ever done before?—Not since I have been at the Tower.

31. (*Chairman.*) Was it done at Devonport?—No; I never knew it done before.

32. (*Mr. Turner.*) Then requiring the production of the cash balance is a novelty?—Quite so, at the Tower; but at Devonport the balance was produced monthly to the "respective officers," which was the rule at all out-stations.

33. (*Chairman.*) Are you ever in possession of a larger sum than you give security for?—I was occasionally, before the change that has just taken place. My security is only for 2,000*l.* I have obtained imprests for 4,000*l.* for the month; but under the present system 2,000*l.* is the outside I can receive at once.

34. (*Mr. Turner.*) Has that system of only fortnightly payments been recently introduced?—Yes. The imprest is granted for the month; but I receive the money in two payments.

35. Is the dividing of the imprest into payments on the 1st of the month and the 15th a new arrangement?—Yes; it was introduced last May or June.

36. (*Chairman.*) When you came here was any remain taken?—There was no remain taken.

37. You have stated in your evidence before the Contracts' Committee that that was in consequence of the unusual pressure of business at the time?—Yes, and the mass of stores that were in the Tower. It was impossible to take a remain; we could not get at the stores.

38. Has the remain been taken since?—Yes. The remain commenced in June 1857 and closed on the 6th of October 1857.

39. Has the remain so taken been compared with the ledger up to that time?—That has not been done. The ledgers have been surrendered to Pall Mall; but the actual comparison between the two has not taken place.

40. The object of the remain being chiefly to verify the paper amounts in the ledger, the result has not yet been ascertained in this case?—No, it has not.

41. (*Mr. Turner.*) Although the remain and the ledger have not been exactly compared, do not you, for your own satisfaction, occasionally go through particular items, or the quantities of some particular article which you can easily check?—We have checked our stores in many instances since the remain, as I explained in going through the stores on Thursday last.

42. You do for your own satisfaction, without its being required, ascertain that certain articles agree with the balance in the books?—We do so.

43. How many thousands of articles have you here?—Somewhere from 13,000 to 15,000 different articles.

44. How many articles have you at any particular time examined and counted?—I have not personally examined many; but the storeholders, for their own satisfaction, from time to time verify them.

45. To what extent?—That I am not prepared to say.

46. (*Chairman.*) Did you ever do that before the remain was taken?—It was an impossibility.

47. Why was it impossible to take the stock of any particular article?—The stores were spread in different places, and the same article would be in three or four different stores.

48. Therefore it has yet to be seen whether the remain is correct with the statement in the books?—Yes.

49. (*Colonel French.*) How many months did the taking of the remain occupy?—It commenced on the 10th or 12th of June and was closed on the 6th of October.

50. And then you had to make up your books?—

Yes; from the 6th of October. I think for about two months the gentlemen who had been engaged upon the remain were occupied in making up the amounts.

51. (*Mr. Turner.*) I think you have been principal military storekeeper here for about three years?—I commenced in July 1855.

52. When Captain Gordon assumed his duties at Weedon he was very particular, before he made himself accountable for anything, to ascertain by actual counting what really existed. Did you not feel yourself rather in an awkward position, to assume the existence of this stock, and make yourself responsible for it, without an examination of that kind?—I did; I was exceedingly uncomfortable about it; but it was an utter impossibility to take the remain.

53. Did you assume that responsibility?—So far as taking charge of the receipts and issues.

54. Did you make any protest against your being held responsible?—Not a written protest.

55. Was it understood that as no remain was taken you should not be held responsible?—That was my own feeling.

56. You assumed the possession of hundreds of thousands of pounds' worth of property, and nominally assumed the responsibility by taking the existence of that immense stock for granted?—I was telegraphed for from Devonport, I think, on the 24th or 25th of June, and required to be here on the 2d of July. When I took charge there was no remain taken, or anything said about the remain.

57. Did you or did you not understand that you assumed your position without responsibility?—That was my feeling, unquestionably.

58. Was it the feeling of the War Office?—I cannot speak certainly in that respect.

59. Supposing it should turn out that discrepancies to a large amount exist between the actual stock on hand and the books, would you consider yourself in any degree responsible, or subject to blame by the authorities at the War Office?—Certainly not; it was impossible for me, or my friends who are my sureties, to be responsible.

60. (*Chairman.*) Because the discrepancy, if any, may have arisen previously to the time at which you took charge?—Undoubtedly.

61. Did you take charge at a time when great quantities of stores were coming back from the Crimea?—No. Previously to the stores being returned, some months.

62. Were the stores very crowded at the time you took charge?—I think one morning, within the first month I was at the Tower, I had 35 waggons loading or unloading.

63. (*Mr. Turner.*) Then there really is no certainty, or any very well-grounded confidence to be entertained, that the actual stock in this fortress agrees with the state of the books?—I would answer for it that it agrees since the remain was taken. The remain was taken in October 1857, and since that I am perfectly willing to be responsible.

64. You feel yourself responsible, then, for the existence of the articles themselves as compared with the books?—Precisely so.

65. (*Chairman.*) Has there been an opportunity of verifying the remain and the statement in the ledger up to any definite period?—The examination of the ledger has not been finished at the War Office.

66. Will not the ledger, when compared with the remain, either agree or disagree?—Yes.

67. If they agree there will be a security that the remain was accurate, and that the accounts were accurate?—Yes.

68. If they disagree, will not that show that there must have been some irregularities prior to the 6th of October 1857?—No doubt there were irregularities during the war. (*See Appendix No. 6.*)

69. As to receipts or as to issues?—As to receipts and issues both.

70. (*Mr. Turner.*) It is not actually known yet whether the books and the stock will agree?—No, it is not.

71. Therefore up to the present time the public cannot be satisfied that they possess the property that the books represent?—Since the remain was taken no doubt the stock and the books would agree.

72. (*Chairman.*) But up to October 1857 that cannot be known?—It cannot yet.

73. (*Mr. Turner.*) In October 1857 the remain was taken; but at present, as I understand, whether that remain agrees with the books has not been ascertained?—My ledger, up to the 6th of October 1857, is now at Pall Mall, and the remain that was taken is also at Pall Mall.

74. (*Chairman.*) When did your ledger go in?—I am informed that my accounts up to the remain only went to Pall Mall at the beginning of October last.

75. How did that delay arise?—It was owing to the time that was required to make up the accounts.

76. Have you sent any ledger in since you came here? before October 1857?—The first account I closed was to the 31st of March 1856; that was for 12 months, because I sent my predecessor's account embodied in my account.

77. Did you send your accounts up on the 31st of March 1857?—No. A remain was talked of, and was proposed to be taken sooner than it was. In anticipation of its taking place soon after the 1st of April 1857, it was proposed that the ledger should be continued that I was then at work upon till the remain; but the remain did not take place till October, so that no account was rendered till October 1857, and then it was an 18 months' account.

78. Then there has been no unusual delay at the War Office?—No.

79. How did it arise that the ledger was not supplied for 12 months?—From the difficulty in closing it, I believe. I was not prepared to admit that it had been so long a time; I know there were great difficulties.

80. From the amount of business?—Yes, and a deficiency of hands that were up to their work.

81. Was there a deficiency in the number of hands?—Of competent parties. There was a number of temporary clerks, who, to a certain extent, were ignorant of the peculiar duties, and could only do what was put before them.

82. Have you now a sufficient staff for the performance of your duties?—It is as much as we have, to keep the business quite up to the mark.

83. Your books do not appear to be in arrear now; they seem to be posted regularly?—They are so, but it is by dint of perseverance and extra attendance.

84. (*Colonel French.*) By whom was the remain taken?—By gentlemen appointed from Pall Mall by the Director of Stores. I had nothing personally to do with taking the remain.

85. Were any of your clerks taken from you during that time?—My six storeholders were engaged upon the remain, and also two officers of the department.

86. (*Mr. Turner.*) Must not the gentlemen from the War Office, who came here to superintend the taking of remains, depend in a very great measure upon the officers that you send with them?—No; a certain number of labourers and foremen are sent with them, but they have the superintendence of the tallying of the stores.

87. (*Chairman.*) Has there been any arrear in the keeping of the books for the last 12 months?—None at all. Since the remain my ledgers have been posted, I should think, without any interruption, as near as they could be conveniently, within a fortnight or three weeks.

88. I suppose you might post your books too soon, and have to correct them afterwards?—That might be the case.

89. In your judgment, have the books been kept posted up as closely as they could consistently with the public interest?—Yes.

90. (*Mr. Turner.*) Have you or any of the officers here, or any of the authorities at Pall Mall, or any of the officers sent down by them, ever taken the money-

value of the stock you have upon these premises?—I am not aware of that having been done.

91. Can you tell, within half a million of money, what is the value of the property here?—The only way of arriving at that would be to take my remain now, which is made up to the 30th of September last, and cast it out at the contract prices.

92. Has that ever been done?—It has not been done, that I am aware of. Some years ago there was an account prepared, showing the value of the stores at the different stations, but I am not aware that it was ever carried out at the Tower.

93. (*Chairman.*) What do you mean by "the remain up to the 30th of September last"?—I mean the remain, as shown by my ledger.

94. You have made up your ledger to the 30th of September; is that your usual time?—No; it is generally made up to the 31st of March.

95. Was it made-up to the 31st of last March?—No; that was the cause of the alteration. There was so much difficulty in re-writing the headings of the different ledgers, that we proposed continuing the ledger from the remain on the 6th of October 1857 to the 31st of March next, being a year and a half's ledger. Instead of that, sometime about the end of August, I was called upon to close the ledger to the 30th of September, and the previous order, allowing it to be made up to the 31st of March next, was cancelled.

96. (*Mr. Turner.*) That was a novelty, was not it, like the balancing and counting of the cash?—It was a deviation from the usual practice to allow me to continue it to the 31st of March next.

97. Was it according to the usual practice to require you to balance your books sooner than you expected?—It is a twelvemonth's ledger now, and my proposition was, to save the re-writing of the headings, and make it an 18 months' ledger.

98. (*Chairman.*) When will your next ledger be supplied?—The 31st of March; it will be a six months' ledger.

99. You have stated that the stores were very crowded; is the space now sufficient for the materials and stores that you have here?—Not by any means.

100. What are the temporary buildings in the ditch used for?—They are all essential for our stores.

101. Do you keep stores in those places?—What you see in the middle of the ditch, covered with tarpaulings, are most of them unserviceable arms. They are placed there because they are unserviceable.

102. Are there any serviceable articles left in those places?—No. Until within a few weeks there were some repairable articles kept there, which have since been removed.

103. (*Mr. Turner.*) Why are not those small arms serviceable? Are not they of the proper pattern?—There are 50,000 or 60,000 old flint arms of the smooth-bore pattern. Some of them are perfectly good in other respects.

104. (*Chairman.*) What is to be done with them?—At one time we sold a great many. There are now 50,000 or 60,000 left.

105. What is to be done with those that are left?—No decision has been come to. The greater part are in the ditch still. I am gradually bringing them into the building, as we can find room.

106. (*Mr. Turner.*) What do you suppose will be the ultimate fate of those muskets?—They cannot be of any use to anybody. In case of an invasion they might be of service.

107. (*Colonel French.*) What has become of all the detonating smooth-bored arms?—We have a great many in store still at the Tower, as well as at some of the outports.

108. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you issue them?—No. They are obsolete, so far as the service is concerned.

109. (*Colonel French.*) Was not it in 1838 or 1839 that the detonating lock was first introduced into the service?—That I cannot recollect.

110. (*Chairman.*) Are you prepared to supply the Commissioners with the list of obsolete stores that was

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required?—We have made very little progress with it. All the strength that I should put on preparing such a statement as that has been occupied latterly in preparing the estimates.

111. (*Mr. Turner.*) I suppose when you have time to make out the list of obsolete stores it will be rather a considerable list, will not it?—It will be very considerable. (*See Appendix, No. 2.*) In the first instance, it will include 50,000 or 60,000 stand of flint arms. Those have been accumulating since they were completely obsolete by the arms being returned from foreign stations.

112. For what possible purpose are those things kept on hand, except as curiosities, in which case one specimen would do as well as 50,000?—We have sold several thousands. 50,000 were sold about two years ago.

113. (*Chairman.*) Who bought them?—They were bought by different parties; but it was found that they were exporting them to the East Indies. When I got an accumulation again, and was about to submit them to sale as usual, I thought it was right for me to name such a report, that they were reaching Singapore and other places, and might fall into the hands of the mutineers, and the consequence was that I was ordered not to sell any more.

114. (*Colonel French.*) Is the whole of the service now supplied with the new rifles?—Yes. The embodied militia has also been furnished with the Enfield rifle.

115. Are all the rifles of the same pattern?—They are all of the pattern of 1853, but some of the militia have had what are termed second quality, not being quite so good as those that are manufactured at Enfield and by the Birmingham and London trade.

116. What has become of the muskets that superseded the smooth bore?—Many of them are in store here and at other places.

117. (*Mr. Turner.*) What stock of Enfield rifles have you here?—We have somewhere about 90,000 to 100,000.

118. Supposing, as I firmly believe will be the case, that Mr. Whitworth's rifle is introduced, from its great superiority, (though there are said to be certain disadvantages connected with it,) will not those Enfield rifles then all become obsolete?—Should the Whitworth rifle be introduced into the service, the Enfield rifles would of course become obsolete; but then we must not stand still providing ourselves with arms of the Enfield pattern until that is decided.

119. (*Chairman.*) Does your experience as a store-keeper lead you to the conclusion that you must keep a stock of the best thing in existence until you get a better?—Yes.

120. (*Colonel French.*) Are the Enfield rifles so constructed that any portion of one rifle will fit another?—All those that are made at Enfield are universal.

121. Amongst the rifles that were shown to the Commissioners the other day I perceived that there was a caution that the men should see that the bayonet agreed with the musket in number?—Those were made by the Birmingham manufacturers, and not made by machine at Enfield. The machine rifles made at Enfield are universal. The same bayonet and ramrod will fit, and if one Enfield rifle is damaged, another may be dismantled, and fitted at once, without any trouble.

122. Have you a variety of rifles in store?—We have the Enfield machine-made rifle, the London trade, the Birmingham, and the Liege.

123. If you received a requisition from a regiment for arms, should you give them a portion of each description?—No. We should give them all of one kind; we are careful in that respect.

124. (*Chairman.*) Captain Jervis explained to me, as I understood him, that he is in the receipt of arms that come in from manufacturers, as distinguished from those that come from Enfield, and that those manufacturers' arms, though not made exactly with the same precision, on account of not being constructed

by machine, are nevertheless to some extent interchangeable, and that out of several broken muskets one complete one might be made?—That could not be done so readily. Taking twenty muskets made by the London trade or the Birmingham trade, on examination with the bayonets you would not find one bayonet fit the whole of those muskets.

125. Does that arise, not from the difference of principle, but from the muskets being made by hand, and not with such exactitude as at Enfield by machine?—Precisely.

126. Is it the case that the muskets are not made by the manufacturers, but only put together by them, you finding the materials in the rough?—I believe that is so.

127. Is a contract made with the trade, the trade being represented by a chairman?—Yes; Mr. Barnett is the chairman.

128. If a tender is issued for a contract to make 10,000 muskets, does not that mean to put together the materials for the 10,000 muskets?—With the London trade.

129. How are those 10,000 apportioned among the various persons who do the work?—We have an apportionment sent down from Pall Mall; a number is given to each individual, fourteen, I think; and upon that we issue materials in certain portions to them from time to time, till the complete number is allotted to them.

130. Is a contract made with each of the persons, or is it one contract?—We know nothing of the individuals, except giving them the materials for the proportion they are to make.

131. Supposing there is a failure in the fulfilling of one contract, who is responsible, Mr. Barnett, the chairman, or the individual?—I cannot say. I am not aware of any such failure having occurred.

132. (*Colonel French.*) Is this the only dépôt for small arms?—Yes, for receiving small arms from the manufacturers.

133. Where are they kept besides here?—They are kept at several dépôts. We are now sending 60,000 to different stations. Portsmouth will have a quantity, and Chatham and Edinburgh. They are in the Tower, ready to be sent.

134. Are there any stores of arms at other places actually existing?—There are.

135. Are they of the newest description?—There are no stores to any great extent of the newest description of arms. I think this is the first instance of our sending down any to out-stores. We are now under orders to send them.

136. What length of time do you keep the arms in the Tower before issuing them?—We make a point generally of issuing those that have been longest in store.

137. What time may that be?—Since the introduction of the Enfield rifle we can have had none in store any great length of time. The pattern was only adopted in 1853.

138. Are any means taken in the Tower to prevent the stocks getting so dry that when they come to be issued to the troops they will crack?—They do not remain long enough in store for the stocks to get dry.

139. From what department are the armourers to the regiments supplied?—They all undergo an examination either at Enfield or at the Tower, and now at Thames Bank. There are a certain number of men now at Thames Bank under instruction for armourers of regiments.

140. Is that a new regulation?—They always have undergone instruction at the Tower or Enfield, and latterly the armourers that have been supernumerary have been sent here to work until an opportunity occurred of sending them to a regiment.

141. Then means are taken to ascertain that the armourers are really efficient before they join a regiment?—Yes. They get a certificate from the superintendent of small arms, Colonel Dixon, before they are appointed.

142. Are the small arms proved in the Tower?—
Yes.

143. And pistols?—Yes.

144. Do you supply the cavalry with swords?—
Yes.

145. How are they proved?—They are proved by examination in the small arms department, or at Birmingham, where some of them are supplied.

146. Do you supply the cutlasses to the navy?—
Yes.

147. There was a quantity of tools complained of, that came from the Crimea, as being bad. Have you any of those tools in store now?—We have taken none into store of the returns from the Crimea, except those that were pronounced by our inspectors as good and fit for service; those that were condemned were sold with the other things at the Victoria Docks.

148. (*Chairman.*) I understood, from what we saw the other day, that the muskets in store are subjected to re-inspection for the purpose of seeing that they are in good condition. Is that so?—No. After the piles of chests of arms have been a length of time in store, a chest here and there is taken down to see the condition the arms are in, but they do not undergo a minute inspection.

149. The man who was so re-inspecting muskets stated to us that not above one in 500 required anything done to it?—I believe he was correct.

150. He showed the Commissioners one or two that he had selected as slightly faulty in some respects?—That most probably arose from dampness in the battens for fixing the rifles in the chests.

151. Then the whole of the arms are not subjected to re-inspection periodically?—No.

152. (*Colonel French.*) Are you aware whether the soldiers are required to pay for the browning of their arms annually?—I know nothing of that; that does not pass through this department.

153. Would you consider it just that the soldier should have to pay for the wear and tear of his arms?—Certainly not. Unquestionably for fair wear and tear the soldier should have nothing to pay. The officer has an allowance for that purpose; not for browning, but for keeping in repair.

154. You supply sheets to barracks, do not you?—
Yes.

155. Does the soldier pay for those sheets, or the use of those sheets?—He pays for the washing.

156. (*Chairman.*) With regard to your general duties, from whence do your stores come? You have some of the small arms, as you have stated, from Enfield. The rest, I suppose, come from contractors?—Yes; from Birmingham, and they are also set up by the London trade.

157. How are the stores generally obtained?—They are obtained from contractors.

158. Have you anything to do with the mode in which the stores are obtained?—I only state my wants, and it depends upon the Director of Contracts, at Pall Mall, to make the arrangements by which I obtain my supplies.

159. Every year, we understood, as at Woolwich, you make a requisition for the supply of your wants?—Yes. I make a demand or estimate, which is laid before Parliament, and it regulates our supply.

160. Is not that estimate founded upon the store remaining in hand, and the average supply of the last two years?—Yes; and with respect to some articles, upon the demands that we receive from home and foreign stations.

161. You have, as principal military storekeeper, to keep up a certain store. What supply of stores have you to keep up?—As far as the barrack stores and general stores are concerned, we keep up about 12 to 18 months' supply.

162. Have you at any time a larger supply?—No. I have not brought forward a requisition to make a larger supply. It would be something unexpected that would give us a larger supply.

163. You stated before the Contracts' Committee that some of the sales that took place after the return

of the stores from the Crimea arose from the fact that there was more than 18 months' supply of certain articles?—That was the fact. I was desired to sell all beyond 18 months' supply, by an order from the War Office. It was the subject of discussion for some time before the final order was given, and it was considered better to sell the stores than to hire store room for their accommodation.

164. And keep them with the chance of their deteriorating?—Yes; many of them would have deteriorated.

165. I think you have stated that there was one instance, if not more, in which, having sold articles, because you had more than 18 months' supply, you were shortly afterwards obliged to contract for the same articles?—That was rugs.

166. Was that the only article in which it occurred?—I think it was.

167. A return has been at our request prepared by you of the rugs sold; is that a correct statement?—Yes. (*See Appendix No. 3.*)

168. From that it appears that out of the large number of rugs that were sold there were only 4,700 serviceable ones?—I know it was something short of 5,000.

169. Were those rugs sold at the Victoria Docks?—Yes.

170. Shortly after that sale, was there a regulation which required an extra supply of rugs?—Yes; a rug was then introduced with camp equipage, and every soldier under canvas had to be supplied with a rug as well as a blanket.

171. Had you to put contracts out for that supply?—Yes. I think that order came at the close of 1856.

172. Do you know what the rugs were sold at?—No; they were sold in lots at various prices; I think they were sold for about 2s. 11d. each.

173. (*Mr. Turner.*) How soon after that sale did you require an additional supply of rugs?—About six months afterwards.

174. Do you know what was the contract price for the rugs which were so ordered?—I think about 4s. 3d.

(*Mr. Elliott.*) The original price of the rugs sold was about 4s. 6d., and they sold for about 2s. 11d. to 3s. The present price of rugs is higher, the supply being of a better description; it ranges from 4s. 6d. to 5s.

175. Would those 5,000 rugs that were sold have answered the purpose, if you had kept them on hand?

(*Mr. Elliott.*) They would not have been so durable as the present supply; a part of them had been in use perhaps for some time.

176. (*Colonel French to Mr. Eaton.*) When an article is declared obsolete, is the stock exhausted before you commence the issue of a new pattern?—It is so in some articles. In the case of bedding we should make use of the old stock before we issued the new.

177. What description of articles would you keep in store that were declared obsolete?—Arms we should not part with.

178. (*Chairman.*) Is the order about keeping 18 months' supply to be found in the Ordnance regulations?—I do not think it is. With regard to the returned stores, it was a decision come to at the moment, to regulate me in my arrangements before the sale took place at the docks. A reference was made from the docks to me, to know whether the things should be put on one side for sale or not. I had a scale drawn out, showing what the issues had been for three years, and I took a half of that for my 18 months' supply, and if I had more than 18 months' supply we sold the articles.

179. Was the order not to keep more than 18 months' supply, independent of whether the surplus beyond the 18 months' supply was serviceable or unserviceable?—Quite so.

180. Did you sell anything that was serviceable?—Yes; sheets.

181. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were the sheets linen or

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cotton?—Cotton sheets. Hospital clothing we also sold to some extent.

182. Have you any idea what quantity of cotton sheets you sold?—Several thousands.

183. Would cotton sheets properly packed in bales deteriorate by being in store?—No. The sale was as much with reference to the store room required for their accommodation as deterioration in value. I had to make room for a vast variety of stores, and I went down to Chatham and Sheerness, where space was found for a considerable number. We kept considerably beyond the 18 months' supply. In fact, we have some stores there now that were sent down.

184. Can you say how soon after that sale you ordered sheets again?—I do not think we have ordered any since; in fact I know we have not, because I am getting some from Sheerness now.

185. (*Col. French.*) Among the articles on sale the other day there was a quantity of woollen goods that had never been in use, and which were so full of moths that they were described to us as being next to moving. What security have you against an occurrence of that sort?—Those were amongst the stores returned to us from foreign or home stations; they had not been in our stores.

186. Have you seen an occurrence of that sort here?—Not in my own stores.

187. (*Chairman.*) Is not the Tower the general receptacle for all returned goods?—Yes. As I have described in my paper, the returned stores are examined, and those that are serviceable are passed into store for re-issue; others are repairable, and others are sent to the sale room.

188. Generally everything that is worn out or that is not wanted to be used comes back to the Tower as the dépôt?—Yes; having originally gone from the Tower.

189. Were the things which we saw going at such a good price on Thursday articles from your stores, or articles in your custody, having been sent in to you?—A large majority originally had gone from the Tower years ago.

190. (*Colonel French.*) When articles are condemned to be sold, do you place any mark upon them, to prevent a fraud being committed afterwards? For instance, with respect to soldiers' great coats, any pawnbroker having soldiers' great coats in his shop would be liable to a heavy fine. He might state that he purchased them in a sale. We know that great coats are constantly being sold by soldiers. Is any mark put upon them to prevent such an incident?—There is not.

191. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are not you very much perplexed in your accounts by the variety of things sent into store again, after having been in service, many of which are described as "serviceable," when they are sent to you, but which you find on inspection are far from serviceable?—We do not receive them as serviceable. They undergo an inspection, and on one side of the inspection paper they are described as they are returned; on the other side is our inspectors' description, and in that condition I bring them in my charge.

192. I think you mentioned that you had bedsteads or parts of bedsteads that were actually fit for nothing but firewood?—Those were returned from the Crimea.

193. As all those articles would have to be taken charge of, and passed through your books and the books of your inspectors, and give as much trouble to your officers as if they were articles of the very first quality, was not it, in your judgment, very bad economy to bring all those things home from the Crimea? Had they not better have made a bonfire with them, to celebrate their departure?—I was only concerned with them so far as doing the best I could with them when I got them.

194. Were there not some articles which proved to be worth scarcely 5*l.*, that must have cost a very considerable sum of money in conveyance home, in the care taken of them, and in the accounts to be kept

about them?—They were perfectly useless, and good for nothing but firewood.

195. Was not there as much trouble taken about these worthless things as there would be about the very best articles?—They were obliged to be entered the same way. No doubt many of those stores would have been better got rid of on the spot.

196. (*Colonel French.*) The Commissioners saw a lot of clothing at Weedon that was declared obsolete. Have you received any instruction to use that for military prisons?—Yes.

197. You have a great variety of articles, numbering, as you have stated, about 15,000; amongst other things we saw some candles; are you issuing those to the soldiers?—Yes.

198. Have you ever considered what would be the difference of expense in supplying the barracks with gas instead of candles?—No. We only supply candles for foreign stations; we do not supply the barracks in England.

199. How are they supplied?—That I am not prepared to say. I believe the barrack-master obtains them from some source, how I do not know. The new barracks at Devonport are entirely lighted with gas.

200. (*Chairman.*) Has it ever occurred to you to make a supplementary requisition?—It has not occurred to me to do so. When the war broke out in 1854 supplementary requisitions were made to some extent.

201. In your estimates do you give the money value of the articles?—We are doing so now.

202. Can you give an approximation to the total money value?—I could only do so with respect to the barrack branch.

203. (*Colonel French.*) Have you a sufficient number of viewers to represent every trade?—We have viewers who know most of the things, I think, and they are classified under four inspectors.

204. (*Chairman.*) Having received the articles in store, the next matter is the issue. I believe you issue to out-stations and to regiments?—Yes, and a variety of services as well; foreign stations also.

205. Are there any dépôts at those out-stations, or do they all receive their supplies from you? For instance, Chatham, Portsmouth, and Hull?—Chatham, Portsmouth, and Devonport, more particularly, have stores to meet naval supplies. What we call Tower stores are supplied in bulk, and they make their supplies in detail to the ships as they want them.

206. Are their stores first passed through the Tower, or do they make their requisitions direct to the authorities at Pall Mall?—They make their requisition to Pall Mall, and then it comes here for us to make the provision; everything is provided here, except some articles that can be purchased to greater advantage on the spot. We are, in fact, the one great feeder for the whole of the out-stations.

207. You have stated that you procure your supplies through contractors and from out-stations. Are you also allowed to purchase small articles to any extent yourself?—In the case of contingent orders for articles under the value of 5*l.*, we have authority to purchase probably to the extent of about 200*l.* a month on the average. We furnish an account monthly of those purchases for the approval of the Director of Stores at Pall Mall.

208. Those supplies you may purchase as you please from private shops?—Yes. We write to two or three different people, and give an order at the lowest price.

209. You have stated that before old stores are sold they are carefully inspected by the inspectors, the chief inspector, and by yourself?—In the first instance they are inspected by the viewers and inspectors, and condemned; and after the sale is allotted, as you saw the other day, Mr. Elliott and myself, accompanied by the inspectors and storeholders, make a survey of the whole; and if anything strikes us as being improperly condemned, or that might be appropriated to any one service, it is withdrawn from sale. We give a

certificate, a copy of which has been furnished to the Commissioners, that the articles are not fitted for the service, to the best of our judgment, and are not fitted for any other service of Government.

210. How long have you been required to give that kind of certificate?—The last sale is the first certificate.

211. Is that certificate given under a written order?—Yes; the order is quoted.

The certificate was read as follows:

Military Store Office, Tower,
November 6, 1858.

We hereby certify that the articles in the foregoing catalogue have been surveyed, in accordance

with the order of 9th October 1858 ^{57.} Woolwich, since

they were lotted for sale; that they are unfit for use in the department; and, so far as we are aware, inapplicable to the public service generally. With respect to the gregos, which are specially ordered for sale by order of the 16th July last, a large proportion thereof are in good condition, but to the best of our knowledge there is no service for which they are likely to be available.

C. ELLIOTT,
Superintendent of Inspectors.
RD. EATON, P.M.S.

Mr. GEORGE EDWARD LANE examined.

220. (*Chairman.*) What is your position here?—I am second-class military store clerk.

221. Are you in any particular department?—In the provision branch; the requisition branch.

222. Are you cognizant of the business connected with the small arms department?—I am.

223. What is the process pursued with regard to the supply of small arms here?—Lieutenant-Colonel Dixon is the head, and under him is Captain Jervis. Captain Jervis has nothing to do with the apportionment of the contracts; that is arranged by Colonel Dixon and Mr. Gunner with the Director of Contracts, and the allotment is made by them, and upon a given order sent down to us we issue the materials.

224. If, for instance, you make a contract for 10,000 muskets, is the order allotted among a certain number of manufacturers?—Yes; there are 13 or 14 in the trade in London.

225. Has any body a right to apply for an allotment? Do all get it who ask for it?—The London trade is composed of 14 members.

226. Is there any favour shown to one more than another?—No. They have all the same price; some have a greater proportion than others, from being in a larger way of business. There is a regular percentage for each, varying from about a hundred to about forty a week; that is about the average. That is of course arranged by themselves.

227. Where do you get the materials from which are issued to those makers?—From Birmingham. The materials are contracted for by Lieutenant-Colonel Dixon, and then issued to the various gunmakers.

228. Is not Mr. Barnett the chairman of the London trade?—Yes.

229. Does not he take about a sixth part of the whole supply?—He takes very little more than some of the others. He has 120, and some others have 100; that is an excess of 20 over the others.

230. Is Mr. Barnett responsible for the completion of the contracts?—They are all individually responsible.

231. Have you ever known any failure in the delivery, or any failure in the articles delivered?—They have been behind time in a few instances, but that has been partly attributable to delay on their part, and partly to delay in the issue of materials on our part, owing to strikes at Birmingham.

212. Were the gregos sold?—No; in consequence of that they were not sold.

213. Have you had many cases in which goods have been catalogued for sale and afterwards withdrawn?—No; there have been some instances, but I do not know that I can name one particularly.

214. Do you remember a lot of miscellaneous articles sent up from Weedon for sale on the 10th of May, I think the advertisement was?—A quantity of clothing came up from Weedon for sale, and was sold, but I do not recollect an instance of any being withdrawn from the sale after having been advertised.

215. Had you not rather a good sale on Thursday last?—A very good one.

216. How much did you realize?—3,790*l*.

217. Were the prices better than usual?—I think the prices were about the usual average, except in some few instances, where the Christian buyers came in.

218. Were not there a good many boots sold?—Yes; they fetched about 6*s*. a pair.

219. Had those boots been sent from Weedon?—I think they partly came from Weedon and partly from Malta.

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Mr. G. E. Lane.

232. Have you ever had occasion to fine a contractor?—Never. That would be done by the Director of Contracts. We never had occasion to report them.

233. Have you ever had occasion to reject many muskets?—That I know nothing of; that is done under Lieutenant-Colonel Dixon. I am concerned in making out the certificates for payment, certifying that they have been received.

234. So far as you know, are there any complaints, or does the system you have described give satisfaction?—There have been no complaints made, to my knowledge.

235. What number of muskets are supplied in the way you have mentioned?—They come in at the rate of about 1,000 a week from the London trade, and 1,500 from Birmingham.

236. Do you know what number comes from Enfield?—I do not receive them myself, but I know that there are about 500 a week received from Enfield.

237. Therefore three fourths of the supply still come from private manufacturers?—Yes.

238. Do you receive any finished muskets direct from Birmingham?—Yes.

239. Do the Birmingham muskets also come to Lieutenant-Colonel Dixon?—They are inspected at Birmingham, at the small arms department, and sent here direct.

240. Then you have nothing to do with them here but to receive them into store.—That is all.

242. (*Colonel French.*) Are all the muskets made upon the same principle?—They are all made upon the same principle. Colonel Dixon will be better able to answer these questions. If the London trade set up any arms, and the Birmingham trade also, they are of the same description. They are now setting up some smooth-bored arms for the East India Company. The Birmingham trade have 30,000 and the London trade 20,000. They will be precisely the same musket.

242. Will any portion of one musket by one maker fit that of another?—No; because they are all made by hand.

243. Then they are not upon one principle?—They are made upon precisely the same principle, but not, like the Enfield muskets, made by machinery. Those all fit universally.

TOWER.

Mr. JOHN JOSEPH LARDNER examined.

Mr.
J. J. Lardner.
6 Dec. 1858.

244. (*Chairman.*) What is your office?—First-class military store clerk.

245. Mr. Charles Elliott stated, on the 14th of July last, that you had told him that rumours had been circulated and carried to higher quarters prejudicial to him. Did you ever tell him so?—Yes; I had a conversation with Mr. Elliott to that effect.

246. Did you tell Mr. Elliott what the rumours were?—I told him it was stated that a charge would be brought against him for having received a commission upon orders given during the Crimean war to a certain firm in London.

247. How did you know that such a charge would be brought against him?—I heard it from Mr. Boylan.

248. Who was Mr. Boylan?—He was a storehouse clerk in this department, who was called upon to resign.

249. Did you ever hear it from any one else?—No.

250. Did you hear Mr. Boylan's statement shortly before you mentioned it to Mr. Elliott?—Three or

four days before; I cannot be accurate about dates. I met Mr. Boylan accidentally at the West End, and he entered into conversation with me upon other matters. He said, amongst other things, that this charge was to be brought against Mr. Elliott at the Tower.

251. Did he say by whom?—No.

252. When did Mr. Boylan resign?—I should say about three months before that time.

(*Mr. Eaton.*) He was dismissed in March last.

253. What for?—I think he had given notice to take the benefit of the Insolvent Act, in connexion with some bill transactions. His explanations were not satisfactory. There were two or three dismissed for similar proceedings.

254. Is it not the custom to dismiss persons who take the benefit of the Insolvent Act?—I believe the authorities at Pall Mall do so. I think Mr. Boylan was allowed to tender his resignation.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

TOWER.

Tuesday, 7th December 1858.

PRESENT:

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. CHARLES SANDYS ELLIOTT, examined.

Mr. C. S. Elliott.

7 Dec. 1852.

(*Mr. Elliott.*) Before my evidence is taken, perhaps the Commissioners will allow me to advert to a subject which was mentioned yesterday in connexion with my employment during the war. Mr. Lardner was asked, whether he had communicated to me that rumours had been spread to my prejudice to the effect that I had received money, in consideration of contracts entered into during the war. That statement has gone before the public, and it is one that I should not like to remain without taking the first opportunity of giving the most unqualified contradiction to the truth of any such statement or rumour. I am not in a position to state to the Commissioners from what source those rumours or statements originated, but they had been busily circulated, and, further than that, had been carried to the Secretary of State-for-War about the period of my examination before the Contracts' Committee, very greatly to my prejudice; and, as I was informed that I should probably be examined upon that subject before the Committee on Contracts, I requested permission of the honourable Chairman to make the statement which I did, denying *in toto* that an individual responsibility of making contracts ever devolved upon me; and, in the second place, that I ever received any remuneration, or any compensation, for any part that I took in reference to the contracts entered into either at the Tower, or in any other department of the War Office; and I am thankful to the Commissioners for affording me this opportunity of giving publicly my most unqualified denial to the truth of any such imputation.

255. (*Chairman.*) You were examined at very great length before the Contracts' Committee in March 1857, and subsequently in July of this year; do you adhere to the evidence that you then gave?—I have no reason to alter or vary it in any way.

256. You stated then, at considerable length, the mode pursued in inspecting goods at the Tower?—Yes. If you will permit me, I will advert to it again

very shortly. The substance of my evidence before the Committee was, that in the year 1856, the inspection department of the Tower was re-organised; that the inspection which had been previously conducted by persons from the principal storekeeper's office, was from that date carried on by men who had been selected from different branches of trade applicable to the stores which they would have to examine as inspectors. In February 1856 I was appointed superintendent of inspectors, and I was instructed that it would not be my duty to examine stores as my predecessor had done, but that I should be held responsible for the efficient inspection of all the stores delivered at the Tower. Regulations were laid down for the guidance of the inspectors, which may be summed up in these few words: To compare the supplies with the standard patterns and specifications upon which the contracts entered into had been based,—to exercise no latitude whatever, but to take care that the whole of the supplies, whether of an important or unimportant character—were fully equal to those patterns. It has been my chief object since I have been held responsible for the inspection department in the Tower, to see that those rules were carried out, and I believe they have been faithfully. I would further explain, that the inspection at the Tower does not rest upon the *dictum* of one man. The stores in the first instance are delivered into the charge of the storekeeper; they are received from the contractor by one of the labourers attached to the department, who is termed a "receiver," and when authorized by the storekeeper, the inspector gives instructions to one of his viewers to examine the stores, and compare them with the standard pattern and specification. The subviewer is assisted by the principal viewer, and the result of the inspection is finally determined by the inspector; but nothing can be done by the inspector alone; he has no power to accept or reject without the full knowledge of the subviewers and the principal viewers, who are skilled

men, and as well qualified to give an opinion upon the character of the stores as the inspector himself—the one, in fact, is a check upon the other. I shall be glad to answer any question in respect to any particular contract which may have come within my knowledge within the last two years and a half.

257. We have heard that there are 15,000 different articles, and we have heard of complaints that the inspectors are not practically acquainted with all the articles; would it not be next to impossible to have an inspector whose previous career had made him practically acquainted with each particular article out of the 15,000 which you have to inspect at the Tower?—Such would be the case; but the inspectors are appointed with reference to their knowledge of a particular class of stores, of which they are supposed to have,—and of which I may confidently say that they have,—a sound practical knowledge from their past experience in trade; but they have also the general knowledge which is acquired by persons desirous of making themselves practically acquainted with their duties, and to determine with justice towards the contractor, and also to the public, the relative quality of the supply as compared with the pattern. We have a larger number of viewers than we have of inspectors necessarily, and those men have been selected from sub-divisions of trade to act under the immediate superintendence of the inspector.

258. The same man inspects corn, bricks, and coal. Now corn and coal, except that there is a *c* in each, have no connexion with one another, that I am aware of; you might employ a coal merchant or a coal master to inspect those articles, but would you be likely to find one and the same who had a practical knowledge of such different things?—Those contracts with the Tower are very exceptional, they occur but once or twice in the year; the usual course is for the Director of Contracts to enter into contracts with such houses as may insure a fair and good supply; the only duty of the inspector in such case is, not to bring to bear his practical knowledge of the stores in question, but to see that they have every appearance of being serviceable, so far as most men are generally acquainted with such things as coals, oats, and bricks, and also to see that the quantity charged is actually delivered; such is really the duty of the inspector. In the matter of oats, many men have a superficial knowledge, and, perhaps, sufficient to satisfy the department that the supplies are such as they ought to be. It would be impracticable to have an inspector for every branch of trade.

259. You do not pretend as superintendent of inspectors to have any special knowledge of any articles?—No; I do not profess to have. I have only such knowledge as I have obtained by daily intercourse with the inspectors of stores, and by seeing the articles brought under their notice. My chief duty is to correspond with contractors on the subject of their supplies, and to report upon matters which are referred to the principal Military Storekeeper at the Tower in connexion with supplies which have been made.

260. Since the re-organization of the establishment, and the appointment of the four inspectors, among whom the business of inspection is now divided, have you, as a matter of fact, had any large number of complaints from contractors as to improper rejection of their goods?—Yes; we have had frequent complaints, or inquiries which sometimes partake of the character of complaints; sometimes contractors wish to see their goods to know more particularly the causes of rejection assigned in the official communication made to them. In some instances, the sub-contractors and their manufacturer have attended at the Tower and complained of the severity of the inspection; but I do not know of any one case in which a contractor, to my mind, has established a charge of undue severity against the inspectors.

261. (*Colonel French.*) An inspector may differ very much from the viewer who is a practical man; he may differ from two viewers, one inspecting

woollen goods and the other inspecting cutlery; how is that difference to be decided?—There is an inspector of cutlery, and an inspector of woollen goods; the two inspectors are totally different, and their branches are separate; the inspector of cutlery does not interfere with the examination of woollen goods. I will cite a case which, perhaps, will illustrate your question. The inspector of woollen goods is also the inspector of linen and cotton goods; there is a principal viewer of linen and cotton goods, and a principal viewer of woollen goods; both these are under the superintendence of one inspector.

262. What are the other inspectors to do?—There is one inspector of tools and cutlery; another of leather, comprising accoutrements, and a great variety of stores of that character; and also an inspector of woodwork and machinery and cabinet work.

263. (*Chairman.*) There is Mr. Looker for the ironwork and hardware; Mr. Page, for woollen and cotton fabrics; Mr. Fessey, for the leather and accoutrements; and Mr. Macdonald, for the woodwork and miscellaneous stores?—Yes.

264. Did not Mr. Macdonald come from the carriage department at Woolwich?—Yes; he was a builder by trade, but he is a thorough mechanic, and his knowledge of stores generally is very considerable.

265. Is it not the case, as Colonel French suggests, especially in Mr. Macdonald's department, that there are a great variety of articles of which he personally can have no practical knowledge?—Not beyond that which is acquired by experience.

266. Would not he over-ride the opinion of the viewer if he thought fit, although he was not so practical a man?—He would have power to do so.

267. As a matter of fact, does the inspector over-ride the opinion of the viewer?—No, I think not; he is supported by very able viewers. I do not recollect any case which has been brought before me, in which he has differed essentially from the viewers.

268. (*Colonel French.*) Are not the swords and cutlasses supplied to the army and the navy from the Tower?—Yes; some are delivered at the Tower. Birmingham swords are inspected by the superintendent of small arms, Colonel Dixon. Captain Jervis is the assistant superintendent of small arms, and he takes charge particularly of the London district, and all arms delivered at the Tower are examined under the superintendence of Captain Jervis.

269. The whole of the swords for both services?—The trade deliver swords at Birmingham, and they are examined there.

270. Are the whole of the swords for the service examined and tested at the Tower?—No, not all.

271. Where are they tested, and by whom?—Some are tested at Birmingham, and some at the Tower, by persons employed under the superintendent of small arms, who are armourers by trade.

272. Can you say positively that all the swords and cutlasses in the Tower have been carefully examined, and that there are no swords of very old patterns?—There may be some obsolete swords at the Tower. In such a case they would not be issued for service.

273. Do you know the mode of testing swords?—I have seen swords tested. In the first instance, they are very accurately gauged as to size and straightness. The quality of the steel is then tested in a very severe manner. It is usual to strike a hard piece of wood to test the hardness and quality of the steel. The blade is then bent nearly double. If the steel is too hard it breaks; if too soft it bends. The sword is then placed in the gauge a second time, to see whether it has in any measure buckled or given way under the severe test to which it has been subjected.

274. Where do the surgical instruments which are supplied to the service come from?—All surgical instruments are supplied through the army medical department. They are merely sent to the Tower for shipment.

275. (*Chairman.*) They are not inspected at the

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Tower?—No; mathematical instruments are inspected at the Tower.

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276. (*Colonel French.*) Do you know whether the surgical instruments are of the very best quality?—I believe that surgical instruments supplied for the army are considered to be the very best which can be obtained, but I cannot speak to that from my own personal knowledge.

277. (*Mr. Turner.*) We quite understand your absolute denial this morning of any participation in profit, reward, or commission, or fee in any shape connected with contracts; and in the questions I am now about to ask you, I am far from wishing to insinuate or impute anything of that kind; if there is anything to be said on that subject we shall hear it, and you will have an opportunity of responding. I am rather seeking for information with regard to some special contracts, given by you to Messrs. Almond; no doubt you are able to throw some light upon the subject. What was your position at the Tower before you were appointed superintendent of inspectors?—I was in the requisition branch, and my immediate duty was to forward requisitions for stores. I was not the head of that branch. I was one of the clerks employed. I acted under the instructions of the storekeeper and deputy storekeeper, and my particular duty was to make requisitions for stores; but during the war pressing demands were made upon us daily, far beyond what the Tower was able to furnish. In ordinary cases requisitions would have been made from the storekeeper's department to the Board of Ordnance, which then existed, and tenders would have been sent out to persons on the office list; but that process was necessarily a long one. It very frequently happened that requisitions which were forwarded to Pall Mall took a month and six weeks before the contracts were entered into under open competition; and the department again ran the risk of the contractor failing at the expiration of the time which was permitted to him. The result of it was that, as the demands were of a very pressing nature, the troops in the East being generally reported to be very badly off for supplies, the storekeeper at the Tower was authorized by the Board of Ordnance to enter into immediate contracts, to purchase of any house which he might think proper such stores as were immediately required, and which could be obtained in a very short time.

278. Were you, then, under Mr. Hodson, the deputy storekeeper?—Yes.

279. I hold in my hand a document which excited at the time a good deal of attention, and has since attracted considerable notice; it is a Return laid before Parliament on the 17th of July, 1855, (Parliamentary Paper No. 399, 1855), and includes a "Return of 'clothing provided by the Ordnance Department at the 'Tower for the service of the army in the East, from 'the 1st of October 1854, to the 23d of February '1855.'" Now, upon referring to that document, I see it is stated that there were procured by special contract, of Messrs. G. & W. Almond, 40,000 waterproof hoods, at 4s. each; 40,000 waterproof leggings at 6s. per pair; 55,000 capes at 23s. 6d. each, and 20,000 pairs of gauntlets at 2s. 8d. per pair. Will you be so good as to explain what is the nature of the special contract here referred to?—The only knowledge we had of that special contract was, the delivery of the stores at the Tower for inspection and issue. That contract, as I stated before the Committee of the House, was entered into by Sir Thomas Hastings or Mr. Monsell, I cannot say which; but it was considered at the time a very large order, and it was also known that it was entered into with the view of obtaining the stores within a very short time. I believe Messrs. Almond failed to deliver them. As that subject was referred to before the Committee on Contracts, I am able to repeat the evidence which I then gave, that the contract was not entered into at the Tower, but at the War Office.

280. What was the nature of the special contract?

—To deliver stores at a certain price within a given time.

281. Without competition?—Yes.

282. Then the special contract was really an order given to a house, without competition, to deliver so many articles?—To insure them being delivered within a specific time.

283. I observe by the list which was laid before Parliament, that there were 194 special contracts made at the Tower, and that the firm of Messrs. G. & W. Almond obtained 56 of that number, comprising in value more than one third of the whole. Considering that the articles were urgently required, was it good policy to entrust one firm with so many contracts? more especially, as it appears that 28 of their contracts were not completed in the stipulated time, whereas you have assigned that the reason why they were so ordered was to expedite the delivery?—Such was the intention.

284. But it failed?—I do not think it did fail; I think we obtained the stores in a very much shorter time than we should have done had we put the contracts up to open competition. Many contracts were entered into at that time, to be supplied within a very restricted period, and I presume that the manufacturers were unable to complete their engagements. We find that is the case now under open competition; contractors fail to deliver within the stipulated periods, although they quote their own time.

285. Did you assist in making up this return for the House?—I did not.

286. Taking the four items to which I first referred, can you give the names of any other houses that you applied to for prices, and the list of prices tendered for the same articles?—It was not done at the Tower at all. Very large contracts were entered into irrespective of the Tower. That contract, I believe, was entered into by one of the Board officers.

287. Were those special contracts made by the Director of Contracts at the War Office?—No; the Director of Contracts was not in existence at that period; it was the Board of Ordnance, consisting of Sir Hew Ross, Mr. Monsell, and Sir Thomas Hastings.

288. Upon whose requisition were those contracts given out?—I do not know. I imagine upon the requisition of the Quartermaster General, because they are Quartermaster General's stores.

289. Then the deputy storekeeper at the Tower did not arrange these special contracts with the manufacturers?—No, certainly not; he had no part in it except that he was ordered to receive, and ordered to issue the stores to the army in the East as fast as the stores came in. I believe they came in at the rate of 1,000 a day; in fact, so fast that the inspectors could not examine them.

290. The officers of the Tower were not authorized to make any inquiries or issue any orders, or send out letters of inquiry, direct to the manufacturers without going through the form of public tender; was that the case?—No; the storekeeper at the Tower entered into many contracts of different kinds; not that one you are alluding to.

291. Any of those with Messrs. Almond?—I have no doubt of it.

292. There are 56 special contracts given out to Messrs. Almond. Had the officers of the Tower anything to do with these contracts?—No doubt they had, but I cannot say; I thought you were adverting to the capes.

293. I am alluding to the contracts generally, of which 58 were given to Messrs. Almond. You gave the Chairman the impression that you had nothing to do with it?—It was not my intention to convey that impression. The storekeeper at the Tower did enter into very many special contracts.

294. Then the storekeeper at the Tower had a good deal to do with special contracts?—Yes, but not the one for the waterproof articles you mentioned.

295. Did you write and sign any of those letters of

inquiry to the manufacturers, or any of those contracts?—I may have done so.

296. Did you?—I cannot say; it was not my duty to do so. I used to write out the orders; some were written out by the head of the department, Mr. King, and others were written out by myself.

297. Had you anything to do with deciding that Messrs. Almond, or any other house, should have any of those special contracts?—Not in any way whatever. My duty was to inquire of the contractors at what price and at what time they would supply the stores; the result was submitted to the storekeeper, and the storekeeper determined the matter.

298. Are not Messrs. Almond dealers in caps, accoutrements, and leather articles?—Very largely.

299. Is not that their principal business?—Yes.

300. How did it happen that an application was made to them for flannel belts, woollen night caps, drawers, gloves, cotton handkerchiefs, fatigue jackets, &c., which I observe to be the case by the list of special contracts?—Messrs. Almond supply all out-fitting and warm clothing of every kind. A great many of the army clothiers do the same; Messrs. Prater and Messrs. Isaac.

301. You were in an emergency, and you wanted these articles to be supplied very rapidly; were all the city houses and clothiers so fully employed at that time, that you did not apply to them?—Other houses were applied to for similar stores.

302. Would not a little wider distribution of these orders amongst the city houses and dealers in such things, have led to a more rapid supply than giving them all into the hands of Messrs. Almond?—I do not think they were all given to Messrs. Almond. You will find that a great many special contracts were entered into with all the army clothiers, and with persons unconnected with army clothing. Mr. Kynaston supplied a very large quantity; and two or three houses in Leicester; but at this distance of time I could not call the particulars to my recollection.

303. I am endeavouring to see the inducement for giving such a number of these orders to one firm. I certainly cannot see that the inducement was in price; for I observe that Messrs. Almond supplied 15,000 pairs of boots at 23s. per pair, and the other firms appear to have been supplying them at 20s. per pair; they supplied 30,000 cotton handkerchiefs at 6½d. each, other houses were supplying them at 4¾d.; 3,000 privates' red jackets at 10s. 7d., and a similar article was supplied by other houses at prices varying from 8s. 3d. to 8s. 9d. and 9s. 1d. Messrs. Almond supplied 30,000 pairs of worsted socks at 12s. 6d. a dozen, when it appears that you were obtaining 33,000 pairs from Mr. Kynaston at 10s. 4d. per dozen?—Very likely, as Messrs. Almond were not the manufacturers of those articles, but dealers, they had to get an extra profit, and that may possibly account for the higher price they charged. I think we paid a higher price for some of the things mentioned. I remember one particular contract for socks, in which we paid a higher price than that mentioned. I think Mr. Kynaston was one of the lowest. I am sure that the best endeavours were made by the storekeeper at the time to obtain them as reasonably as he could; the object was to get them in a very short time.

304. In which you failed?—I think not. I think the stores were obtained in a very short time comparatively.

305. I have not gone through the figures myself, but I believe I can rely upon their accuracy, taking the articles of clothing provided at the Tower according to the return which I have been all along alluding to (*see Question 279*), a rough estimate shows 450,000l., of which sum Messrs. Almond appear to have been paid upwards of 165,000l. for the portion supplied by them upon those special orders from the Tower?—The waterproof articles amounted to 60,000l. or 70,000l., and that contract was not given from the Tower at all.

306. As you were in the deputy storekeeper's

office at the time, can you inform the Commissioners to whom they should apply for copies of special orders sent to the Tower for the disbursement of so large a sum of money, and the special authority, if any, for the purchase of so great a portion from one firm?—I do not suppose there is any order to authorize the purchase from any one firm; the orders were given by the storekeeper to different firms, according to the contingency of the service, and the probability of complying with those wants. We made periodical reports of the purchases which were sanctioned by the Board of Ordnance. The purchases were made upon demands from different sources, which were sent down to the Tower daily. Some were marked "immediate," some "most urgent," as the case might be.

317. Are we finally to understand that many of these orders were issued by the storekeeper at the Tower without any special authority?—The storekeeper had authority from the Board of Ordnance to purchase stores.

308. At his own discretion?—Yes; both the storekeeper and deputy storekeeper did so to a very large extent. Mr. Stacey was our storekeeper, and Mr. Hodson was our deputy storekeeper.

309. You have mentioned Mr. King; is he dead?—Yes, unfortunately he is. He was at the head of my department; in fact, he died from close application to his duties. If there was any man killed in the service it was the gentleman you allude to.

310. (*Chairman.*) Had you or had you not anything to do with those purchases?—I had not. I had no power to give any order whatever. My simple duty was to inquire of the contractors the prices, and the times at which they would supply, and communicate the result to the head of my department.

311. Was it with Mr. Stacey that discretion was left to purchase from Messrs. Almond or anybody?—It was Mr. Stacey; but soon after the commencement of the war he became ill, and the responsibility devolved upon Mr. Hodson.

312. Where is Mr. Hodson?—He is unfortunately dead.

313. Who was Mr. King?—He was the head of the requisition branch. Mr. Stacey has retired, but still lives in London.

314. (*Colonel French.*) I think Mr. Eaton stated that the storekeeper was limited to giving orders up to 5l.?—That is the ordinary contingent account. Demands are made upon us for a very great variety of stores, and it would not be worth while to send a requisition to the Director of Contracts for a thing worth 10s. or 2l.; therefore the storekeeper has power to purchase of anybody he thinks proper. He gives an order to any house that he thinks will readily supply the article required in accordance with the wants of the service.

315. (*Chairman.*) Personally, had you anything to do with those special contracts?—I had not.

316. So far as you know, were those special contracts entered into to meet the requirements of the service?—Yes.

317. And for that purpose a large discretion seems to have been given to the storekeeper at the Tower?—It was. I took a very active part during the war. Mr. King and myself were generally in the office from 9 in the morning till 10 or 11 at night. Our desire was to render every possible assistance that we could to Mr. Hodson, who was working single-handed, Mr. Stacey being ill. We communicated with contractors personally, and also in writing, and obtained as much information as we possibly could to expedite the supplies. I remember one instance in which an order came to us—I think it was about three o'clock on Saturday, and the instructions were, that a vessel called the *Severn* would leave Southampton on Monday morning; she was a hospital ship, and required to be fitted up with stoves and pipes for the purposes connected with a hospital ship. The order was marked "Immediate—obtain them anywhere you think proper." Before six o'clock the detail was

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arranged by Mr. King and myself, and we reported to the storekeeper that the order was given to a contractor, and on Monday morning at ten o'clock the order was delivered at the Tower.

318. Then it appears that you had to do with the special contracts?—I had only to inquire the price and the time at which contractors would make their supplies, and according to the result of such inquiries the orders were given. In this particular instance I am alluding to, Mr. King, I think, went to the contractor, and requested him to come down to the Tower to take instructions, while I went to the Clerk of the Works attached to the Engineers, and benefited by his experience, and when he came back, the contract was entered into; it was in such matters that contracts by competition could never have been carried out, because the supplies were required sometimes in 48 hours.

319. You say in your evidence before the Committee on Contracts, "The nature of the charge I believe" was this, that during the war, I, as a member of the "Contract Branch entered into large contracts with" several firms on my own individual responsibility on "behalf of the department." Did you enter into any contracts on behalf of the Department?—I did not.

320. Did you, in consideration of any contract entered into, derive any pecuniary benefit, directly or indirectly?—None whatever.

321. Have you any connexion, directly or indirectly, with Almond and Co.?—No.

322. Who is the acting partner of that firm?—Mr. William Almond.

323. Do you know Mr. William Almond?—Yes; I have known him intimately for years.

324. Where is he?—I have not seen him lately. He lives down in the country, in Surrey. I have no doubt that Mr. Almond would come before the Commissioners, if he were required.

325. Almost every fine that was levied appears to have been a fine upon Almond & Co.?—I believe they did pay large fines in reference to their contracts.

326. (*Mr. Turner.*) In very many cases in Messrs. Almond's special contracts, there is no time stated, so that they would not be liable to any fine, would they?—I cannot speak from memory in that case. I believe my name has been associated with these contracts in connexion with Messrs. Almond simply from the fact that I have known Mr. W. Almond a great many years, and visited him; and it has been thought proper by persons who know their own interest, or fancy that they know their own interest, to attach an imputation against my name which is as unjust as it is unfounded. My family have known Mr. Almond I dare say for a quarter of a century; and I have been on very intimate terms with him for 10 or 12 years. My desire has always been, in matters of business, to keep aloof from anything in connexion with their house.

327. This list would not indicate such a feeling?—Those contracts were not entered into by me, as I before stated. Mr. Almond is a very large contractor, and he takes a great deal of trouble in supplying the department with patterns of different things whenever new patterns are required, which is always a great loss to the contractor. I remember Mr. Elwell, of Wednesbury, telling me that for every 20*l.* he was paid on the contingent account of the Tower for patterns, he lost another 20*l.* in point of time and labour. As I stated before the Committee on Public Contracts at the time my name was so associated on the granting of those orders in the Tower, I believe it originated from a desire to throw discredit upon the clothing establishment which ultimately I was to be placed at the head of.

328. (*Col. French.*) Did you ever hear that some of the appointments at the Tower were influenced by Parliamentary votes?—I should think it would be quite impossible. All the arrangements in the office at the Tower take place through the Civil Service Commission, the same as in all other public departments.

329. Did you ever know such a thing to exist?—No case ever came to my knowledge.

330. Have any of the parties employed at the Tower votes?—I dare say they may have, but I cannot speak positively.

331. Do you know any inspector or viewer who is a voter?—I do not. I have not registered myself, for I do not take any very great interest in politics.

332. (*Chairman.*) Was not Mr. Fessey, who is now one of the inspectors at the Tower, formerly with Mr. Bramston?—Yes.

333. Was Mr. Bramston a sub-contractor for Mr. Oliphant?—I have heard he was. Mr. Bramston did not contract directly with the department. I believe he supplied the trade, Mr. Oliphant among the rest.

334. You stated before the Committee on Contracts that you never heard of Mr. Bramston having bribed?—I never heard of such a case.

335. The expression used before the Contracts' Committee was "a proved briber"?—I believe one of the witnesses did give such evidence, but I have no personal knowledge of it. I have been in the Tower fifteen years. I know there was a case of bribery alleged by Mr. Oliphant twelve or fourteen years ago, between 1845 and 1848; but the particulars of the case I do not know. I had then only recently joined the department, and did not know the particulars; whether Mr. Bramston was associated with it, I have no personal knowledge. I believe it is in connexion with that period that the witness alleged that Mr. Bramston had bribed somebody at the Tower, but I cannot speak positively as to that.

336. Have you not made any inquiry about it?—The only inquiry that I could make was, that Mr. Oliphant entered into a contract between 1845 and 1848 for a large quantity of cap pockets; that a portion of those cap pockets were rejected; that Mr. Oliphant demurred, and stated that the viewer who had rejected his cap pockets had received a bribe on a former occasion, and he supposed he wanted to receive one from him; that is only hearsay. I have no means of referring to the office books, because they are transferred from the Tower to Pall Mall.

337. Are you not cognizant of a man having been dismissed for having received a bribe?—I have heard that a man of the name of Cufley, who was a viewer at that time, was dismissed. (*See Appendix No. 4.*)

338. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have stated that you were quite aware that rumours were afloat regarding you; did not those rumours so far prevail that you were called upon by the War Department to explain them?—In the summer, just at the period I refer to, somebody, I do not know who it was, made a representation to the Secretary of State in confidence. I knew nothing about it beyond the fact that such a statement had been made; but I did not know by whom, nor do I know at this present moment.

339. So far as I am informed, Sir Benjamin Hawes was told of those rumours in confidence, and Sir Benjamin Hawes communicated with you, I presume?—Sir Benjamin Hawes stated to me, in the presence of Captain Caffin, that such a representation had been made, and he very properly asked me whether there was any foundation for it. I assured him that such was not the case. I dare say Sir Benjamin Hawes made such inquiries as he thought proper. He expressed himself perfectly satisfied that the whole statement was without foundation. I had that assurance from my superior officer, which I felt proud of.

340. Those rumours having attracted the attention of the War Department itself, it is quite legitimate that questions should be put to you with regard to them?—I am very thankful, indeed, that the Commissioners have adverted to the evidence before the Committee on Public Contracts. As a public man, my position is very much damaged by such statements, which cannot be supported by any proof whatever. I do not suppose that personal acquaintance with a Government contractor necessarily implies that a man is otherwise than honest in his office.

Mr. JOSEPH FESSEY examined.

341. (*Chairman.*) You are one of the inspectors at the Tower?—I am.

342. What is your department?—The leather and accoutrement department.

343. When were you appointed?—In March 1855.

344. Upon whose recommendation?—I heard that a situation was vacant in the trade, and I made application to the Tower. I used frequently to go backwards and forwards to the Tower, and knew some of the officers there, and my name at last was sent forward to Mr. Godley. I went and saw Mr. Godley, and he asked me if I could give him references, and questioned me as to my competency. I gave a reference to pretty well every one in the trade at that time. I could safely do so to Messrs. Hebbert and others.

345. (*Mr. Turner.*) Who gave you your appointment?—The Secretary of State, on Mr. Godley's recommendation.

346. (*Chairman.*) Had you any recommendation from the people at the Tower?—I do not know whether I had any recommendation from any one in the Tower. I went to the Tower first, and I was told I had better see Mr. Godley.

347. Were you in Mr. Bramston's employment at the time of taking the situation?—No; I had previously left him.

348. When did you leave Mr. Bramston's employment?—I left him at the Christmas before I went to the Tower in March.

349. Is Mr. Bramston still in business?—I am not aware. I have not seen him for more than twelve months.

350. What was he?—An army accoutrement maker and leather japper.

351. Where?—He had previously carried on business in Parker Street, Lincoln's Inn Field's, and afterwards he built a factory in Maiden Lane, or York Road, King's Cross.

352. How long were you with him?—About sixteen or seventeen years.

353. Do you remember hearing anything about the matter which has been mentioned to-day, about bribery at the Tower?—I have heard that Mr. Bramston gave one of the viewers a sovereign. I did not see him do it, and I do not know it for a fact.

354. Did Mr. Bramston tell you?—It is possible. It is so long a time since, I do not recollect.

355. (*Mr. Turner.*) You must recollect, if you were told it?—It is a great many years ago.

356. (*Chairman.*) How long ago?—Perhaps fourteen years ago. It was a thing I took no notice of at the time.

357. You were not at all shocked?—I was not particularly shocked at it.

358. You think you heard it from Mr. Bramston himself?—It is very likely.

359. Did Mr. Bramston tell you that he had given a sovereign or something to a viewer?—I have no doubt he did. I have heard also that the viewer went to Mr. Oliphant, and Mr. Oliphant made him a present of a hat at Christmas.

360. Do you know the viewer's name?—Cufley. I have also heard that Mr. Oliphant charged Mr. Bramston with half the price of the hat that he gave him.

361. You say that you had been backwards and forwards frequently at the Tower; what took you there?—When we had contracts I used mostly to go. Mr. Bramston very seldom went.

362. Did Mr. Bramston continue to have contracts after the affair about the sovereign?—Occasionally. We never did it except we were very slack, because there was very little profit; we did not like to work for nothing, and, therefore, it was only to keep our workpeople employed as it were in the very slack time. In the army trade there is always a certain time when there is very little doing, and we have great difficulty in keeping our people together. At

that time we could take an order to get very little by it.

363. Did you do business with the Tower after the time at which you say you had heard from Mr. Bramston that he had given something to a viewer?—Yes.

364. Were you the person who generally managed the business at the Tower for him?—I used generally to go down to the Tower.

365. Did you ever do anything of that kind yourself?—No, I never bribed any one.

366. Did you ever know of anything of that kind being done?—I cannot say that I did personally. I have heard rumours.

367. Not mere rumours. You are now an inspector in the Tower, and you were formerly in the employ of a contractor; that contractor told you that he had bribed. He was a contractor after that. You are just the person who ought to know whether such things were done?—I am not aware of it. It did not come under my own knowledge.

368. You did not do it yourself?—No.

369. Do you know any one who did?—No.

370. Do you believe any one did?—Possibly they might.

371. Do you believe they did?—I have heard rumours of it. I do not know about facts.

372. I ask you about your belief?—I dare say it might be done to a small extent.

373. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do not fence with the questions. In your belief did bribery exist at the Tower?—It must have done, by this case occurring.

374. Tell me whether you believe that bribery did take place at the Tower?—I believe it did, because it did in this case.

375. (*Chairman.*) Apart from that case which you say you know from Mr. Bramston having told you, do you believe that bribery existed at the Tower?—I dare say it might. I do not know how to answer the question; I am not in possession of any knowledge.

376. (*Col. French.*) What is your impression?—It was the impression of the public generally, and of course it was my impression at the time.

377. What led you to that impression?—It was the general impression of the trade. I suppose that was the only reason that I had to know. I did not know it as a certainty.

378. (*Mr. Turner.*) You did not see the actual money passing from the briber to the bribed?—No, not even in this case I did not.

379. But do you believe that such transactions took place?—It did in this instance.

380. Again I caution you not to fence with the question. Do you believe that such transactions take place?—I think they did.

381. (*Chairman.*) Have you ever been examined before?—No.

382. In a court of justice?—No.

383. (*Colonel French.*) Was there anything in the conduct of any one of the viewers that led you to think that there were grounds for the impression which you had?—No, nothing.

384. But you never give yourself the trouble to inquire into the subject at all?—No. I was opposed to it in principle myself, and therefore I did not seek to find it out.

385. (*Chairman.*) Did you know Cufley?—I did.

386. Do you know whether he remained in office for any length of time after this report of Mr. Bramston having given him money?—He was dismissed the service.

387. How do you know that?—I think he came to Mr. Bramston and told him that he was dismissed the service.

388. In consequence of having received money?—Yes.

389. About when was that?—Not long after; it might be about three weeks after.

390. Ten or twelve years ago?—Yes.

391. You are now an inspector yourself. Does your

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impression remain the same, that there is bribery at the Tower?—I do not think there is; I have no reason to believe that any man in the Tower is bribed.

392. Do you believe it?—I do not. I have never heard of such a thing, and I have no reason to believe it. I think a contractor could not gain his object by bribery.

393. Have you not a great variety of leather articles to inspect?—Yes.

394. Have you had many complaints of your rejections of articles?—Not very many; comparatively speaking, few.

395. Can you mention the principal articles that you have to inspect?—Leather, and accoutrements made up, convicts' boots and also shakos for the soldiers.

396. Are not the shakos now inspected at Weedon?—They are inspected at Mark Lane.

397. Do you inspect any other articles to any large extent?—I think not.

398. Have you as chief inspector, any sub-inspectors under you?—Only viewers.

399. How many?—At the present time, I have about nine viewers.

400. In your judgment, are they capable men?—Yes.

401. Do you overlook them pretty constantly?—Yes.

402. Do you ever reverse their decisions?—Yes.

403. Do you ever reject things that they have passed?—I may have done such a thing, once or twice, but that does not frequently occur.

404. When you overrule their decision, is it generally to pass things which they have rejected?—That they have laid on one side as doubtful, to have my opinion upon them.

405. Is your judgment as good as theirs?—I should think it was.

406. Have you had as much practice as any of the viewers?—I think I have.

407. Are the viewers men who have been brought up to business?—Yes, they have been taken from various houses of trade.

408. (*Colonel French.*) What position did you hold in Mr. Bramston's establishment?—I managed his business: I represented him, and I had a certain interest in the business.

409. What was your salary?—The last year that I was with him it amounted to about 400*l.* during the year.

410. On what account did you leave him?—I wished to go into business for myself: we were like brothers for a great many years, and he promised me I should have the business. I wanted to have a share of the business, but he would not do that. Then I wished him to sell it to me, but I considered that he asked too much money for it; therefore I thought I should leave him, and commence on my own account. It so happened that the war ceased, and then of course the Army trade ceases.

411. What is your salary now?—250*l.*

412. (*Mr. Turner.*) I think you said that you made an application about this situation, and that you were not recommended by anybody in particular?—I am not aware that I was recommended.

413. You got your appointment through Mr. Godley's recommendation to the War Office?—Yes.

414. Were you aware that you were strongly recommended by some one else?—I do not know. I went down to the Tower; I saw Mr. Elliott; I do not know whether he recommended me; he put questions to me.

415. We have it in print, in Appendix 17, page 191 of the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Report of the Public Contracts' Committee, signed by Richard Eaton, the principal military storekeeper, and Charles S. Elliott, superintendent of inspectors, that you were recommended to your situation by Mr. Edmund Bramston, accoutrement maker?—Mr. Godley wrote to Mr. Bramston, of course; I am aware that he wrote to Mr. Bramston.

416. How do you know that he did that?—Because I called upon Mr. Bramston to ask him if he had written; he told me that he had, and that he had sent an answer.

417. Mr. Bramston gave a favourable reply?—I suppose he did.

418. Mr. Bramston's name stands as your special recommender?—He was the person Mr. Godley applied to for a recommendation, though I gave the names of other houses.

419. (*Chairman.*) You had been with Mr. Bramston for 16 years?—Yes.

420. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did Messrs. Almond do business with Mr. Bramston as a sub-contractor?—Not as the sub-contractor; he supplied them with various articles for a great many years, and before Mr. Almond had the business; at the time it was Mr. William Moore's.

421. Did you ever inspect after your appointment any of Mr. Bramston's goods?—He has never sent anything in; he gave up business. I think he manufactured a few things, but they were sent to Weedon; none have come to the Tower, to my knowledge.

422. (*Chairman.*) Do you remember inspecting a lot of hats for the Metropolitan Police?—I do.

423. When was that?—At the beginning of this year.

424. Was that the first time you ever inspected Metropolitan Police hats?—Yes; none had been delivered since I had been at the Tower.

425. Were Messrs. Hebbert the contractors?—Yes.

426. Do you remember in the autumn of last year four hats coming to the Tower as specimens?—Yes.

427. Did they come from Messrs. Hebbert or direct from the sub-contractor?—I think they came from the Commissioners of Police.

428. Did you inspect those four hats?—I did.

429. What did you compare them with?—With the standard pattern.

430. Who sent you the standard pattern?—The Commissioners of Police.

431. Was it a sealed pattern?—Yes.

432. Sealed by whom?—By the Commissioners of Police.

433. Did they request you to seal the four hats that were sent, if they were equal to the pattern?—I am not quite certain.

434. What was the result of that inspection of the four hats?—None of them were equal to the pattern, but two were of a better quality than the other two.

435. Did you make a report?—I did not. I think the Superintendent of inspectors did.

436. You only made the verbal report?—I communicated the information to him; it is his duty to make the report.

437. Did you make an inspection report?—No, there is no inspection report made when the articles are not brought on charge; they were not brought on the storekeeper's charge, they were merely sent down to have an opinion upon them.

438. You were acting for another department, to give them the benefit of your experience?—Yes.

439. (*To Mr. Elliott.*) Did you furnish to the Commissioners of Police any report about the four hats that were sent up in October 1857?—Yes.

440. (*To Mr. Fessey.*) Generally speaking, was the substance of the report that two were better than the others?—Yes.

441. Were 313 hats in January last sent up to be inspected at the Tower?—They were.

442. Did you inspect them with the assistance of your viewers?—I did with the assistance of one viewer.

443. Who was the viewer?—A person of the name of Phillips.

444. Is he still a viewer?—He is.

445. Is he under Mr. Page, or under you?—Under Mr. Page.

446. Did you share in that inspection personally?—Yes.

447. Did you make any written report upon the

hats?—Yes; I put the causes of rejection on the inspection report.

448. There was an inspection report?—For the 313, though they were not brought on charge, but merely went through the storekeeper's books.

449. Did you reject them?—Yes.

450. What for?—The bodies were of inferior make and coarse stuff, and the nap long and not well finished—altogether the binding was not equal to the pattern; the linings were not put in in the same manner.

451. Were they strong hats?—No.

452. Were they good hats?—No.

453. Were they equal to the pattern?—No.

454. By what did you compare those 313 hats?—The standard sealed pattern.

455. Not by two of those which had been previously inspected?—No.

456. Were they as good as the two which had been previously inspected?—No; they were not quite so good, but they were the same class of hat.

457. Have you ever been a hatter?—No; but I have handled a good many thousands of police hats of different makers.

458. You pledge yourself, as a practical man, that those hats were not so good as the sealed pattern?—They were nothing like the sealed pattern. I should think they were not equal to it by 30 per cent.

459. What was done with them when they were rejected?—They were returned to the contractor.

460. Was that some time afterwards?—Not very long. Notice was given immediately to the contractor.

461. I have it stated that they were sent in on the 10th of November, and that on the 28th of December the contractor had notice that they were rejected—that is an interval of seven weeks?—I do not know whether there is any discrepancy in the two numbers, but there were 313 I looked at in Scotland Yard, at the police station, and then afterwards there were 313 delivered at the Tower.

462. The first 313 were never at the Tower; were they?—The numbers corresponded exactly. I do not know whether they were removed by Messrs. Hebbert from Scotland Yard, and sent to the Tower for inspection.

463. When did you inspect any hats at the police station?—Previously to that, perhaps a fortnight or three weeks, I inspected two lots at Scotland Yard, one lot was about 48 that they had in store, and 313; 313 were reported, I believe, to the Commissioners, that they were rejected for the same faults that I have stated.

464. The first 313 you inspected were at Scotland Yard, and never were at the Tower?—Unless they were removed by the contractor, and sent in again.

465. Do you know how long the 313 hats were at the Tower which you inspected there?—I do not know without referring to the books.

466. Was there a second lot, a larger quantity, sent in early in February?—Yes, 1,700.

467. Did you inspect them with Phillips's assistance?—Yes, and no one else.

468. Were those hats fairly treated by you?—Yes.

469. Was one of the sub-contractors, one of the manufacturers of the hats, present at the inspection?—I think he was.

470. Did you point out to him the defects in the hats?—Yes.

471. What did you say to him?—I told him the cause of rejection. I pointed out the weak places in the body.

472. It appears from the inspector's report that 191 hats were damaged by bad packing; was any damage done to the hats from their being in your custody?—No; they were taken out of the crates. In coming from the country up to London they had got damaged through being badly packed.

473. Was no violence offered to the hats?—None whatever.

474. How do you test a hat?—Just feel it round,

and see whether the body is all right. First, I should see whether it was evenly felted; I should look inside to see the quality of the stuff of the body, and to see the nap; I should blow it up to see whether I could discover the body through the nap, whether it was closely napped. These hats were very longly napped, and the bodies themselves were made of coarse wool, the nap was not worked into them. If the nap had been well worked in, the bodies being coarse, they would have swallowed pretty well all the nap, therefore, it would have taken more nap; the nap being long it covered a greater space, and there was not so much of it.

475. What did the manufacturer say when you pointed out those defects? Did he dispute those defects, and say that the hats were perfectly good?—I do not know. I rather think he did; but I cannot tell what conversation he might have with the superintendent.

476. Did he say anything to you as to the hats having been unfairly dealt with?—Not to me.

477. Did he say anything of the hats having been unfairly damaged by you?—He complained in writing, I think, afterwards, of their having been unfairly treated.

478. Do you retain the opinion that those hats were bad?—Undoubtedly.

479. Was that the first time you ever had to inspect hats at the Tower?—Yes.

480. A complaint was made before the Contracts' Committee, I think by more than one person, that you had treated with improper roughness certain japanned leather pouches; do you remember that case of Mr. Pays?—Yes.

481. Have you read the evidence that was given upon that subject?—I have read a portion of it.

482. Do you wish to make any statement with relation to the evidence so given as to your treatment of the articles inspected by you?—The articles were not improperly treated. It was just when I at first joined my duties at the Tower; I had only joined them about three days. I went into the store, and I saw Mr. Pays was in the store among the viewers, which is not allowed now; at that time it used to be allowed. I saw that some of his pouches had passed that ought not to have been passed, because the japan was all cracked. I said to the viewer, "These articles should not pass." Mr. Pays remarked he would take any of those back that were damaged in that way. There was another delivery subsequently that the viewer went through. I told him he must be more careful not to allow any that were very bad to pass. Japanned leather is, perhaps, more or less affected in frosty weather; it is very liable to crack, particularly if it is fresh japan. It is submitted to a very great heat of 160 or 180 degrees for eight days and nights, so that, in point of fact, the nourishment of the leather is completely gone.

483. Was the japan cracked?—Yes.

484. Was that an objection?—Yes.

485. Did the cracking arise from laying the leather on a stone floor?—No.

486. Had you a stone floor where that leather was inspected?—No.

487. Had they ever been upon a stone floor in the Tower?—Not that I am aware of.

488. Was not the pattern cracked?—No; it was the holster for a pistol; you could not pull the flap of the holster with the greatest care so as to button it over the handle of the pistol without cracking it.

489. Mr. Goslett has asserted that one of your subordinates said to him, "Our orders are to reject all 'we can.'" Did you ever give any such orders?—Nothing of the kind.

490. Did the contractors complain and ask why the things were rejected?—Yes.

491. Did you show them?—I did.

492. What did you say?—I told them that the viewers perhaps had been rather too rigid in going over them, and I would go over them myself; it was unofficial. I only had just entered into my duties,

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and I ought not to have done so. I afterwards went over them myself.

493. Did you pass some that the viewers had rejected?—Some few I passed.

494. Did you make any objection that they did not fit the pistol?—There was one holster I think did not fit the pistol.

495. You are represented to have said, "Oh! it does not fit the pistol;" so Mr. Pays took the pistol, put it in the holster, drove it home, and fastened it; and then said, "How can you say it does not fit the pistol?" Mr. Fessey said, "It must have been rejected by an oversight?"—Mr. Essex took it himself, and with great force drove the pistol into the holster, but I should not like my viewers to use such force.

496. Did you say that it had been rejected by an oversight?—Not that I am aware of.

497. Did you suggest that as a large quantity had been rejected, the best thing would be to have them removed and sent in again, and you would inspect them carefully?—Not to have them removed. I said I would go over them myself.

498. Do you remember this expression, "You have committed yourself, and I will not remove one damned ounce of them?"—No, I do not remember that.

499. Were the goods finally rejected?—A portion of them.

500. Were they afterwards received?—Yes.

501. Why?—I believe he threatened legal proceedings, to sue the War Department; and by the advice of the Solicitor to the Treasury they were passed, and used for another service.

502. Do you not think that you and the receivers were too rigid in that particular case?—I do not think we were.

503. Will not the best japanned leather crack a little? For instance, the dash board to a carriage?—It may after a certain time, but the leather is dressed differently, or ought to be; there ought to be no crack on the splash board; the leather is japanned to lie only on a flat surface; but this leather ought to be dressed supple, so that you can turn it round almost any way.

504. Do you think you have been quite as strict since?—Quite.

505. Did you afterwards pass those things?—No; only by authority from the War Department.

506. (*Colonel French.*) Were they passed for the naval service?—They are appropriated for the naval service now.

Mr. C. S. Elliott.

Mr. CHARLES SANDYS ELLIOTT further examined.

507. (*Chairman.*) Are you cognizant of the inspection of Metropolitan Police hats at the Tower last winter?—Yes.

508. You have heard Mr. Fessey's statement, that, in the first instance, four hats were sent up as specimens?—Yes.

509. Did you see them?—I did.

510. Did you report upon them to the Commissioners of Police?—I did by letter.

511. Will you be good enough to furnish copies of your letters?—Yes.

512. Were 313 afterwards inspected?—Three hundred and thirteen were examined first at Scotland Yard. No written report upon those 313 was made to the Commissioners. The 313 were again delivered to the Tower. It was believed that they were the same hats which the viewers had examined at Scotland Yard. Subsequently 1,700 were delivered.

513. Was there a written report upon the 313?—Upon the second delivery; also upon the 1,700. We can produce copies of those reports.

514. How was it that the hats came to be inspected at the Tower? Has the inspection generally taken place there?—The clothing supplied for the police, I believe, has been inspected at the Tower for more than 20 years. The Commissioners of Police, having no inspection staff that they could intrust so important a duty to, did, with the sanction of the Board of Ordnance, submit clothing for inspection by the Tower inspectors. I believe formerly the hats were examined on the contractors' premises, but of late years they have been delivered to the Tower, and have been compared with the patterns furnished by the Commissioners of Police.

515. Were they so examined in 1857?—In 1857 they were not delivered at the Tower.

516. Was that the only year that they were not delivered at the Tower?—The only year. I think there was a delivery in 1856, but after very little progress had been made in the examination of police clothing, it was decided by the Secretary of State that the police clothing should not be delivered at the Tower; and from that date,—it was a matter in no way connected with the War Department,—the Secretary of State considered that the Police Commissioners ought to examine them themselves, and a communication to that effect was made to the Police Commissioners, and the contractors were instructed not to deliver their clothing at the Tower for inspection; that was in 1856.

517. You did not examine the police clothing for 1857?—No; it was delivered, I believe, at Scotland Yard, and examined by the Commissioners of Police

or by persons appointed by them, and issued to the men.

518. Do you know anything about the hats which were issued for 1857?—No, except by repute.

519. You are not a practical hatter, but it seems to have been your report, incorporating Mr. Fessey's, that was sent in to the Metropolitan Police Commissioners?—Yes.

520. Are you cognizant of one of the contractors coming to the Tower, and witnessing a portion of the inspection?—Yes. I think it was at the time that the 1,700 were delivered at the Tower for inspection. The contract was by Messrs. Hebbert and Co.; and a gentleman from their house, accompanied by one of the firm of Vero and Everett, came to the Tower, and stated that the object of their visit was to ascertain what progress the inspection had made, and I stated that if they called on the following day, I should be very happy indeed to acquaint them with the progress of the inspection, and further, that they might see the hats under inspection. Both the gentlemen expressed themselves pleased at having the opportunity of doing so, and on the following day they accompanied me into the storehouse. I then showed them that the result of the inspection was very unfavourable, and the gentleman who was one of the firm of Vero and Everett stated that if the hats were examined in that way he would withdraw the delivery.

521. How were they examined?—He considered that they were very unfairly treated. He said that the bodies had been broken by the force of the hand, as Mr. Fessey described, in passing over the body; he contended that undue force had been used, and that the hats had been broken. I was quite convinced in my own mind that the complaint was groundless; that the hats were bad because they had given way; many of the hats were very much damaged, but that arose from the improper manner in which they had been packed.

522. So far as your judgment goes you think the rejection was right?—I have no doubt of it; it did not require a practical hatter to distinguish the difference between the supply and the pattern.

523. Was there any reason why Mr. Fessey, the inspector, and the viewer Phillips should pass a stricter judgment than ordinary upon the hats so sent to you?—No.

524. Had you any instructions except to compare them with the pattern?—No; the supply of hats took place on the part of Messrs. Hebbert and Company; we communicated with the Commissioners, and requested to be furnished with the pattern by which the inspection was to be conducted; we received the pat-

tern which the viewers had had for their guidance in former contracts.

525. Had you anything to do at the Tower with the preparation of the pattern?—No; the contract for the Police is entered into by the Commissioners; the only duty performed by the War Department is the examination.

526. (*Colonel French.*) Did you ever try the pattern hat in the same way of examination?—Precisely the same. The pattern hat is a very good hat indeed, but not better than the supply that the Police have this year from another house in default of Messrs. Hebbert.

527. Have they been examined by the same process

as that upon which those hats were rejected?—Yes, and there was not a single hat rejected.

528. (*Chairman.*) Did you examine the hats this year?—Yes. Messrs. Hebbert relinquished their contract, and the hats for the Police were delivered to the Tower from another house, Christy and Company. The same pattern was furnished, and the hats were fully equal to the pattern.

529. (*To Mr. Fessey.*) Did you inspect the police hats this year?—Yes.

530. By the same pattern?—Yes.

531. Were they good hats?—They were the best police hats I ever saw.

Mr. WILLIAM PHILLIPS examined.

532. (*Chairman.*) Are you a viewer at the Tower?—Yes.

533. What is your age?—Fifty-six is my age.

534. What was your occupation before you became a viewer at the Tower?—I had been at the Tower 27 years.

535. What had you been all that time?—The first year I came I was in the packing-room, packing stores. I was not there above three months.

536. Have you had any practical experience in viewing articles something like hats, caps, or shakos?—I have looked at shakos for 25 years.

537. As we hear the hats of the police were frequently inspected at the Tower, had you ever taken a share in the inspection of police hats before 1857?—I have looked at police hats for 20 years.

538. I believe they have been furnished by public contract from time to time?—Yes, by Christy, Bickerton, and Cooper.

539. Have you ever rejected any?—There has been very few rejected.

540. Have they generally been good hats?—Very good hats, indeed.

541. In 1856 we understand that you did not inspect at the Tower the supply of police hats for 1857?—No.

542. At the end of 1857 you inspected the 1858 supply under Mr. Fessey?—Yes.

543. Had you the pattern hat that we have heard of?—Yes.

544. You have heard what Mr. Fessey has said?—Yes.

545. What do you say to that?—I can say no more than Mr. Fessey has said.

546. Do you think the hats were bad?—Yes; I never had such a hat in my hand during all the years I have looked at hats.

547. Were the hats unfairly dealt with by you? Were the bodies punched in?—No, not the least whatever. I looked at those hats from Messrs. Hebbert the same as I would from Mr. Christy, or any one else.

Adjourned to To-morrow at 12 o'clock.

TOWER.

London, Wednesday, 8th December 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. GEORGE STACEY examined.

564. (*Mr. Turner.*) You were storekeeper at the Tower, I believe?—I was storekeeper at the Tower till the time I retired; previously to that time I had served as chief clerk to the principal military store-

keeper, Sir Thomas Hastings. I was three years chief clerk upon the condition that I would, if the Board required, take the storekeepership, which I was ultimately called upon to do.

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Mr. W. Phillips.

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Mr. G. Stacey.

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565. At what period did you retire?—In the year 1855.

566. I believe at the time you were storekeeper it was thought necessary to issue a number of special contracts for supplies for the army?—A considerable quantity of warm clothing was required for the sick soldiers, consisting of flannel waistcoats, flannel drawers, stockings I believe, and some few other articles, but chiefly flannel waistcoats.

567. We have a list of the articles; by whom were those contracts chiefly made?—They were chiefly made, in the first instance, by myself, but from time to time reported to the Board. I was in constant communication personally with Sir Thomas Hastings, who was then the only principal storekeeper; I was called storekeeper, and he watched the business as it went on, and agreed that such and such things should be purchased; but I believe also that the matter was reported to the Board, and no doubt it was approved by them; indeed I know that in every instance it was ultimately approved by the Board, after we had reported what was done. In the first instance I made the arrangements as to the delivery of the articles, and we then called upon the Board to sanction what we had done, or refuse. I believe, to a considerable extent, they did refuse one of my agreements.

568. Had not you very considerable power in your hands at that time in issuing those contracts?—I had power personally in writing from the Board, but I had an opportunity from day to day to see Sir Thomas Hastings upon the subject, and sometimes Mr. Monsell, and on more than one occasion I attended the Board of Ordnance, carrying with me samples which I had collected from several tradesmen, chiefly through one agent. I recommended that an agent should be employed, as a great quantity was required in a short time, which I knew could not be got of any one pattern; it became necessary to have a person acquainted with the trade, who should go and select such things as were fit for the service, although not exactly of the pattern. That went on to a considerable extent, and specimens were laid before the board.

569. Who was that agent?—Mr. Kynaston, who is a man very generally acquainted with the woollen trade, and especially with the hosiery trade. He was one of the contractors in whom we thought we could place confidence, as he had conducted himself in the most honourable manner.

570. You were at that time old, and unable to take the active part that you did formerly. Did not you trust a good deal to the subordinates immediately under you with respect to the inquiries and recommendations made with regard to contractors?—With regard to the contracts for the woollen and warm clothing, I did it almost entirely by myself. I took a great deal of trouble about it; I first went to Mr. Kynaston, conversed with him, and learnt what he could do, and he showed me his stock, which was very small; but he agreed that for a very small commission—I forget what it was—he would undertake to get any quantity we wanted, provided a reasonable time was given. He went down to Leicester amongst the manufacturers, and bought up by an agent a certain quantity, which could be had immediately. I think I was officially authorized to call upon him to supply those things which could be had immediately.

571. The Commissioners have observed, in looking

over the list of special contracts, that a very considerable number was given to the house of Messrs. Almond and particularly for warm clothing?—Not for warm clothing surely; that was not given by me.

572. Worsteds socks to a considerable extent were ordered from Messrs. Almond?—Not through me.

573. By whom would the order be given then?—I cannot recollect at all.

574. Had any of your subordinates instructions to do so?—No.

575. Or authority to act in your name?—Certainly not.

576. You do not remember such special contracts being given to Messrs. Almond?—I have no idea of such a thing.

577. Messrs. Almond are not in fact manufacturers?—They were general contractors, chiefly in the leather way, leather accoutrements, but they would occasionally step out of that line and take other contracts.

578. I suppose they would take any contract that they could get, on which they expected to realize a profit?—I fancy so.

579. Would it not have been wiser in your opinion to have procured the warm clothing in the way you suggested, namely, by going to the manufacturers?—I have no doubt of that.

580. Could not the city houses have supplied articles of that kind better than Messrs. Almond?—Yes. I should never have thought of going to Messrs. Almond, their articles being chiefly leather.

581. Can you give the Commissioners any idea through whose instrumentality Messrs. Almond obtained those contracts for warm clothing?—I was taken ill in the midst of a very large business, about which I had taken great interest, but was quite stopped short and compelled to lie by altogether. I was shut up for six weeks without speaking to anybody.

582. About the time that those special contracts were being given out, were not you a great deal employed in arranging the armoury?—I was occasionally engaged in the armoury, when I could spare time; but during the war I could scarcely go into the armoury.

583. Did Mr. Hodson transact a considerable portion of the business at the time with respect to those contracts?—He did a great deal, in fact when I was compelled to stay at home altogether, Mr. Hodson was the acting storekeeper, and he took the direction of all the business.

584. Who was immediately under Mr. Hodson?—A young man, Mr. Thomas King, who was very active, and who has since died.

585. Mr. Elliott was also under Mr. Hodson, I think?—Mr. Elliott was next in rank to the young man who died. Mr. Elliott and this young man took a very active part, and I think a very praiseworthy part.

586. During your illness, had not Mr. Hodson and his assistants,—the young man you allude to and Mr. Elliott,—very much the control of those contracts?—I do not know how far they may be considered as having the control of the contracts; they were in constant communication personally with the remaining members of the Board.

587. But I suppose the members of the Board would be in a great measure guided by their advice?—Necessarily.

Mr. W. Almond.

Mr. WILLIAM ALMOND examined.

588. (*Chairman.*) Are you one of the firm of George and William Almond?—Yes.

589. Are you now in business?—Yes.

590. What is your business?—We are hosiers, hatters, and army accoutrement makers; we took the business that Bicknell and Moore used to carry on, at the corner of Bond Street.

591. They were hatters?—Yes, and accoutrement

makers; we supplied a large portion of the army in old Mr. Moore's time.

592. Judging from this list of special contracts that you appear to have taken, the character of your supplies seems to be very miscellaneous?—It is so.

593. The Commissioners have been struck with this return, showing that you had a very large portion of the special contracts in the winter of 1854; will you tell us frankly how it came to pass?—In the first

instance, I was applied to by Sir Thomas Hastings and Mr. Monsell; I think, first, about some waterproof clothing, and we undertook to supply 40,000 suits within six weeks, which I believe we did with the exception of two or three days, including Sundays and Christmas Day. We delivered at Mark Lane, and a place called Savage Garden, which they had taken in addition, 40,000 sets of capes, leggings, and hoods; that was the first order that I received.

594. The remark in the return is "not supplied within the time."—I think we were seven days above the time, and they fined us 4,500*l*.

595. Did you pay it?—They stopped it for 12 months.

596. Was the fine remitted?—A portion of it.

597. How much had you to pay, sooner or later?—I was kept out of my money for above 12 months, and then the fine was remitted all but 50*l*.

598. (*Mr. Turner.*) Although the fine was nominally 4,500*l*., you only paid 50*l*.?—I only paid 50*l*. I was to deliver 1000 a day the first week, and every day I was behindhand they fined me; when I was over I got no credit, but eventually I completed my contract for the 40,000 sets within seven days of the time.

599. (*Chairman.*) What was that contract for?—It was for 40,000 sets of waterproof things, and it came to about 70,000*l*.

600. What amount were you kept out of?—They stopped the fine that was levied upon me for 12 months.

601. (*Mr. Turner.*) They kept the fine hanging over your head for twelve months, and then they remitted it all but 50*l*.?—Yes; we received portions of the money as we went on.

602. (*Chairman.*) Was that contract entered into by Sir Thomas Hastings direct, who was then principal storekeeper, and Mr. Monsell, clerk to the Ordnance?—The first introduction I had to Sir Thomas Hastings was that order, which was wanted in a very great hurry. We undertook to do it, and we did it.

603. Out of about 270 contracts which are specified in this return, of which 200 were special contracts, you appear to have had 65 contracts, 36 of which were special contracts, and in 23 of them the time for the delivery of the articles contracted for was not stated; with whom were those contracts made?—Generally speaking with the Board of Ordnance direct. A private letter was written to us by Mr. Hanby, I think it was, or Mr. Gwyn.

604. The storekeeper at the Tower having the power to make contracts, or at all events to recommend contracts to be made, can you explain how it came to pass that you had so many of them?—I have no means of knowing. I never understood that we got them otherwise than by the lowest tender.

605. There are 270 contracts, 200 of them are by special contract, and only the remaining 69 by tender?—They were always by tender. I never received a special contract except one for some boots; 23,000 pairs of brown boots, which was part and parcel of the same order as the 40,000 waterproof suits. They were wanted in a very great hurry, and I undertook to do them. In all other contracts I was written to in the regular way, to know what the price might be.

606. Were the words "by tender" used?—On the top of the letters was written "Immediate." I suppose three or four, or five were written to at the same time. I do not know anything to the contrary.

607. There is a distinction between a contract by tender, in which we may assume that there was something like competition, and a contract called a special contract, which I understand to be on account of the necessity of the occasion?—Beyond those two orders I never had a purchase made from our house. We were written to, to know what our price would be, and to know what time we could supply so and so.

608. (*Mr. Turner.*) Every commercial house does the same. When you want an article you write to know the prices, and then if you are satisfied with the

price you give the order?—I should give the order to the man who was most calculated to execute it.

609. You are supposing that half a dozen houses were written to?—I imagine so. I have no knowledge of it myself.

610. (*Chairman.*) You have had 36 of what are called special contracts? Can you tell the Commissioners how it came to pass that you had so many special contracts?—I cannot.

611. Did it arise from the merits of your articles?—I may imagine that. I can show how those warrants came to us. All of them were headed "Board of Ordnance." There is an extract from our books of the number of warrants. I have not one of the warrants by me; it is so long ago that they have all been destroyed. They were all headed "B. O.," which means Board of Ordnance.

612. (*Col. French.*) Did you enter the signature?—It would be signed either by Mr. Hanby or Mr. Gwyn.

613. (*Chairman.*) Did you see Mr. Stacey at all about any of the contracts?—I saw him I think once.

614. You have heard Mr. Stacey's evidence?—Yes; I do not think I did see him about those contracts.

615. Did Mr. Stacey personally make any of those contracts with you?—No.

616. Did you see Mr. Hodson?—Perhaps I did four or five times; I never made any tender to Mr. Hodson that I know of.

617. The contract was not between you and Mr. Hodson?—No.

618. Did you see Mr. Charles Elliott?—No, never upon those contracts.

619. Did you see Mr. King?—Yes; I should say that I have seen Mr. King perhaps a dozen times.

620. With reference to the making of the contracts or with reference to the performance of the contracts?—Only with reference to the performance of the contracts.

621. Did you see Mr. Kynaston?—No.

622. Mr. Stacey told us that he, having a sort of discretionary power in those cases, deputed the duty of executing the orders in many cases to Mr. Kynaston; do you know Mr. Kynaston?—Well.

623. Did you through him make any of those contracts?—I think we bought things of him to complete contracts.

624. Did you make any contract with the Board of Ordnance, or with the authorities at the Tower through Mr. Kynaston?—Never.

625. Were all the contracts which are specified in this document as having been made by you, contracts entered into by you directly with the Board of Ordnance?—I have no other mode of knowing. I was written to by the Board of Ordnance to send the price of certain articles, and to know what time I would send them in; which I answered. The storekeeper in several cases wrote to me; Mr. Hodson wrote I think, and we then answered him; I did not see Mr. Hodson.

626. He wrote and asked what you would supply certain goods for, and in what time, and you answered him?—Yes.

627. And then you had the contract made?—Yes.

628. It was sanctioned by the Board of Ordnance, but the preliminary inquiries were made by the Tower authorities?—Yes.

629. You seem to have been very unfortunate in the time, at all events, in which you supplied those things?—Very often they gave us so very limited a time, that we could not complete the whole of the supply; they merely state "not completed in time," they do not state what we had delivered.

630. You appear by that return to have had 65 contracts, only six of those were supplied in time, 36 were supplied not in time, and as to 23, the time not being stated, it would not appear when the return was made up, whether they were supplied in time or not; were not you behind with a very large proportion of your contracts?—I would test it in this way, by the number delivered; supposing I took an order for 20,000

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sets of accoutrements and I was to deliver 13,000 in May and 7,000 a fortnight afterwards, I should be put down as not having delivered in time. In large affairs like these, in clearing up you want a fortnight beyond your time; the men have a quantity of those things, you cannot bring it in time unless you make 2,000 or 3,000 sets over.

631. Might not the failure to supply in time partially have arisen from your having had so many contracts?—It might; we were pressed, and every house was pressed at that period.

632. I see that out of 270 contracts, 125 were not completed in time; other persons were in fault as well as you, if there was a fault?—That I cannot charge my memory with at the present moment.

633. It also appears from the return, that in 125 cases where the contracts were not in time, only eight persons were fined, and you had seven of those fines nominally inflicted upon you; were any of them enforced?—I think all, with the exception of the fine with respect to the waterproof things.

634. Can you state how much you paid in the way of fines?—It was something considerable.

635. Was it another 4,000l.?—I cannot tell you from memory; I know that a heavy fine was inflicted upon us.

636. You had six other contracts in which fines were inflicted; did you nevertheless make a good thing out of those contracts?—I think we were tolerably well paid; we got a high price; at that time things were pushed very much, and of course it is the duty of every man to do the best he can for himself; we did the best we could for ourselves.

637. It struck some of the Commissioners that your prices were considerably higher than other peoples'; will you refer to the brown leather boots, the black cotton handkerchiefs, and to the flannel shirts?—I can explain about the brown leather boots; I think Messrs. Hebbert and myself were at Pall Mall at the same time; Sir Thomas Hastings came up to me and said, "What number of those boots will you do?" I said, "I will undertake to do 23,000." That boot was an idea of my own. He said, "What will be your price?" I named 23s.; and then Sir Thomas made the remark, "Another house will do them for 20s." I said, "Let him have them; I cannot undertake an order of this magnitude to get it done in three weeks at less than 23s." After all your trouble and anxiety in getting the work done in London, there was not a great deal of profit got out of it. Messrs. Hebbert did some of them for 20s.

638. Did not Messrs. Hebbert make a good thing out of it?—Very likely; I got a better price, and paid the people better to get on fast.

639. (*Mr. Turner.*) You think there was very little got by it?—I do not mean to say that; I should very much like to have another war again, only speaking as far as regards pecuniary matters.

640. The war was a very good thing for you?—No question of it. With respect to the black cotton handkerchiefs, a question arose about that; the pattern was ingrained twill; we had to send to Manchester, I think, for the handkerchiefs; I think it was called the permanent twill; the colour would not wash out at all, and I believe we got a higher price in consequence of supplying that article.

641. What size were those handkerchiefs?—About a yard or a yard and a quarter, cut across the whole width of the stuff; I cannot remember exactly what the width of the stuff was.

642. Was not there a considerable discrepancy between the Manchester price and the price to the War Office?—We had to cut them up, and they had to be hemmed.

643. (*Chairman.*) Did not you get them hemmed at halfpenny a piece?—I think that was the price; we paid 9d. a yard for the material, and it made two handkerchiefs.

644. With respect to the flannel shirts?—That is a question I can scarcely answer; that was a tender

sent in, and my brother had that business to attend to entirely.

645. I have looked at the return to see if you furnished anything lower than the other houses; in the supply of worsted socks you seem to be a little lower than Messrs. Hebbert, but I think higher than Kynaston?—There were 30,000 pairs at 12s. 6d. a dozen; that was the quantity written about; we made inquiries, as we were not the manufacturers of those things; I applied to a man at Leicester, who got them, and we only acted as a sort of agent in that matter; we had a small profit; we were supplying an immense number to the militia regiments.

646. Was the time for the supply very short?—Sometimes six or seven days, and sometimes a fortnight.

647. Did you raise the price in proportion?—Invariably.

648. And I am afraid without much certainty of your being able to fulfil your contracts?—In most cases I think we fulfilled them within a very short period of the time given.

649. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were you equally fortunate in getting all the other fines remitted?—No; all the others were paid.

650. What would be the amount of fines that you actually paid?—I should say, at a rough guess, 1,500l.

651. I suppose you are quite willing to acknowledge that on these very hasty orders, given in a time of emergency, when you had an opportunity of availing yourself of a time of pressure, you got the best price you could?—Invariably.

652. You received about 165,000l. of money out of these contracts, did not you?—A great deal more; at the beginning of the war we had some large orders for accoutrements.

653. What amount did you receive on those special contracts?—I am not speaking of the special contracts, I am speaking of the whole business done.

654. When did you begin business?—I took the business of Mr. James Moore in 1840.

655. What were you prior to that time?—I had always been in the manufacturing department since I was a boy.

656. In a large way of business?—We always did a very large business.

657. Is it the fact that since the execution of those contracts which we have been alluding to, you have bought an estate in Surrey for 40,000l.?—I bought the lease of a house of Lord Grantley, for which I pay 15l. a year, and I have got three acres of land into the bargain; that is all; I have never bought another; I have the house for 40 years, and I had to spend between 400l. and 500l. upon it; I think the house is worth 100l. a year.

658. Then that is not correct information which I have received?—It is not; of course I am here to state the truth publicly; you can ascertain the fact, if that is of any advantage.

659. Will you be so good as to say when those letters of inquiry were written, to which you considered you were to make a sort of tender in reply? By whom were they signed?—Either by Mr. Hodson or Mr. Stacey; any private communication we had from the Ordnance.

660. Were not they signed on behalf of Mr. Hodson frequently by Mr. Elliott?—Never, to my knowledge; I can safely say that they were all signed by Mr. Hodson or by Mr. Stacey during the time I was there.

661. (*Col. French.*) Do not you enter your orders in some book?—We enter the orders in our day book.

662. Is it merely a transcription of the order?—Yes.

663. You must know of course who signed the orders?—We should not enter the signature; we should merely enter whether it was by order of Mr. Hodson; if an inquiry was made by Mr. Hodson or Mr. Stacey previously, and we then received

an order from the Board, we should enter it as the Board of Ordnance.

664. Did you get any order direct from the Board of Ordnance signed by the officers of the Ordnance?—Yes, always; those orders invariably come in that way.

665. You ought to know who subscribed them?—I think they were generally signed in the old time by Mr. Wood, then afterwards they were signed by Mr. Hanby, and I believe after Mr. Hanby left by Mr. Gwyn, by direction of the Board of Ordnance.

666. You were selected by Mr. Hodson at the Tower?—No, Sir Thomas Hastings was the first party who applied to me.

667. (*Mr. Turner.*) Did not you receive some of those contracts direct from the Tower?—No, never.

668. Did not they arise from inquiries made from the Tower independent of the Board of Ordnance?—I never had an order from the Tower. I have had inquiries from the Tower, but I never received any order from the Tower beyond making a few patterns, two or three pouches to serve as patterns.

669. When inquiries came from the Tower did not the discussions with regard to price and the settlement of price take place with the authorities at the Tower?—No, not to my knowledge.

670. Were all your discussions as to price upon the orders with the Board of Ordnance direct? Mr. Stacey says very differently?—If he wrote for a price, the price used to be sent in writing, and perhaps two or three days afterwards I should receive an order from Pall Mall. I got no order direct from the Tower.

671. The formal order would come from Pall Mall; but did not the previous negotiation and discussion about that order originate and take place with the authorities at the Tower?—I had no discussion, it was invariably done by writing; our house was written to as other people might be.

672. (*Chairman.*) By whom?—By Mr. Hodson or Mr. Stacey at the Tower to know in what time and at what price we would supply certain articles that were urgently required; we then stated our price and the time we would supply those things, and perhaps in two or three days afterwards we received an order from Pall Mall.

673. (*Mr. Turner.*) Although the order came from Pall Mall, did not the inquiries and previous negotiation take place with the authorities at the Tower? do not you know, although the formal order came from the authorities at Pall Mall, that the thing was virtually settled by the authorities at the Tower?—Certainly not. I do not know that.

674. (*Col. French.*) Were you on intimate terms with any gentleman at the Tower?—Yes.

675. Were you on intimate terms with Mr. Hodson?—No more than I used to be continually at the Tower backwards and forwards, upon matters of business, that was all.

676. Was your intimacy merely on matters of business?—With Mr. Hodson or Mr. Stacey.

677. Were you on intimate terms with any other gentleman at the Tower?—I knew Mr. Elliott from a boy.

678. Were you acquainted with Mr. King?—No, only casually, as I might be with Mr. Hodson, or any other officer about the Tower.

679. He never dined with you?—Never.

680. (*Mr. Turner.*) I will put a point blank question to you, and I expect you to answer it as if you were on your oath; did you, during the course of these contracts and these supplies to so large an amount to the Tower, give any commission, douceur, gratification, or benefit to any single individual connected with the Tower?—None whatever.

681. Neither in money nor in effects?—No.

682. Nor in goods?—No.

683. Nor in hospitality?—No.

684. Nor in presents?—No, I never made a present. I think I did send a turkey once at Christmas, without any one knowing who it came from. I believe that

was all the amount of my benevolence. I think upon one occasion I did do that.

685. (*Col. French.*) Did you ever give a play ticket to any gentleman at the Tower?—I had sent Mr. Elliott an order for the opera. I am an intimate friend of Mark Lemon, and he often sends me two or three in the course of the season when rather dull. I have certainly given them away.

686. (*Chairman.*) Do you still receive tickets of that kind?—Unfortunately there is no house open at present.

687. I have only pointed out three or four articles supplied by you under these contracts. Were not your supplies, in the great majority of instances, made without competition?—In several instances there were counter contracts. When a large demand was made one person would not take the whole; the next highest would be applied to.

688. Did you hear Mr. Stacey say that he never should have dreamt of employing you for a supply of socks?—I did.

689. Will you explain how you came to have that supply?—I was written to in the usual way, and perhaps I was the lowest; upon that very article I was something less, I think; the thing was completed, and we got about one per cent. for the transaction.

690. You were, as a matter of fact, the lowest; how did you know that there were any tenders before your contract was entered into?—I do not know it. I did it through an agent.

691. If so many of those articles were required in a great hurry, as you say they were, how is it that as to 49 out of them, if I am right in my calculation, no time is stated for the delivery?—To be delivered within a week, or sooner, if possible; sometimes earlier than that.

692. That would be a time stated?—That was the understanding I took the contracts upon. I cannot tell from memory. I had not the orders myself, but you can get them from the War Department.

693. I have endeavoured to abstract the return, and I find that for 49 out of the contracts no time is stated at which the supplies are to be delivered, and you had a much larger proportion of those contracts than any other person. How did it come to pass?—I cannot tell you; if you apply to the War Department, no doubt the time was stated when those contracts were sent to me. Most likely the time was stated; I should say so.

694. Do you wish to make any other observation?—I saw in *The Times* this morning that we received 10s. 7d. for shell jackets. I think there is a slight mistake; that shell jacket was a sort of stable or hip jacket, and was made six or seven inches longer than the shell jacket that we got 9s. for.

695. You appear to have had exactly the same price, within 1d., that was paid to Messrs. Gilpin and Co.?—Yes; in most of this clothing I do not suppose there is 5 per cent. difference between any of us.

696. Are you referring to red privates' shell jackets?—Yes; you must understand that the shell jacket quoted at 10s. 7d. was made six inches longer, which caused the difference of price between 9s. and 10s. 7d.

697. Were you an army contractor under the old system?—Yes.

698. I suppose you furnished the colonels?—We did to a large extent.

699. Has your business increased since the new system?—Yes.

700. How is that?—We found it impossible to go on under the old system; we got nothing to do, and we then took whatever we could in the way of contracts. I have been a practical man all my life, and I flatter myself that I know as much of my business as most people. I have been enabled to compete with other tradespeople.

701. Have you any objection to the principle of competition?—None whatever. I think I do better by it than I did before; there was a great deal of favouritism among the colonels. If a colonel died

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there was a race, almost of life and death, to see who should get the regiment.

702. Was that race amongst the contractors?—

Yes; the clothiers.

703. Did you ever run?—I have made some rapid strides, but I have generally been beaten.

704. You think that competition is fairer than the old system?—I think decidedly it is fairer; it is not so good for the tradesmen; you cannot keep a stock on hand, or anticipate what is coming to you. Formerly you could do so. If you sealed your patterns in April, you knew that you were secure of the regiment for the next year; you may employ a thousand men this week, and if the contract is finished a fortnight hence you may discharge all those men.

705. Do you use machinery at all?—No; not for clothing.

706. Have you ever tried it?—No; but I have heard that it is a failure; that you cannot turn out a garment complete. The fact is in cutting out a piece of cloth, if you put an immense number of them as the knife cuts down, the cloth will bulge, and you can

never be so sure of the cut. Leather is firm and offers a greater resistance; we use machinery to cut out leather.

707. On the whole, you prefer the present system to the former one?—Individually, I do; there is no question, as far as that goes, that five or six years' contracts would be a good thing; but you want a fair price settled in the first instance.

708. (*Mr. Turner.*) You would like an order for six years?—Yes; at a time that goods were dear.

709. (*Chairman.*) I wish you to look at the question, not solely from a contractor's point of view, but as regards the public?—I think, in the present state of things, we are doing much better than we ever did before; in the old system of inspection we were kept three months without getting scarcely an invoice returned.

710. What do you call the old system of inspection?—At the Tower our goods lay for three months without a report upon them, but now we generally get a return in a fortnight, and never over a month.

Mr. DILLON RICHARD BOYLAN examined.

*Mr.
D. R. Boylan.*

711. (*Chairman.*) Mr. Lardner stated on Monday last, at the Tower, that you had told him that a charge was about to be brought before the War Department or before the Contracts' Committee against Mr. Elliott, for having received commissions upon contracts entered into at the Tower. Did you give Mr. Lardner that information?—As I was not present to hear what Mr. Lardner said, perhaps you would allow the shorthand writer to read Mr. Lardner's evidence.

(Mr. Lardner's evidence was read.)

712. (*Mr. Turner.*) If that was not what you said to Mr. Lardner, what did you say to him?—I was coming down Pall Mall, and I saw Mr. Lardner standing at the Athenæum Club waiting to see a member of Parliament, "Boylan," he says, "are you here?" "Yes," said I; he said, "What are you doing here?" I said, "What are you doing here?" He said, "I want to see" so and so. Then we commenced a conversation about the inquiry, and I said "Things in the War Department are taking a very serious turn, and I think some of you gentlemen in the Tower will undergo a very close examination." "Why?" he says. I said, "Why, for instance, there are most extraordinary rumours with regard to Mr. Elliott. I have heard them in the corridor in the House of Commons. I have heard them in almost every place I went." Then I stated this, "Mr. Elliott is supposed to have received a very handsome present from a house at the west end, where he gave a large order of 160,000*l.*, at a much higher price than another house agreed to take the same order for." I further stated, that I had heard that one of the firm had purchased an estate either in Surrey or Sussex, for 40,000*l.*, and we parted on that. I did not consider it a private communication. I did not care whether he told it to Mr. Elliott or not, or that I was the author of it. I told him what I heard, and if you require me to exactly tell you who told me the circumstance, I will give you the name of Mr. Phillips, who transacts business for Messrs. Hebbert, who not only told me the circumstance, but absolutely opened his book and showed me the amount of the order given to Messrs. Almond and Company, and by what means he even got that 20,000*l.*, and under what circumstances.

713. What 20,000*l.*?—I will explain it to you. He showed me that he had got an order for 20,000*l.*, he said it was absolutely forced; that he was forced to give it, or otherwise Mr. Elliott would not have allowed it to be given to them. I said, "This is a very extraordinary thing, how is it he could do so?" "Why the fact is, Boylan," said he, "you have been a good deal in the Tower, and you have not been asleep, I think you know a good deal about what is going on in it; I will go up and

"give Mr. Elliott his proper character, and tell a good deal of what I know about him."

714. (*Chairman.*) Mr. Phillips said that?—Yes. I said, "How about this 20,000*l.* order?" He said, "The fact is, long before you came to the Tower Mr. Stacey was particularly engaged in the decoration of the new armoury. Mr. Hodson was deputy storekeeper, and Mr. Elliott was the amanuensis of, I believe, Mr. Hodson. He wrote most of his letters. He was very friendly with the family of Mr. Hodson and Mr. Stacey; I may say he reared Mr. Elliott, and was very much attached to him, and a great deal of the duties devolved upon Mr. Elliott. Mr. Hodson looked at the large amount of the order given to Mr. Almond." This is what Mr. Phillips said. I do not accuse Mr. Elliott of anything of the kind, I do not accuse anyone, I am stating candidly and truly what occurred and who I heard it from, and of course I vouch for the correctness of what I say. Mr. Hodson, when Mr. Phillips, I believe, applied a second time at the Tower to know would he not get some of this large investment that was going to be made, Mr. Hodson, he says, looked into it, and saw that he was giving a much higher price than what Messrs. Hebbert offered to do the business for; he got a little exasperated, and he said, "I will not sanction this conduct, the house must have an order of at least 20,000*l.*" Consequently I heard from Mr. Phillips that Messrs. Hebbert got an order for 20,000*l.*; I know no more whether they did or not than that lamp.

715. (*Chairman.*) For what things?—For much about the same things that Mr. Almond produces, miscellaneous things; and he also stated something about Mr. Elliott and young Mr. King receiving a ticket for the opera occasionally from Mr. Almond; I do not know whether they did or not.

716. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you suppose that the order was for 20,000 pairs of boots at 20*s.* a pair?—He showed me distinctly a book; I did not trouble my head in looking at it. He showed me the discrepancy between the two houses.

717. (*Chairman.*) Were you called upon to resign at the Tower?—I had an opportunity of resigning. I have the letter I wrote in explanation, and I have a copy of the very high character that Mr. Eaton sent of me; I was not dismissed.

718. If you wish to read that letter, do so?—The letter is dated the 31st of March 1858, and addressed to Colonel Dunne:—"Dear Sir,—Mr. D. R. Boylan, who has been engaged in this department as storehouse clerk, or storeholder, has requested me to communicate with you as to his conduct whilst so employed in the Tower, from October 1855 to the 25th inst." (That is a mistake; I entered the Tower in July 1855,

and left in March 1858.) “I beg, therefore, to inform you that he has been most zealous in the performance of his duties, regular in his attendance, and has also given me satisfaction. He has been compelled to resign his appointment, owing to pecuniary

“difficulties, which led to his arrest and imprisonment, besides being engaged in bill transactions with others, (who have also been obliged to resign,) contrary to the regulations of the War Department.”

TOWER.
Mr.
D. R. Boylan.
8 Dec. 1858.

Mr. CHARLES VERO examined.

719. (*Chairman.*) What is your firm?—Vero and Everett, hat manufacturers, Atherstone.

720. How long have you been in business?—I have been in business in England since 1854.

721. Where were you previously?—In Australia.

722. Had you been a hatter before 1854?—Yes, I was in business in England in 1851, as a hatter.

723. We understand that Messrs. Hebbert had a contract with the Metropolitan Police Commissioners for the supply of hats for the police; that was I think in September 1856?—Yes, for three years.

724. Did they make a sub-contract with you to furnish those hats?—Yes.

725. Have you any objection to state the terms of your contract?—I have not the contract here; but I have no objection to state the terms, except the price, as contract houses object to stating the price paid to manufacturers.

726. (*To Mr. King.*) Have you, representing Messrs. Hebbert, any objection to Mr. Vero mentioning the price of the hats?—He gave an estimate to Messrs. Hebbert at what he would supply the hats, and we gave his own price for them. I have no objection to his stating the price if you wish it; but it is rather unusual for a manufacturer to state the price paid by the contractor.

Mr. Vero.—Our contract price with Messrs. Hebbert and Co. was 8s. a hat nett.

727. (*To Mr. King.*) Was not Messrs. Hebbert's contract price 8s. 11d. to the Metropolitan Police Commissioners?—It was so.

728. (*To Mr. Vero.*) Were you to be responsible for the hats passing inspection?—Yes.

729. How many were you to furnish?—6,000 per annum, I believe, was the quantity, and all that we were called upon to supply besides; we were called upon for small supplies besides.

730. Any augmentations or deficiencies were also to be supplied?—Yes, at the same rate.

731. Was there anything in your contract with Messrs. Hebbert as to where or by whom the hats were to be inspected?—No.

732. Merely that they were to pass the inspection which the Metropolitan Police Commissioners should require?—Just so.

733. Did you complete the first year's supply on the 10th of March 1857?—Yes, excepting the augmentation, that was at the latter end of the year.

734. Had you any pattern by which to make them?—I had none supplied, no more than what I saw at Scotland Yard.

735. Before beginning your manufacture you went to Scotland Yard, did you?—Yes, and tendered to a hat lying there sealed for me to look at as a guide. I named our price on that hat to Messrs. Hebbert and Co.

736. (*Mr. Turner.*) You acknowledged the sealed pattern to be the standard to work by?—Yes.

737. (*Chairman.*) Had you a sealed pattern delivered to you to take down into the country to work by?—No.

738. You merely carried the semblance of the hat in your head?—Yes. I asked to be allowed to have it, and they would not allow it to be removed. I took the measure of the hat.

739. Did you only see one hat?—Only one hat.

740. Did you make any patterns for the first year's order before you sent up the whole 6,000?—I sent up the whole 6,000 without any patterns early in 1857.

741. Were they all passed?—Yes.

742. Do you know of your own knowledge by whom they were passed? they were passed at Scotland Yard,

we are told?—I heard so from Hebbert and Co.; I do not know by whom they were passed.

743. There were no rejections then?—No rejections the first year.

744. On the 9th of October 1857 did you receive instructions to furnish 313 hats for an augmentation of the police?—Yes; but previous to that they wished the pattern altered, so far as regarded shape, not quality, and we submitted four hats to be inspected both as to shape and quality for our guidance. We had the patterns passed before we sent up the 313.

745. You received instructions to forward hats on the 12th of October, and you sent up four hats to be compared?—Yes; we did not send the 313 till the 9th and 10th of November.

746. In consequence of that, did you send four hats to be compared with the sealed pattern?—Yes.

747. Have you the report?—That is a copy of the report from Mr. Charles Elliott, the superintendent of inspectors.

The same was read as follows:

“Inspection Branch, Military Store Office,
Tower, Oct. 20, 1857.

“I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, forwarding to this office four police hats, with the sealed pattern for comparison and report, and have to state that the Tower inspector having carefully examined the same, is of opinion that the two hats in boxes marked No. 1 and 2 are equal to the pattern in quality and make, and that the two hats in boxes No. 3 and 4, though nearly equal to pattern, are not so well dyed, nor so well blocked.

“The five hats received are returned herewith.

“I am, &c.

“CHARLES S. ELLIOT,
Superintendent of Inspectors.

“Captain W. Harris,

“Assistant Commissioner.”

748. When did you get that report?—On the 22nd of October.

749. When you received information on the 22nd of October that two, at least, of the four hats were equal to the sealed pattern, had you made or partially made the 313 hats?—At least 100 were in process of making before the report came.

750. Would you be able in the process of manufacture,—the hats having been begun before you received the pattern back, to make them according to the pattern?—Yes, every one of the 313 hats was made, the same as the pattern No. 1 and 2.

751. (*Mr. Turner.*) The report says that two of the hats were not well dyed and blocked; are not those defects that can be easily remedied at the latter part of the manufacture?—Yes; they were the first four done, consequently the men had not got into the work as well.

752. (*Chairman.*) You sent in 313, and on the 28th of December I believe you had notice that they were rejected?—Yes; after we had got the 6,000 in process of making, when we received the order for the 313, they said those were wanted for men who had no hats to wear, and they never reported till after we had got the 6,000 made.

753. Were there two lots of 313?—313 were sent in immediately after the first 313 were rejected. My dates relate to the first 313, not to the second.

754. Are the dates that you have given correct?—My dates are correct, with only an intervening post from Messrs. Hebbert down to us.

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755. Do you know where the hats were examined ?
—No, I do not.

Mr. C. Vero.

(Mr. King.) The first 313 hats were examined at Scotland Yard by the Tower inspector.

8 Dec. 1858.

756. (Chairman.) Did you send up another 313 ?—Messrs. Hebbert sent in 313 out of the 1858 supply out of 2,000 which we had delivered to them at that time. The first 313 were sent back to Hebbert and Co., damaged and used in the most disgraceful manner.

757. (To Mr. King.) Have you an inspection note of the first 313, with the causes of rejection ?—I think I have (*the same was put in*).

758. (Chairman.) This document purports to be an inspection note, dated the 7th of January, (the hats having been rejected on the 1st of January at the Tower,) for 313 metropolitan hats, furnished by Hebbert and Co., all rejected, the reason for rejection being "weak and inferior bodies, bad colour, linings "badly put in, in every respect inferior to the established sealed pattern?"—As soon as Messrs. Hebbert and Co. furnished me with a copy of that inspection note, I immediately called for the opinion of two manufacturers in London, who were practical men, and I have also the certificate of twenty-six of our workmen, all of which were sent to J. Wray, Esq., the Receiver of police, begging an appeal against that decision, because I was confident it was wrong. There is the opinion of Mr. Benjamin Wilson and Mr. Hayes (*handing in a paper*).

759. (Chairman to Mr. Elliott.) Can you undertake to say that the first lot of 313 hats inspected at Scotland Yard were never at the Tower at all ?—They never were at the Tower at all, unless they were the same hats that were delivered on the 1st of January ; we had no means of identifying them.

760. (To Mr. Vero.) You sent in those documents and asked for an appeal ?—Yes.

761. I believe there has been a long correspondence, and that you have had various interviews with the Home Secretary ?—Yes.

762. What was the result ?—It was verbally promised to Hebbert and Co., on our behalf, before we started on these hats,—in order that we might not involve ourselves, as it was a matter of the most vital importance to us,—that 500 or 600 hats should be examined as they were made.

763. Who promised that ?—One of the Assistant Commissioners, Captain Harris ; because if we did these hats wrong, and got them rejected, it was a matter of ruin to us ; the consequence was, that we had no inducement to make them wrong knowingly, but the contrary. This promise was not kept, and they would not inspect one hat till we could force them by the terms of the contract.

764. Who would not ?—Not the Tower inspector.

765. Why do you say that ?—They would not receive one of the 1858 supply till after the 2nd of February.

766. How do you know that ?—They were requested to do so by Hebbert and Co., on our behalf.

767. How do you know that ?—Hebbert and Co. told me so ; they would not receive them at the Tower at all, any of them, but the promise was made to us previously to starting with the order.

768. By whom ?—It was made to Messrs. Hebbert by Captain Harris.

769. What power has a Police Commissioner to give a promise that hats shall be inspected by the Tower inspectors ?—That promise induced me to go on with the hats ; I would not have gone on with them otherwise.

770. Did you expect them to be inspected at Scotland Yard ?—I did not know whether they would be inspected at Scotland Yard, but I expected they would be inspected, before we had the 6000 made, to guide us ; if that had been done, it would not have ruined us.

771. (Chairman to Mr. King.) Had your house any promise from the Commissioners of Police that a portion of the hats should be inspected as they came up, as a guide for the manufacture of the rest of

them ?—I am not quite sure that we had ; there might possibly be a conversation that we should get on with them and send them in. It did not take any official shape ; our contract was to deliver the hats at a specified time. I suppose none of the authorities would have taken them much before that time, because they had nowhere to place them until the time of issue, and they would take up a great space. I do not remember that promise ; we were authorized to send in four hats to the Commissioners.

772. Not the four, but the 600 ?—Prior to the augmentation of 313, four hats were sent up to the Commissioners, and the Commissioners sent them down to the Tower.

773. Mr. Vero is under the impression received from you, that a promise was given to you or your house by the Commissioners of Police, that the 600 should be inspected as they came in. Was any such promise made ?—I cannot charge my memory at the present moment that that was the case.

774. (To Mr. Vero.) Have you that second report of the 10th of February, which rejected 1,700 of the hats ?—No. After the first 313 were rejected, inasmuch as they were taken out of the supply made for 1858, I asked to be allowed to witness the inspection, so that I might see how they were inspected. Mr. Ince, a manufacturer from Birmingham, accompanied me to the Tower, to ask Superintendent Elliott to allow me to witness it. He said I might witness it in his presence. I thanked him for that permission, and went, I think, on the 6th of February to see the hats inspected, in conjunction with Mr. Crocker from Hebbert and Co's. When I saw the inspectors commence handling the hats I said, "How many have you inspected ?" They said, "600." "And how many have you passed ?" and they said "None." I said, "Will you please to go on with the inspection, and let me see how you inspect them ?" And they commenced handling the hats in a manner that no hatter would handle them in, or touch them. I asked them a few questions, with a view to elicit if they knew anything of hatting ; they avoided all my questions, and merely put a hat in my hand after they had broken it, to ask me whether I thought that would do for a policeman. I said "No, I do not think it would do for a policeman at all, because you have broken the hat. I do not profess to make hats that cannot be broken, and if you try the sealed pattern the same as you try my hats, you will see it will break the same." They still kept on breaking the hats.

775. Just show how it was done ?—It is not necessary to destroy a hat in order to test its value. Instead of going round the hat, they started in this way ; by doubling the sides up with their thumbs ; they broke the hat all round and rejected it. The principal ingredient is shellac, which is the same as sealing wax, and we do not expect sealing wax to bend. I wanted them to try the sealed pattern in the same way ; they refused to do that ; they would not serve the sealed pattern the same. I said, "Will you allow me to see the sealed pattern ?" and they handed it over to me. I never saw the hat before that they were inspecting our hats by. Our hats were not inspected by the hat to which I tendered. I could not bear to see my hats treated in this way, and I said to Mr. Crocker, "I must turn round, for if these men go on in that way I cannot keep my hands off them." He said, "Then you had better come out." I said, "You write and withdraw the hats at once." Only 600 were inspected, and Messrs. Hebbert wrote and asked for an appeal. The contrary to what we desired, they went through the 1,700, and served them all alike. If they had left two lots, and the matter had gone before any practical man, they would have seen the destruction that had taken place in those that were inspected compared with those which were not inspected, but they served all alike in order to prevent us having any remedy.

776. (Col. French.) Do you mean to say that they destroyed the whole of the hats ?—They broke nearly

the whole of them, and they are now lying in Hebbert and Co.'s warehouses broken. The fact of the case was we could get no redress, and it proved our ruin; we were forced to pay a composition; that was the result of the matter to us.

777. Did they try the sealed patterns in the same way?—No; and they did not inspect by the hat by which I tendered; they had not got it at the Tower.

778. I understood the viewer to state that he had tried the sealed pattern in the same manner as he tried yours?—He did not, he refused to do it, and there was neither of the Tower viewers that were haters; they knew nothing of the trade.

779. Are any of those hats in existence now?—I have got the two that were sealed for our guidance, and the remainder of the supply; and I am willing to submit them to any practical man in the world to see whether I am right. Hebbert and Co. had them sealed for our guidance, and they had also the supply sent up for 1858.

780. (*Chairman.*) How do you know that the sealed pattern that you saw at Scotland Yard was not the sealed pattern by which your hats were inspected?—Because it did not bear the same date, and was a black hat; the hat I tendered to had lost all colour from its age; it was wider in the brim, and higher in the crown.

781. Were the hats which you delivered, and which were rejected at the Tower, as good, or better, or worse than the hats that were passed at Scotland Yard for 1857?—Better.

782. How was it that they were better?—Because our contractors compelled us in every way to keep to the old sealed pattern, which was wider in the brim, and taller in the crown.

783. You had not got the sealed pattern?—I had the dimensions, as to its size; the brim was much wider, causing a greater leverage when the hat was taken on and off. Policemen's hats being weighted so much at the top, it tries the hat in the brim, and causes it to separate.

784. Had you any complaint of the hats supplied in 1857?—Yes, at the latter end of the year. I went through the entire force, and remedied the defects free of expense to the force. I substituted new hats for all that did not give satisfaction, doing the old ones up. In conjunction with the foreman of Hebbert and Co., I went through all the divisions to see the men of the Metropolitan police, and then found the same as when we sent up to fit the men, that there was a great prejudice existing against us as country manufacturers from the men in the force. The prejudice arose in this way;—the men stated that they had the privilege under the old contractors of taking their old hat back and giving half-a-crown, receiving a plain silk hat. As I was 100 miles away, I could not do that; if I could have taken the new hat back, and half-a-crown, and given them a plain silk hat, they would have been satisfied; as I could not do so, they did not use our hats well.

785. Do you really think that the 6,000 men in the force were prejudiced against you?—Decidedly not; all the 6,000 did not complain.

786. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you mean to say that the policemen wanted to change their police hats, upon which their heads depend for safety, for silk hats?—As soon as they had their hats issued out they were in the habit of going to the contractor with the new police hat and half-a-crown, receiving in exchange a silk hat.

787. (*Chairman.*) Who told you that?—Policemen themselves, not by ones or twos, but by scores.

788. (*Mr. Turner.*) Would a policeman be allowed to appear on duty without his proper dress?—They used to have an extra hat, especially if they had been a length of time in the force.

789. (*Col. French.*) What could the contractor do with the hats?—Send them in another year.

790. Would the men do the same the next year?—Not the same men. The men had to keep a hat to

wear, so that they only did it by saving a hat once in three years.

791. (*Mr. Turner.*) How often has a policeman a new hat?—Once a year.

792. Do you think a policeman can make a hat wear for more than a year, so as to sell his new one for a silk hat?—They can make two hats last three years, and get a plain silk hat once in every three years, so that you might save according to the proportion that came to our man to change, one issue in three years. The contractor gave them a hat worth about 5s., and received 2s. 6d., and got about 100 per cent. out of it. That we could not do, because we were 100 miles in the country.

793. Did the policeman sell the silk hat?—Yes, or wear it in undress; therefore, the policeman preferred the original contractor.

794. That might be remedied by allowing two hats for three years?—I do not know the remedy, but that is the disease. The policemen's hats this year are the best that ever were supplied to the Metropolitan police.

A Policeman's hat was produced.

795. Is there any iron in a policeman's hat?—No, there is leather on the top; the felt is immediately underneath with no nap on.

796. Is it strong at the top?—It is strong felt, and robbed round, as we term it.

797. What is this rim?—That is cane stitched inside.

798. This hat really would not bear much of a blow from a cudgel, would it?—It is no better, but worse for having that on the top; the reason why the hats of 1858 are better, is because stuff, in consequence of the panic last year, fell about 50 per cent. in price; what we call stuff, which is the principal ingredient used in hat making, is fur off rabbits, wool, neuter, and beaver skins. Messrs. Christy and Company, the contractors now, took advantage of that, and in order to give more satisfaction when we were kicked out, made better things than we could do at the same price.

799. (*Chairman.*) Will you read that letter from Sir Richard Mayne?

The same was read as follows:

"Metropolitan Police-office,
"Sir, "Whitehall-place, December 7, 1858.
"I HAVE to acquaint you, in reference to the
"inquiries in your letter of the 6th instant to In-
"spector Griffin, that the hats supplied by the con-
"tractors for the Metropolitan police for the year 1857
"were much inferior to those for the previous year,
"1856, and also to those supplied for the present
"year.

"I am, &c.
"H. S. Selfe, Esq." "RICHARD MAYNE."

(*Witness.*) They forced us to keep to the original sealed pattern, which that contractor did not: he took a latitude which our contractors, Messrs. Hebbert, would not allow us, otherwise they might have got into the same mess that we did. The complaints were only to a limited extent, and we remedied them free of expense to the force at a loss of nearly 300l. to ourselves.

(*Mr. Turner.*) I think it was the duty of the Tower inspector to have inspected the hats by the sealed pattern that the order was given by, and not some pattern of their own. The order should not have been given by one pattern, and the hats inspected by another.

(*Mr. Elliott.*) The sealed pattern hat sent to the Tower was furnished by the Commissioners of police for the inspector's guidance in the examination of Messrs. Hebbert's supply.

800. Have those hats been compared with the sealed pattern by which the order was given?—I have no reason to believe, nor do I believe, that there are two pattern hats. I believe the hat sent down to the Tower was the sealed pattern hat upon which

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Messrs. Hebbert's contract was based. It was not a new hat. It has been the pattern hat for many years.

Mr. C. Vero.

801. Mr. Vero says that it was not the same?—We merely acted upon the authority of the Commissioners; the sealed pattern hat is not kept at the Tower.

802. (*Chairman.*) Have you any pattern of police hats at the Tower?—No; it is in the custody of the Police Commissioners and furnished to the Tower inspectors from time to time when a supply takes place.

803. You have only at the Tower one hat as a pattern by which to inspect the supply?—We have only had one hat for several years past.

804. Is it sent back after inspection?—I am informed that the hat is still at the Tower.

(*Mr. Vero.*) The hats No. 1 and No. 2 were sealed for our guidance, and the supply was the same as those passed for our guidance. We never deviated in one shape or another, as all our men could make an affidavit; they are now scattered about all over the kingdom.

805. The defects alleged are that the bodies of the hats are weak and inferior, that they are a bad colour, badly felted, thinly napped, and are not well finished?—The Tower inspectors are not practical men, or they would not have handled the hats as they did. If I had known that I should have been subjected to the ordeal of an inspection by incompetent men, I would not have made 6,000 hats.

806. With the exception of 1857, whether your hats were worse than they had been before or not, the Tower inspector always inspected the hats. Are you aware of that?—Yes; formerly the contractor was allowed two men at the Tower. Although Mr. Elliott said no one was there, they had two men, one to unpaper the hats and the other to paper them up.

807. Who were they?—Henry Wharton is the name of one who has been at the Tower several times; another is a young fellow by the name of Marshall, who is now in the Middlesex militia, and another I have the address of at the east end.

808. *Mr. Turner (to Mr. Fessey.)* Is that hat still at the Tower by which Mr. Vero's supply was inspected?—Yes.

809. (*To Mr. Vero.*) As you measured the hat which was exhibited to you when you took the order, if that hat is brought here from the Tower could you positively say whether it was the same hat or not that was exhibited to you when you took the order?—I could at once; I could tell in a moment.

810. (*Col. French.*) Have you the measure of the hat with you?—I have it in a pocket-book at home. The most conclusive evidence, as far as evidence can go, is that it was dated 1850, and had no colour, the black had evaporated entirely and turned a rusty brown. The hat could not have been re-dyed in the shape it was in, and the hat that they inspected our hats by at the Tower had its colour good; the hat I tendered to had no colour at all.

811. (*Chairman.*) Was that why you made them a bad colour?—I deny that; they are a good colour now.

812. If you tendered to a bad coloured hat you have a right to say "I was not bound to make my hat a better colour than the pattern I had submitted to me"?—If I had made them the colour of the hat I tendered to, I should have made them of the colour of mahogany; I made them a better black than the one at the Tower now.

813. How many hats did you make?—6,000.

814. What became of the remainder?—3,000 are lying at Messrs. Hebbert's now. I was in expectation of getting an appeal.

815. Cannot the hats be made available for the country police force?—I furnished about 300 to the Bristol force in the May of this year, and they have given very good satisfaction; I was sub-contractor. W. F. Shepherd, who is a hat manufacturer at Bristol,

was the person that furnished them. I wrote to him as to how they were going on and he replied that he had made inquiries, and they were giving full satisfaction.

816. You have not merely the opinion of the Tower inspector, but that of Sir Richard Mayne against you?—That refers to the first year, which has nothing to do with our grievance. Supposing our hats were wrong in the first year, I do not see why they should throw ours the next year, which were all right, overboard.

817. If the hats of 1857 were bad and inspected at Scotland-yard, it seems a sufficient reason for having a more rigid inspection at the Tower or elsewhere. If the Tower inspectors had passed the 1857 hats, which you say were not so good as the 1858, then it would be a strong argument to show that their decisions were inconsistent, but the first inspection was by different persons?—Whether the inspectors pronounced for or against us, their decision was alike valuable. They did not know anything about hats, not sufficient to judge. In the manufacture of those hats there are four distinct trades, to which each man has to serve seven years. Those old stuff hats are a very limited manufacture, and it requires a very good judge to tell what the positive proportions are in the body when the hat is thoroughly made up. When I was at the Tower they gave a hat to me, and said they did not think it was so good in the body as the sealed pattern. I said, "You are the first man that I ever saw catch hold of a hat, and look at the outside to see what the body is. You ought to look at the inside to know what the body is."

818. (*Mr. Turner.*) Were the persons who inspected your hats at the Tower hatters, or had they any knowledge of the hatting trade?—I believe not.

819. (*To Mr. Fessey.*) Have you had any experience in the hatting trade?—I am not a hatter, but I have handled, I may say, 50,000 police hats, both for the Metropolitan police, for the Suburban police, and for the Railway police.

820. Did you use them all in the savage way in which you seem to have treated Mr. Vero's hats?—I did not use them in a savage way.

(*Mr. Vero.*) Mr. Crocker stood by, and saw them used in that way as well as I did.

(*Mr. Fessey.*) I had no interest in the matter. I should quite as soon this gentleman's hats had passed if they had been equal to pattern as any one else's.

821. (*Chairman.*) You denied yesterday any undue violence to the hats?—No violence whatever was used. I never drove them up as Mr. Vero says; and I looked inside to see the quality the body was made of. I also tried the hat to see the length of the nap, whether it was well napped.

(*Mr. Vero.*) It requires a good knowledge of the different stages of the manufacture to judge of a hat. They did not know the first stages at all. A man may look at a hat, and think from its appearance it is all right, but if he does not know what is employed in its manufacture, and how it should be done, he cannot tell whether it is a proper hat. In the first 313 they rejected, one of the reasons of rejection was, that the hats were made of felt instead of stuff. Now felting is an operation, and not a material, so that nobody but the most ignorant man would have made such an observation.

822. (*Col. French.*) Can you produce some of the hats that went through inspection?—I have no doubt I can, and the two hats that were sealed for our guidance.

823. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are the hats totally ruined?—The 1,700 are unfit to be issued till they have gone through the men's hands again, and have been re-stiffened in the inside where they are broken.

824. Were they broken from the treatment that they received at the Tower?—Yes. If I could have bribed the men at the Tower I would have done so, but I had not an opportunity.

Mr. ARTHUR CROCKER examined.

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825. (*Chairman*). You are in the house of Messrs. Hebbert and Company?—Yes.

826. That house tendered for a supply of hats to the Metropolitan police?—Yes.

827. Do you know that the amount of your tender was 1*d.* less than Messrs. Christy's?—I have heard so.

828. And that the Receiver of the police recommended that Messrs. Christy's supply should be received, they having served the police for twelve years previously; but the Secretary of State for the Home Department thought that the lowest tender should be accepted?—Yes.

829. Had you any complaints about the hats in 1857?—Yes; we had certain complaints, which we remedied.

830. How can you remedy a defect in a hat? You can supply another after it has been worn?—We supplied others for those that had lost their colour; we supplied new ones.

831. To what extent?—To about the value of 300*l.*

832. As many as 600 or 700 hats?—No, not so many as that; the whole of the expense we were put to on the hats was about 300*l.* Some of them were for colour; some few had gone soft in the brim.

833. Then that contract was not a very good one for your house?—So far as that went we threw all those expenses upon the sub-contractor.

834. Were you present at the inspection when Mr. Vero went to the Tower?—Yes.

835. Were you present at the previous inspection at Scotland Yard?—I was not.

836. Do you know whether the pattern at Scotland Yard, by which the contract was made, was the same pattern that was sent to the Tower for inspection?—I did not notice it; there are generally duplicate patterns of everything belonging to the police; there might have been two hats. At the time we had the contract we applied to the Commissioners for a duplicate hat to make the supply by. They said that Messrs. Christy were then making a supply for an augmentation of 400 men, and we could not have it, so that we went on without it.

837. What could you go on by?—Mr. Vero understands his business, and he had taken every particular of the hat; he felt confident in going on without the pattern.

838. Is it not more difficult to work from recollection of a hat, than with a hat before you?—I should presume so.

839. Had you anything to do with the four hats sent up by way of specimens? Were any of them sealed?—Two of them were sealed after they came back from the inspection at the Tower by one of the Commissioners, with his private seal.

840. Were they sent down to Messrs. Vero by way of guide?—We sent them down.

841. Are you aware, with respect to Tower inspection, that though the contractor may have the duplicate sealed pattern for his assistance, there is a printed notice that the examination will be by the original sealed pattern retained at the Tower?—Yes; but our contract was not under those provisions; it was with the Metropolitan Commissioners of Police.

842. So that the Tower people would not be responsible for duplicates sealed by the Commissioners of Police; they had to examine the hats by the original sealed pattern?—Yes.

843. You have heard what Mr. Vero says of the inspection that you saw this year; he seems to think that his hats were subjected to unnecessary roughness; is that your opinion?—I do not understand sufficiently the nature of felt hats, nor the proofing of them, to know that they would be damaged by the manner in which they were treated. Mr. Vero did make the observation at the time to the inspectors, and told them point blank that every hat they touched in that way was spoilt. I have no means of judging

of it, because I do not pretend to any opinion on felt hats; they are a peculiar manufacture.

844. I should have thought you could have seen whether undue violence was used to a hat; would you have liked to have your own hat treated so?—Certainly not.

(*Mr. Vero.*) They would not treat the sealed patterns so, although I asked them to do it.

845. (*To Mr. Crocker.*) Mr. Vero appeals to you to confirm his testimony that the hats were used with unnecessary roughness; do you decline to give an opinion upon that point?—Certainly at the time I did side with him, and agree that they were used roughly; but I did not interfere much, because taking Mr. Vero to see the inspection was a satisfaction that was due to him. We took him to Mr. Elliott, and he allowed him to see how the inspection by the viewers went on. I did not interfere much with it, but left Mr. Vero to state his own case.

846. Did not your house apply for an appeal, Mr. Vero being the substantial party interested, and your house being the nominal party?—We did.

847. Why did not you get it?—We do not know; we made every exertion we possibly could.

848. Did you really make every exertion?—We did.

849. Did you withdraw your application?—Certainly not for the appeal; we cancelled the contract, because we were told if we did not cancel it at once, we should have to pay a fine of 500*l.*, so that we thought the best thing we could do was to cancel the contract, and save any more expense.

850. The contract might be cancelled as regards the future, but did not you withdraw the appeal for other reasons?—There was no other reason; we sent a public letter withdrawing the contract, and we stated our reasons in that letter.

851. What were your reasons?—The particular reason at the time I know was the fine hanging over us to the amount of 500*l.*

852. Did not you withdraw the appeal because it was a sort of compromise?—No; we have never withdrawn the appeal.

853. Was not this stated to you, "if in the end you are wrong, you will be subject to the enforcement of a fine, but we are willing to give you an appeal?"—Certainly not; we had no hopes held out to us in any way of appeal, we applied several times, we pursued it many times afterwards, but we could never get an appeal.

854. (*To Mr. Vero.*) Have you ever understood why the appeal was withdrawn?—I did not know it was withdrawn. I knew of no reason, unless Hebbert and Co. withdrew the appeal, knowing that if the rejection was final it would ruin us, and the 500*l.* would be levied upon them.

855. If you could have got an appeal, and had proved that you were right, no fine would have been levied?—I went to the Secretary of State, Sir George Grey, and to the Under Secretary of State, under the present administration, but we could get no appeal at all in any form. Mr. Dugdale, Mr. Spooner, Mr. Bracebridge, and Mr. Scholefield interested themselves a good deal, and so did Mr. Newdegate, on my behalf.

856. One of the gentlemen you name has written to me about this matter. Did you bring, or prepare to bring any action against Messrs. Hebbert about this matter?—We did at one time.

857. Was it compromised?—It was compromised between us and Hebbert and Co.

858. Are you now making things for Messrs. Hebbert?—Not now. We were before the army trade took a turn. So far as the caps were concerned they have stopped our supplies; and we have been making nothing for them for several weeks.

859. Have you been making other things for them?—Yes. This last year, since the rejection took place,

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we have made a good many things. We have made several patterns for the Indian army.

(Mr. King.) Mr. Vero has made considerable supplies for us within the last six weeks or two months.

860. (Chairman to Mr. Vero.) Was it a portion of the compromise of the action that you brought that you should be employed by Hebbert and Co.?—Not

specially, that I am aware of. They said to me, "You are injured in this matter; it is a bad thing for you, but it is no use our going to law, for it will be only making bad worse." We did a very considerable trade with Hebbert and Co. previous to doing the police hats, and we have gone on the same with them since.

Police Const.
H. Brown.

Police Constable HENRY BROWN, 81 A, examined.

861. (Chairman.) How long have you been in the force?—Very nearly thirteen years.

862. How many hats do you get in a year?—One.

863. Have you ever been able to make two hats do duty for three years?—Never.

864. Have you ever disposed of a new hat?—No.

865. Do you know whether such a thing is ever done?—I have heard of its being done.

866. If a man can make two hats wear for three years, is he allowed to dispose of the new hat?—It is not the last issue that he could dispose of, but sometimes the men employed in private clothes who do not wear the uniform hat will get a new one issued to them when the last one is nearly new; they keep the one that is issued and sell the former sometimes, or exchange it.

867. Have your hats generally been good?—Very good generally.

868. Have you noticed in any particular year that your hat was better or worse than in another year?—The hat was very bad last year.

869. In what respect was it bad last year?—It changed colour; the brims broke down in places; the colour instead of keeping black turned quite brown.

870. Are you speaking of your own experience?—My own hat; I had two hats last year myself.

871. Because one of them failed?—Because one was getting bad. I went to the store and asked the storekeeper if he would give me a better hat, that mine was getting very bad; and he exchanged it, and gave me another hat.

872. Have you any means of knowing, from your acquaintance with other policemen, whether that inferiority was general last year?—No, I have not.

873. Did you know who the maker was, or where the hats came from?—No, I did not, we had them issued from Messrs. Hebbert's in Pall Mall East.

874. Had you any objection to receiving them at Messrs. Hebbert's?—None.

875. If you get a good hat, I presume you do not care where it comes from?—It makes no difference to me where I receive it.

876. It has been suggested that it may make a difference, because you might dispose of the new hat if you could make two hats last three years. Except in the case of detectives and private clothesmen, can two policemen's hats last three years?—Certainly not.

(Mr. Vero.) Several hundreds came to Hebbert and Co., bringing their new hats to change in the way they had to Messrs. Christy.

877. (Chairman to Mr. King.) How many men came to you, so far as you know?—I really could not say. Mr. Vero sent a man up from the country to attend to the fitting of the hats when they were delivered. Some of the men came to the stores to bring their hats, and have another one that would fit properly, and many of the men wanted to deliver in their new uniform hat which had been delivered to them for that year, and have a silk hat, as they had been in the habit of doing for many years previously by the late contractors; we did not do that; we had no hats that we could give to make the change.

878. Mr. Vero says, that hundreds came to you and wanted to change their hats. Is that the case?—Mr. Vero went round with our foreman in the year 1857, when the complaints were being made about the wearing of the hats, and I believe that many applications of that sort were made.

879. Mr. Vero says that hundreds of men came to Pall Mall, and asked to sell their hats. Can you confirm that statement; and if so, to what extent?—I cannot say to what extent it has been done. I told the Commissioners of Police of it, and I believe it was the intention of Captain Harris to prevent the possibility of such a thing in future.

(Mr. Fessey.) Every hat before it is issued has the year of its issue marked in it.

Adjourned to To-morrow at Twelve o'clock.

TOWER.

London, Thursday, 9th December 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. CHARLES VERO further examined.

880. (Chairman.) Do you wish to add anything to your evidence of yesterday?—I have brought the man with me who was employed on behalf of Messrs. Hebbert and Company, to fit the Metropolitan policemen with hats, and he can substantiate what I said yesterday as to a quantity of hats being brought back to be changed for plain silk hats. Messrs. Hebbert, through their clerks, ordered a lot of plain hats to do as the former contractor had done; they supplied from 60 to 100 plain silk hats in the way the former contractors used to do before the house discovered it. Immediately the house discovered it, they stopped the system at once. The man is here who inspected the police hats previous to their going into the Metro-

politan police on behalf of the house of Messrs. Hebbert and Company, before they went to the Tower viewers.

881. You say that the system was, if a policeman had a sufficiently good police hat he disposed of his new one by giving it back to the contractor with half a crown, getting in lieu thereof a plain silk hat?—Yes, but not always half a crown; the sum varied according to the quality of the hat that he wished to substitute. I have brought the hats that were sealed for our guidance, and a specimen of the hats that were broken by the Tower viewers through the ill-treatment to which they were subjected, and also the hats which they said were inspected, but which never

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were unpapered or looked at at all, but were rejected without being examined. Mr. King stood by while the crates were unpacked.

882. In the first place, where is the pattern hat of 1857?—(Mr. Elliott.) This is the hat furnished by the Commissioners; it is dated 1850 (*producing the same*).

883. Is this the pattern hat of 1857?—Yes, it came from the Commissioners of Police, and I have brought it from the Tower.

Mr. JOHN WILSON BRIGGS examined.

886. (*Chairman.*) Are you storekeeper to the Police Commissioners?—The Police store is under the control of the Receiver of Police; I am his storekeeper.

887. Have you the custody of the specimen hats?—I have.

888. In 1857 an inspection of police hats took place at Scotland Yard, did not it?—At Messrs. Hebbert's house.

889. By your inspectors, and not by the Tower inspectors?—Yes.

890. Who were your inspectors?—Mr. Wray, Captain Harris, Superintendent Walker, Superintendent Mallalieu, and myself.

891. Five civilian inspectors?—Yes.

892. By what did you compare the supply of 1857?—By the sealed pattern hat.

893. Where is that hat?—I should judge that to be it (*the pattern hat produced by Mr. Elliott*).

894. Did you compare the goods supplied with the same hat as that by which Mr. Vero took his contract?—The same hat.

895. Is that the hat?—I believe it to be; there is a date on the parchment.

896. Have you more than one pattern hat?—No.

897. (*To Mr. Vero.*) Where did you see the pattern hat?—I saw one pattern hat at Scotland Yard, and one at the Tower.

898. One in 1857 and one in 1858?—Yes; I never saw the one at the Tower till I made the supply for 1858.

899. You saw the sealed pattern at Scotland Yard before you supplied any hats at all?—Yes.

900. Is that it (*handing the pattern hat to the witness*)?—No; that is not the pattern hat to which I tendered.

901. Have you your measurement here?—No. I stated that the principal thing I relied on for identifying the hat to which I tendered was that it was dated on the parchment 1850, and also that it had lost all colour and was a brown hat. This is a black hat. It is impossible to make a brown hat black without re-dyeing it; it could not be finished.

902. (*To Mr. Briggs.*) You hear what Mr. Vero says, that the hat he tendered to was a hat dated 1850?—That is the sealed pattern hat, and no other.

903. Had you another sealed pattern hat in 1857 bearing the date of 1850?—No.

904. Are you sure of that?—I am quite sure of it.

905. How long have you been storekeeper?—Since April 1855.

906. Do you remember seeing Mr. Vero when he came up to inspect the pattern hat?—Yes, and in 1856.

907. Were you the person who brought him the hat?—Yes.

908. Are you quite sure of that?—Yes.

909. Had you in your store in 1856, when Mr. Vero came to look at the pattern hat, any other hat excepting this?—None.

910. Are you sure of that?—Quite sure. This is the sealed pattern.

911. This was first used in 1851, I presume?—Yes.

912. Was not there another pattern hat before this was used?—There would be.

913. Was that destroyed, or what became of it?—I do not know what became of it.

914. Have you looked to see whether there is any other pattern hat at Scotland Yard now?—No; I do not believe there is such a thing there.

884. (*To Mr. Vero.*) You say that the pattern hat for the supply of 1857, was not the same as the pattern hat of 1858, by which the inspection took place at Scotland Yard?—I say the pattern hat at the Tower was not the hat to which I tendered.

885. Where is the hat to which you tendered?—I never saw that hat again; I can tell it in a moment when I see it.

(*Mr. Vero.*) It was always usual for the contractor to have one hat lying at his place, and there was one lying at Scotland Yard. I believe that to be the hat that was lying at Christy and Company's, because when we applied for the pattern hat, to make the supply by, they stated that the pattern hat was then lying at Christy and Company's, as there was a quantity of hats being made for the augmentation, and we could not have it. I am quite confident that the hat to which I tendered had no colour at all, whatever may be said.

915. This hat has 1850 upon it?—Yes.

916. (*To Mr. Briggs.*) Where did you bring that hat from?—Mr. Elliott brought it from the Tower, I believe.

917. Where is the pattern hat for 1857?—There is only one pattern.

918. What is the meaning of 1851, 1852, and 1853 on this hat?—Messrs. Christy entered into a contract for three years, 1851, 1852, and 1853.

919. Are you prepared to swear, if necessary, that there was no other pattern hat in 1850 at Scotland Yard for the Metropolitan police hats than this?—I am not quite prepared to swear that.

(*Mr. Vero.*) I will swear that that is not the hat I tendered to, and that I never saw that hat till I saw it at the Tower.

920. (*To Mr. Briggs.*) You have heard what Mr. Vero says—that he was told that Messrs. Christy, or whoever had the previous contract had a pattern hat?—Messrs. Christy had not the sealed pattern.

921. Are the patterns sealed in duplicate?—No.

(*Mr. Vero.*) Messrs. Hebbert and Company's people can corroborate what I say; they applied to the authorities, and they said that the hat was lying at Messrs. Christy and Company's.

922. (*To Mr. Briggs.*) Did you send this hat to the Tower to guide the inspectors at the Tower in the inspection of 1858?—Yes.

923. Is this the only hat they ever had?—Yes.

924. (*Colonel French to Mr. Vero.*) As you rely upon the colour more than anything else, might you not be mistaken, owing to the difference of light?—No; I could tell whether it was the right colour at once practically.

925. (*Chairman to Mr. Briggs.*) As far as you know, was there any other sealed pattern than this?—No.

926. Is it customary with the Metropolitan police contracts to keep the pattern in duplicate?—For clothing—it is not for hats.

927. Messrs. Christy had a contract for three years, 1851, 1852, and 1853?—Yes.

928. And the following three years, 1854 to 1856 inclusive?—Yes.

929. During those six years of Messrs. Christy's supply, were the hats inspected at the Tower?—They were.

930. And inspected by this pattern, you say?—Yes, inspected by that pattern.

931. Was this pattern kept at the Tower, or was it returned from the Tower after the inspection had taken place?—It was returned from the Tower to me.

932. In 1857 we understand that Lord Panmure or the War authorities declined to allow the Tower viewers to view the hats?—Quite so.

933. Was there then a renewal of the contract by open competition?—Yes.

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934. Did Messrs. Christy tender?—Yes.

935. Do you remember the amount of their tender?

—Mr. Wray can give you that information.

936. The main points are, whether hats have ever been ill-treated, and whether this sealed pattern is

that to which Messrs. Hebbert tendered; do you undertake to swear that there was no other sealed pattern than this?—I do.

937. Has there been any other sealed pattern since?—No, there has not.

Mr. JOSEPH FESSEY further examined.

Mr. J. Fessey.

938. (*Chairman.*) You inspected the supply of hats for 1857 at Scotland Yard?—I inspected 313 at Scotland Yard.

939. By what pattern?—By this pattern.

940. Did you ever see any other pattern?—I never saw any other pattern.

941. Is that the pattern which was sent down to the Tower for your guidance in examining the supply of 1858?—Afterwards it was sent to the Tower for our guidance in inspecting the supply of 1858.

(*Mr. Turner.*) Take that pattern hat in your hand, and handle it just in the same way that you did Mr. Vero's hats (*the witness did so*).(*Witness.*) I did not use the supply so severely as that.942. (*Chairman.*) Is that a copy of the report which you signed (*handing the same to the witness*)?—Yes.

943. You have stated that the whole 1,700 were rejected for the reasons which were mentioned—"696 of the above are stouter in the body than the remainder, but much inferior to the sealed pattern; 191 hats were more or less damaged by carriage and bad packing." Do you mean to say that they were damaged when the crates were opened?—Yes.

944. How were they damaged?—By pressure; some of the brims were crushed up, and the hats themselves.

945. Were all the crates opened?—Yes.

946. Were all the 1,700 inspected?—All the 1,700 were inspected.

(*Mr. Vero.*) These were the hats sealed for our guidance with Captain Harris's private seal (*producing two hats*). Here are some of the hats that were rejected and some that the Tower inspectors never opened or looked at at all. They state that they inspected 1,700, but they have never been unpapered. They say that the hats are weak in the body. There is one of the rejected hats, and there is the sealed pattern, and I would confidently ask any man who is a hatter to see which is the strongest of those hats.947. (*Mr. Turner to Mr. Fessey.*) What do you say to that hat?—The body is not made of good stuff, neither is it well covered with nap; the nap is longer, and certainly it is very thin and bare. If you knock it up you can see the foundation of the hat. That hat is not equal to pattern—in the first place, the body itself is not made of so good stuff, and it is not so evenly felted; it is not so well dyed, and the tip is light and inferior.

948. In what way is the stuff inferior if it is a stronger hat than the sealed pattern?—It is heavier.

949. Will not it bear more rough usage?—It may at the present time, but you must consider that the pattern hat has been thumbed over to make it appear of inferior quality to what it is.

(*Mr. Vero.*) You would not allow me to touch it.(*Mr. Fessey.*) A contractor would lay hold of the hat to judge of its quality, and would thumb it round.950. (*Chairman.*) Do you mean that they would make it weak on purpose?—No; but the result would be that they would make it weak. Supposing twenty people went to look at this pattern hat in one year every one would thumb it round.

951. Do you think that originally the pattern hat was as strong as Mr. Vero's hat?—It was as strong, unquestionably.

952. (*Mr. Turner.*) When that pattern is offered for this year or any year thumbed as it is, are the contractors told that the supply must be 20 per cent. stronger from the thumbing of the pattern, or is the contractor justified in making the hat as strong as the

pattern that is exhibited to him?—That I have nothing to do with.

(*Mr. Vero.*) The complaint about the hats arose from the M division, which is all round where the original contractor's place is. We had more complaints in that division, by three to one, than any other division of the force. I do not wish to disparage the Metropolitan police force; but four trades are involved in making these hats, and it requires a knowledge of all four to be a good judge of the hats. I have here specimens of the various processes. Here is the felt in the first process previous to stiffening; here is the stiffened felt, and here is the hat napped before it is put into shape; the stuff is not dyed, and any man may see whether it is inferior to the pattern in the body. Those specimens were sent to the Tower in order to assist their judgment, so that we might not rely upon their judgment, for they had no judgment at all.953. (*Mr. Turner to Mr. Fessey.*)—Do you understand these processes?—I know that hats go through those processes. I am not a practical hatter, but I have had many thousands of police hats through my hands of different makers. I have had Messrs. Christy's, Bickerton's, Mayhew's, besides others in the trade for the Metropolitan police, the Suburban police, and also the Railway police.954. (*Chairman.*) When had you that opportunity of examining the Railway police hats?—They always went through my hands previous to my going to the Tower, for mounting. Mr. Vero seems to think that I know very little about a hat, but Mr. Thomas Christy had a very different opinion about it; for a great many years ago he called me into his private counting house, and wished me to give my opinion on a supply of Metropolitan police hats which had been supplied by Messrs. Mayhew. I said I could not give him any information.

955. How many years have you inspected hats at the Tower?—This is the first year at the Tower.

956. How long have you known Mr. Christy?—Ten or eleven years.

957. When was it that Mr. Christy called you into his counting-house?—We did business with Messrs. Christy's house at that time; I should think it must have been about 1848.

958. Had you any motive direct or indirect for passing Messrs. Christy's hats in preference to any body else's?—None whatever. I did not know that Mr. Vero supplied the hats, and I did not know the price he got.

959. Do Christy's make their own hats?—I believe they make their own. I should think that no one could make so good a police hat as Messrs. Christy.

(*Mr. Vero.*) We have no difficulty in competing with Mr. Christy in the open market. I can sell hats by the side of Mr. Christy and other large hatters, but in this department I can do nothing at all.960. (*Chairman.*) How do you explain the result of last year's trial; do you mean to say that the Commissioners of police and the police are prejudiced against you?—Decidedly not; I do not wish that to be implied at all. If there was a defect at all in 1857, when called upon by the police, we volunteered at our own expense to substitute hats for all the faulty ones, and they expressed themselves satisfied with that; they said there was cause for complaint, and I said it should be remedied in the next year's supply, which it has been; and if those hats had been brought into wear they would have worn as well as Messrs. Christy's supply. Unfortunately, I did not know but

that the Tower inspectors were practical men, otherwise I would not have made the hats. It requires a good judge to tell this description of hat; a man serves his time for seven years to each department to make the felt, to put the nap on, and to the proofing, and also finishing the hat.

961. Whatever opinion we may entertain, the Commissioners feel very much for the circumstances in which you have been placed, but they merely have to do with the question of the Tower inspectors?—I am here only in honesty to my creditors. I can get no redress, but they have suffered as well as me; I know I am right; I have paid a composition, but every one trusts me the same as they did before, knowing my integrity; they wished that I should go before the Commissioners and explain the thing, and that would give them satisfaction. I do not wish to injure Mr.

Mr. JOHN WRAY examined.

963. (*Chairman.*) I believe you are Receiver for the Metropolitan Police Commissioners?—Yes.

964. How long have you held that office?—Ever since the police force was established.

965. How many years is that?—Next year it will be 30 years.

966. In that capacity have you to superintend the making of contracts for police clothing?—All contracts entirely rest with me; that is to say, the Commissioners of Police are the parties who decide what patterns they will have, but the contracts themselves are made by me.

967. Is that a correct statement of the persons who have furnished hats for the police for the last twenty years (*handing the same to the witness*)?—Yes.

The same was delivered in, and is as follows:

List of Contractors for Police Hats between 1838 and 1858, during which period hats supplied for service of Metropolitan Police have been examined by the Tower Inspectors.

1838-9	-	two years	-	Moore and Co.
1840 to 1842	-	three years	-	Cooper and Co.
1843	-	one year	-	Mayhew and White.
1844	-	one year	-	R. Bickerton and Son.
1845 to 1856	-	twelve years	-	Christy and Co.
1857	-	one year	-	Hebbert and Co.
1858	-	one year	-	Hebbert and Co., whose

contract was cancelled by the Commissioners of Police, and the supply of hats for this year was purchased of Christy and Co.

968. Have you been in the habit of having competition for the supply?—I always advertise for tenders to be sent in on a certain day, and that after a certain hour no more will be received. In the course of a day or two the tenders are opened in the presence of one of the Commissioners and myself, with one of the clerks from the Commissioners' office and one from mine, and they take down the names of the parties. I read out the tenders that have been made, and then on examination, when we find what the amount is altogether, I send it over to the Secretary of State for his approval. In general, I am directed to take the lowest tender.

969. Has that been invariably the case, or have there been any exceptions?—I hardly recollect that there have. A good deal of mischief arises out of it.

970. Messrs. Christy seem to have had three triennial contracts?—Messrs. Christy had the contract for nine years.

971. Was there in each case competition?—Yes; the contracts are taken for three years—at the end of each three years they are put up to competition again. They were awarded to Messrs. Christy on each occasion, and on the last occasion there was a difference of 1*d.* per hat between Messrs. Christy and Messrs. Hebbert.

972. I believe you still thought that the contract should be given to Messrs. Christy?—The difference of 1*d.* did not induce me to recommend taking the contract from them. I recommended the Secretary of State to allow Messrs. Christy to have the contract

Fessey or the Tower viewers, but if I know that they put men over me who know nothing of hats to inspect them, I will never take another Government contract as long as I live. We are two young men, and had it not been for friends coming forward to assist us, we should have been quite ruined; the money I got in Australia was squandered in this affair.

(*Mr. Elliott.*) It has been stated that the hats delivered by Messrs. Hebbert and Company to the Tower were returned to the contractors without being undone?—Every hat that was delivered at the Tower was undone and examined.

962. Do you know that of your own personal knowledge?—I have this personal knowledge, that I gave particular instructions to both the inspector and the viewer to examine all the hats, and they tell me that every hat delivered was minutely examined.

on the ground that during the whole of the nine years we never had the smallest complaint of the hats, and I did not think it worth while to change for the sake of a penny. Among other things, I did not consider that Messrs. Hebbert were hatters. They tendered for the clothing, and we accepted the tender for the clothing, but as they were not hatters, it was obvious that they must go to somebody else to get the hat at a lower price.

973. Messrs. Christy are hat manufacturers?—Yes, I should say that they are certainly the first in the trade.

974. I believe you were overruled in that matter, and directed to take the lowest tender?—Yes.

975. Consequently, you took Messrs. Hebbert's tender?—Yes.

976. Up to 1856 we have been told that your hats were always inspected by Tower inspectors?—Yes.

977. Do you know how many sealed patterns you have? That sealed pattern purports to be dated 1850, for 1851, 1852, and 1853?—Some change took place with a view to alteration in the shape of the hat more than in the quality. I was not consulted about it.

978. Mr. Briggs has told us that you formed one of a committee who examined the supply of hats from Messrs. Hebberts' early in 1857?—Yes; in consequence of a great pressure of business at the Tower during the Russian war Lord Panmure wrote to us to say, "we cannot allow you to send your clothing or "anything to the Tower as usual." It has been the uniform practice to send our clothing to the Tower very nearly for the whole time the police force has been established. Upon this occasion we were desired not to do it; therefore we made the best of it we could. One of the Commissioners, Captain Harris, Mr. Briggs, my storekeeper, who is a pretty good judge, two or three superintendents of police, and myself, formed a committee of about six or seven; but none of us felt that we were very competent as judges; we could look merely at the external appearance, and one hat looks as good as another, it can only be known by the wear; and the hats turned out very badly in 1857, after we passed that lot.

979. What evidence have you of their having turned out badly?—The reports from all the superintendents. Anybody looking at the hats would see at once what they were.

980. It has been suggested that there might be a prejudice on the part of some of the police force in favour of a hat manufacturer in London, because the men exercised the power of changing their hats and getting silk ones instead for private wear; do you know anything of that practice?—I have heard of it, but I think that applies only to police who are employed in-doors. We have, for instance, several persons who hardly ever go out at all; the messengers, for instance, they do not want a hat of that kind at all, and I dare say some of them have been very glad to change their police hat for a private hat. I have been told that it has been done, but I do not think it is of any consequence.

TOWER.

Mr. J. Fessey.

9 Dec. 1858.

Mr. J. Wray.

TOWER.

Mr. J. Wray.

9 Dec. 1858.

981. Sir Richard Mayne has sent a note and you have sent a memorandum in which you state that the complaints were very general?—They were; if you wish you can have the reports of the superintendents during 1857; there was not a single superintendent who did not complain.

982. How many superintendents are there?—Eighteen.

983. And there was not a single superintendent out of the 18 who did not complain?—No; in consequence of having ascertained that those hats were bad, 313 hats were required by way of augmentation. I forget whether for an increase of the number in store or for additional constables, but we then applied to Lord Panmure to allow them to be examined as usual by the people at the Tower, and two or three people came from the Tower for the purpose of making that examination, and rejected the whole of them.

984. In the meantime had not the contractor upon the representation that some complaints had been made about the hats, supplied others in lieu of them to some extent?—Yes, to some extent, but I do not think they were any better.

985. Had you any communication with the contractor on the subject?—I spoke to Messrs. Hebbert when they first took the contract and represented to them the folly of attempting to do it. I had ascertained from persons perfectly disinterested that hats could not be made of that description for less than 9s., those were people who had nothing to do with Messrs. Christy at all. I said to Messrs. Hebbert, "you are stepping out of your line to take the contract for hats, you must go to somebody else, and you had better let it alone." I said that they had better negotiate with Messrs. Christy, and let them do it upon some understanding. However, they did not take my advice then; under the contract I have the power to go anywhere for hats or for any part of the clothing if it is rejected, and on the rejection of those 313 hats I represented the case at the Home Office, and I got authority to order those hats immediately from Messrs. Christy; we could not wait for them. Then Messrs. Hebbert sent in the supply for 1858, which was sent to the Tower to be examined, and the whole were rejected.

986. The Commissioners are specially anxious to know, with regard to possible injustice that may have been done to the contractor, whether the hats for 1858 were compared at the Tower with that pattern hat which has just come from the Tower, and whether that pattern hat is the one by which the contract was entered into?—I apprehend this is one of Messrs. Christy's hats, and it was by one of Messrs. Christy's hats certainly that the contract was taken; that was the pattern in my office.

987. (Col. French.) What were the objections to the hats that were condemned?—I do not recollect. I could not quarrel with them under any circumstances, it rests entirely with the Tower people to say whether we are to have them or not. The examiners are the persons who are responsible.

988. (Mr. Turner.) Is police clothing inspected at the Tower as well as the hats?—Always.

989. Are you satisfied with the inspection of that as well as the hats?—I think the effect of it has been this, that during the twenty years I do not recollect that they ever made any objection at all, whatever the quality might be; and the result has been,—at least, it is only my own inference,—that by degrees the prices have come down, and people have been induced to tender at lower prices, under the impression that whatever they sent to the Tower would be passed.

990. Are you as well satisfied with the inspection of the police clothing at the Tower as you are with the inspection of the hats?—I have no right to find fault with it.

991. If the effect is that nothing is rejected, and the contractors think they may keep sending in worse and worse articles in consequence of that non-rejection, is that satisfactory to you?—No.

992. Then you are not satisfied, I presume?—I am

satisfied now, I was not before. The inspection is of a very different quality to what it was before. Remember this is only within the last two years; up to that time they never made an objection.

993. Then there was considerable dissatisfaction in reference to the police clothing, in consequence of its always passing at the Tower?—Our feeling is this: looking at the original patterns, we have gradually got worse and worse, till the clothing at the present time is not to be compared with what we had at first.

994. How do you account for that if you have a standard pattern to go by?—I account for it in this way. The Tower inspectors never made any objection; therefore the contractors gradually sent in a worse article.

995. Was the clothing for the police always inspected at the Tower?—For the first six or seven years after the establishment of the force the clothing was inspected by a board of our own—by the superintendents.

996. Were the inspections prior to the goods going to the Tower satisfactory?—They never were rejected at all till this last year at the Tower or elsewhere.

997. Is not it rather singular that the Tower inspectors should be so extremely lenient with regard to clothing, and never make any rejections, the consequence being that worse and worse articles were sent in, and that there should be this extreme severity with regard to Mr. Vero's hats?—The hats were sent to the Tower in exactly the same way as other hats, boots, and clothing of every description. Now, the boots they have had this last year are beautiful boots, and the hats from Messrs. Christy are, I think, the very best I ever saw. I dare say they were a little on their mettle to send them in better than usual.

998. I am particularly speaking of body clothing; is that now satisfactory?—I cannot say that it is. The clothing we had last year was not satisfactory. We passed it under the same circumstances as the hats. Lord Panmure took away the right of sending it to the Tower to be examined, therefore we were obliged to exercise our own judgment upon it.

999. You are not satisfied, even at the present time, as to the quality of the police clothing?—I am not at all satisfied with the quality of the clothing we had this year.

1000. In consequence of its not being up to the standard sealed pattern, or that the sealed pattern is not good?—We have had a great many complaints of it, but I think in wear it has turned out better than we expected.

1001. (Chairman.) Mr. Turner asked you whether you were dissatisfied in consequence of the sealed pattern being bad or the supply being bad?—It is not equal to the sealed pattern.

1002. (Mr. Turner.) How did it happen, do you suppose, that the Tower inspectors were so lenient as to body clothing, and so severe with the hats?—They did not inspect the clothing I am speaking of.

1003. Who did inspect it?—The same party, of which I was one, who inspected the hats, and I do not pretend to be a judge of clothing.

1004. My questions rather apply to the period when the clothing was inspected at the Tower, as it was at one time. You say that it has gradually deteriorated in consequence of the leniency of the inspection in passing it?—What right had I to say anything against the clothing, when the Government inspector had passed it?

1005. Still, you are dissatisfied with the Tower inspectors for their leniency in passing goods that are not equal to the sealed pattern?—Certainly.

1006. (To Mr. Elliott.)—Did Mr. Fessey inspect the clothing?—Mr. Fessey does not examine police clothing. He examines hats and boots. Mr. Page is the inspector of clothing.

1007. (To Mr. Wray.) You are quite satisfied with the inspection of the hats?—Yes. I am speaking of the 313 that came to our own stores.

1008. (To Mr. Elliott.) How do you account for Mr. Page being so lenient as to pass police clothing

that was not equal to the pattern?—Mr. Page has not passed any police clothing. Mr. Page examined the clothing, but he has not passed any. Mr. Wray refers to two periods. He refers to the inspection of police clothing prior to its being removed from the Tower in 1856, and he refers now to clothing which has been delivered in the early part of this year, which was delivered by Messrs. Hebbert for the service of the Metropolitan Police, and was rejected as inferior to the standard sealed patterns. That clothing was all re-examined by the authority of the Commissioners of Police and approved. Mr. Wray will be able to explain whether there was any condition attached to that approval; the Commissioners themselves examined it in 1856 and 1857.

(Mr. Wray.) We examined the clothing and were not very well satisfied with it, but still it was so very late in the season that we could not very well wait, and on an undertaking being given to me by Messrs. Hebbert that they would replace any thing found to fail in the wear, it was allowed to be taken into use.

1009. (Chairman.) When was it taken into wear?—I am speaking now of clothing now in wear.

1010. Was it taken into wear on the 1st of January, in June, or when?—It ought to come into wear on the 1st of March, therefore it was prepared during the winter, but it was not ready on the 1st of March, and then it was sent down to the Tower and was rejected; in the meantime we were so much in want of it that we were in some degree obliged to take it.

1011. (Colonel French.) What compensation did Messrs. Hebbert give ultimately for the badness of the clothing?—We took it into wear on condition of their replacing any clothes that might appear to wear badly.

1012. (Chairman.) Has it been taken into wear sufficiently long to enable you to ascertain whether it wears well or ill?—Not the whole of it, the clothing has not been finished altogether. I think, more than a month or six weeks. The new clothes are due in April next; we have made a fresh arrangement. We got Mr. Page down at the Tower to order some cloth, and the contract is taken not only by pattern but by specification. The specification is as to its colour, that it is to have no shoddy in it, and be made of real good wool; that cloth which is sent to us by Mr. Page, I do not know where he got it, was made up and formed the pattern for the tender for the present year.

1013. Are the tenders in for 1859?—They are come in.

1014. (Mr. Turner.) Do you agree in this opinion that the Home Office should make arrangements for examining the clothing and various goods that come within that department by its own officers, without troubling the authorities at the Tower with these

matters?—I quite agree with that, I dare say it has been done on grounds of economy.

1015. Do you think it is wise economy?—In the long run it is not economy.

1016. (Colonel French.) When you advertise for tenders do not you give any specification of the quality?—No; I advertise only for the quantities. Patterns as to quality and make are to be seen at my store.

1017. (Mr. Turner.) Who gives the decision with regard to the order for hats?—The Home Office decides upon whom I am to employ, and I enter into a contract with them.

1018. I cannot myself, as a man of business, understand the propriety of applying to a house like Messrs. Hebbert's for a supply of hats: it is very well known that they do not make hats. If I want a hat I go to a hatter, if I want a pair of shoes I go to a shoemaker. Why should you go to a second person, who, it must be presumed, intends to get a large profit by it, if he can? Why do not you go to head-quarters at once, and deal with the man who manufactures the article?—I am under control. I quite agree that the principle you lay down is the correct one. In my letter of the 26th of August, I said that Messrs. Hebbert were not manufacturers, and that the leading men in the trade represented that no other house than that of Christy and Co. could produce an article at less than 9s. I beg to observe with regard to the hats, that, except on this occasion, they have always been supplied by hatters, and not by clothiers. We began with Moore's, who are hatters, in 1838, 1839, and 1840. Then comes Cooper and Co., who are also hatters; Mayhew and White, also hatters; Bickerton, also hatters; Messrs. Christy, who are hatters; and Messrs. Hebbert, not hatters.

1019. That is the first time the contract failed?—Quite so.

1020. (Chairman.) Are there separate contracts for boots, clothing, and hats?—Yes.

1021. Who has the contract for boots?—The contract for boots was taken in Northamptonshire. They have always been supplied from Northamptonshire.

1022. Who made those excellent boots above referred to?—A man named Nicholls. He took the contract before the breaking out of the Russian war at 11s. a pair. He found he had made such a very bad bargain that he applied to me to endeavour to get an increase of 3s. a pair, the price of leather had doubled. I applied to the Home Office, who would not give him anything. He then forfeited his 1000l. But from what I had seen of his supply it was so good that I recommended that he should be applied to to tender again. He tendered again against Parker at 16s. or 17s. for 14s. 4d. He gained 4d. by the transaction.

Mr. STEPHEN PHILLIPS examined.

1023. (Chairman.) What are you?—I am clerk to Hebbert and Co.

1024. How long have you been so?—I have been with them nearly 12 years now, and five years with Mr. Hebbert in his time.

1025. Is there no Mr. Hebbert in the firm now?—No.

1026. Do you know Mr. Boylan?—I have seen him.

1027. He gave us in great detail yesterday a conversation he had with you with respect to a charge against Mr. Elliott at the Tower for having been concerned in unduly favouring Messrs. Almond in contracts at the Tower. Had you any conversation with Mr. Boylan on the subject?—I will relate exactly what I know of Mr. Boylan. I think I had been a visitor to the Tower about eight or ten times before the man noticed me in any way whatever. One day I was passing out of the clerks' room in which he was engaged, and the first interview I had with him was this: He followed me and entered into a familiar conversation, speaking of his family, his distress, and one or two other things,

and asked me if I had any objection to introduce him to my private tailor; he wanted a suit of clothes, and he would be obliged if I would allow him to use my name, and he would pay for them in three months, after he got his salary. I was acquainted with Mr. Lardner intimately, and I spoke to Mr. Lardner upon the subject, and he told me, without any ill feeling towards the man, to have nothing to do with him. I wrote a letter to Mr. Boylan, saying, if he was in such circumstances as he represented he had better wait till he had the money in his pocket and pay for the clothes, and he would get them cheaper than by going to the west-end tailor with whom I dealt. Mr. Boylan took offence at that note, and never spoke to me for five months. The next interview I had with Mr. Boylan was this: I was going down to the Tower and he was coming up from the Tower; I met him half way up Tower Hill, and he began telling me about some important position that he had, and some inquiry about Messrs. Hayter and Howell, that some stores were deficient, and books at the Tower, and a great deal I

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knew nothing about. As my business was more important to me than anything he had to say, I did not enter into any conversation with him. My third interview was when he states I met him in Pall Mall. I am not aware that I met him at Pall Mall. He was at Pall Mall East, but he did not ask to see me. As I was in the room, and knowing that he was Mr. Boylan, he might think that I would not speak to him. I wished him good morning, and he began a rambling story of his having left the Tower. I knew nothing of it, and he began disparaging Mr. Elliott at the Tower, and stating everything he could that was bad of him, and of two or three clerks, extolling his own services particularly, and speaking well (I do not think he could do otherwise of the whole of the clerks) of Mr. Eaton, the chief storekeeper, and I think he spoke so of Mr. Lardner. That was all foreign to me, and a matter I had not the least interest in. I have read what he states, and if he states that I presented any book to him, it was this Return made to the House of Commons, dated February 1856. At the back of this Return there is my private address; it is dated 11th August 1855, and at the end of the return there is also something signed "Amos Hodson."

1028. What took place between you and Boylan?—I am not aware that I showed him this book, or any other book. I am not aware that I referred to any such statement, as he says I did, about the order for 20,000*l*. It certainly is a fact, and how he became acquainted with it I do not know. I think it is an hallucination of his mind. I had been in the habit of visiting the Tower some four or five times. I asked Mr. Elliott if he had any orders for Messrs. Hebbert, and he said, "No, I have not."

1029. How do you mean you asked Mr. Elliott whether he had any orders?—Of course in waiting upon the authorities at the Tower, I understood that he had the distribution at that time of the orders; at all events, I was unsuccessful. When I returned to Pall Mall East, Mr. King, who was then the managing man at Hebbert and Company's, and is now one of the firm, told me it was very strange that Almond's and other houses were getting orders, when I could not get them for Hebbert and Co.; he should like to know the reason how it occurred. I thought it was a reflection upon me, that I could get no orders when others could. The next time I went to head quarters, and saw Mr. Hodson. I challenged him with a partial distribution of these orders, and I told him distinctly I considered there was a partial distribution. I did not say anything about Mr. Elliott; I never mentioned his name. I told Mr. Hodson I should be expected to explain, in some way, to the firm, that there was no want of attention on my part. He said he was very sorry to hear it, and the first time I was at the Tower, he would see me upon the subject; and the next time I called, he did not see me. I was there about January 1855, and in passing through the place, I saw Mr. Elliott. I said, "Good morning, Mr. Elliott;" he said, "Good morning. Now Mr. Phillips, what can you do for us in the way of warm clothing; what will be the price for flannel shirts, flannel waistcoats, and white cotton shirts?" I named the prices of a number of things off hand; but those I could not give the price of I asked for time to go to Pall Mall East. I said, "I will be back by half-past four. Mr. Elliott, said, "I want to give these orders out to-night." I was there on that occasion by half-past four, and I received orders for 20,000*l*. What Mr. Boylan states, I never showed to him in my life; how he got it afterwards is another thing.

1030. From whom did you get the order?—From Mr. Elliott; the orders I received are signed by Amos Hodson, every one of them.

1031. In his proper handwriting?—I could not say that, because the orders go back again with the accounts.

1032. Do you know Mr. Amos Hodson's handwriting?—Yes; I should if I saw it. I am now

taking the account from the order book at Hebbert and Co.'s, the demands or warrants. I think Mr. Elliott will tell you that they go back with the accounts as vouchers for the payment of the accounts, therefore, we do not possess these orders; but the order book says, "Ordered by Amos Hodson," so and so. Mr. Elliott's name does not appear to one of them.

1033. Did Mr. Hodson say anything to you to this effect when you explained that you had not got your share of the orders, that he would not sanction this conduct, and that your house must have an order for at least 20,000*l*.?—No.

1034. Was he exasperated?—No; not in the least. He received me in a courteous manner, and told me if I came to the Tower again, he would make all inquiries.

1035. Did you judge from his manner that anything had been going on that he did not approve of?—Not in the least; he never led me to draw any such conclusion.

1036. (*Mr. Turner.*) Was this order that you did succeed in obtaining given to you by Mr. Hodson, after a conversation with Mr. Elliott about what you could do in the matter of warm clothing?—The conversation that I had with Mr. Elliott was as to the price and the time of delivery.

1037. Finally, when you got the order, did you consider that you got the order through the influence and instrumentality of the gentlemen at the Tower, and not from the Board of Ordnance?—I received the order. I do not consider that there was any influence on my part, or any one else's. I do not know whether my having gone to Mr. Hodson might have led to our being favoured with an order.

1038. Did you get the order from the officials at the Tower, as you considered at that time?—Yes; most decidedly I considered Mr. Hodson, in Mr. Stacey's illness, only had power to give these orders.

1039. It was said by Mr. Almond that these orders came through the Board of Ordnance?—All the orders that I took were signed by Mr. Amos Hodson, and my conversation with Mr. Elliott was the most free at all times. So far from having had any bad impressions of Mr. Elliott, I am willing to state, if he is able to clear himself before the Commissioners, I do not believe there is a more efficient person in the civil service. I never disparaged his character in any way to any one.

1040. (*Chairman.*) It is perfectly clear to all the world, as well as to ourselves, that what Mr. Elliott said was quite correct, that the storekeeper and deputy storekeeper had power entrusted to them substantially from the Ordnance department to distribute certain orders?—The orders are confirmed in all our cases, and signed by Mr. Amos Hodson. I have not seen Mr. Elliott's name to one of them.

1041. (*Mr. Turner.*) Had you any conversation with Mr. Hodson about the details prior to the order being given?—None.

1042. All the details as to price, quality, when you could supply, and so forth, were arranged between you and Mr. Elliott?—They were.

1043. The mere formal signing of the order was by Mr. Hodson?—Yes, that is the case.

1044. Did you say anything to Mr. Boylan about Mr. Almond having bought an estate in Surrey for 40,000*l*.?—I do not remember such a conversation. The conversation at Pall Mall East was just with that volubility of language which distinguishes Mr. Boylan's conversation. As to putting in a word edgeways it was impossible.

1045. (*Chairman.*) Have you ever intimated to Mr. Boylan, or do you believe that Mr. Elliott had any interest direct or indirect in the orders given to Messrs. Almond, or to anybody else?—No; not only not to Mr. Boylan nor to anybody else, but I have no such impression upon my mind. What Mr. Elliott was charged with was, a partial distribution of these orders.

1046. Is it the fact that you made that statement to Mr. Boylan?—It is not the fact.

1047. Did you tell Mr. Boylan that Mr. Hodson was absolutely forced to give you an order?—No; no such conversation took place between him and me.

1048. Boylan says "Mr. Phillips said, Mr. Hodson looked at the large amount of the order given to "Messrs. Almond?"—Mr. Hodson received me with courtesy. I was not with him three minutes, and dismissed me with the promise that he would see me again.

Mr. THOMAS CARR examined.

1053. (*Chairman.*) What are you?—A woollen warehouse man and agent in the city.

1054. Agent for whom?—Contractors and others.

1055. How long have you been engaged in that business?—Eleven years.

1056. Extensively?—Very largely.

1057. For all sorts of contractors?—Yes.

1058. For Leicester houses?—No, Northampton, Leeds, and other houses, for ironmongery and for different manufacturers who supply Government and public companies, and hospitals.

1059. In that capacity have you had a good deal to do with Government supplies?—I have.

1060. What statement do you wish to make to the Commissioners?—Having been all my life, from a child, brought up in manufacturing and contracting for thousands and hundreds of thousands of pounds, since I came to London I have been agent to a good many people, and have delivered perhaps a million's worth of goods to the Government and public companies. In the course of that experience I found a great deal of difficulty to contend with and a great deal of unfairness practised towards me. I also found a great deal of inefficiency on the part of some of the Government officials, and a great deal of severity in the inspection of goods; still I have passed a larger amount of goods than any other individual, with as few rejections, but some of those have been both very shameful and very severe. What induced me most particularly to come here was the defective arrangements of the War office for the last few years; they have been so gross that myself and a number of other agents have been very much put about. As agent to principals contracting largely, a great deal of responsibility attaches to me in furnishing proper information and proper particulars for contractors. Since the changes in the War department, particularly in cloth and clothing, we have had very great difficulty, and in consequence of those difficulties, I believe there has been a great deal of odium thrown upon both agents and manufacturers, as to their forwarding inferior goods. I am prepared to deny as far as I am concerned that there has been any such thing; in some instances we have been very severely and unfairly treated.

1061. Can you state any instances of undue severity in the inspection at Weedon?—I have not much occasion to complain of the inspection at Weedon. I have delivered a great many goods there; but I have had occasion to complain of the conduct of the Pall Mall parties in not forwarding proper patterns to the authorities at Weedon. I will call attention to one or two instances just as a specimen of some that occurred in 1856, or, I believe, early in 1857. One of my friends, George Ellis and Nephew, took an order for 30,000 yards of Oxford cloth. I have no authority from them to mention it, but I do so merely to relieve myself from the responsibility that attaches to me as their agent, and I hope that my statement may cause those grievances to be remedied for the benefit of myself and others.

1062. Did George Ellis and Nephew take the contract through you in the first instance?—It was a direct contract; I never contracted with the War Department excepting once during the eleven years I have been in London; before that I did largely. George Ellis and Nephew, took an order for 30,000 yards of Oxford cloth, to a pattern which was

1049. Did he, at your request, look over the large amount of orders that had been given to Messrs. Almond?—No.

1050. Did you add, that your order was absolutely forced?—I never said anything of the kind.

1051. You did not put the screw on in any way?—No, not in the least.

1052. We wished you to come forward and confirm or deny the story which had been told. You have come forward, and you deny the story entirely?—Yes; Mr. King requested me to come.

plain wove cloth, common dyed cloth, and cloth of lighter weight than what the Government wanted. it was merely given as a pattern for quality, and the specification stated that the cloth was to be furnished of woaded colour, kersey wove, and of a specified weight. When my friends got the order for the 30,000 yards, I applied to know whether the authorities could furnish us with any better pattern than they had done. I applied to have a larger piece of the same cloth, which I got after a great deal of difficulty. I sent that down and they manufactured a piece, that piece was sent to Weedon on the 11th of March, the contract was taken on the 12th of February, and on the 11th of March my friends forwarded a sample piece to Weedon. I went down on the 12th or 13th, within a day or two of that to get the inspection of it. When I arrived at Weedon, I was told that they had not had a pattern sent to inspect it by. I said it was very singular that a month should have passed without the pattern being sent, we had been requested to make the cloth in the shortest possible time, our time for delivery was 10,000 on the 1st of May, and there was no time to lose. I was told that they had not had it, and that they would write for it and request it to be sent.

1063. If the delivery was to be on the 1st of May why should the pattern be at Weedon early in March?—We were expected to deliver a piece of so many yards for approval before we proceeded with the bulk—it was the rule at that time. I went down again in the following week, and there was still the same difficulty. I went down again the following week, and there was still the same difficulty, and I went a fourth time, and there was still the same difficulty. I then said to Mr. Elliott, the storekeeper, "This will not do for my friends; this is a period of the year when they lay themselves open for doing this class of business, and to be kept four weeks out of the inspection of the sample is unpardonable. I have been to Pall Mall myself and seen the authorities, and seen the pattern keeper, and told him. I have been down to Weedon; I will go again." Mr. Elliott said, "It is a great shame, I will see what I can do for you." We went to the stores, but no pattern had arrived. Mr. Elliott said, "Mr. Hoile, have you applied for the pattern?" Mr. Hoile said, "I have, every day Mr. Carr has been here. We have written and telegraphed, and telegraphed and written, but we have had no pattern to this hour." Mr. Elliott said, "This is very extraordinary, cannot we do something?" Mr. Hoile said, "We have examined carefully the piece of goods, and we are perfectly satisfied with the goods, but we have no pattern, consequently, we cannot say whether it is right or wrong." I then said, "We shall not proceed with this supply, because we are making a twilled kersey cloth to a pattern that is plain woaded cloth and plain dye, of a different weight to the one they gave us."

1064. (*Mr. Turner.*) The fact is that the pattern and the specification exhibited to you for the same order were altogether at variance?—Quite so; they went so far as to say, "From our examination of the piece we are so satisfied with the goods that you may proceed. We will give you authority, and we will hold you harmless." I said, "I will write by to-night's post, but we shall take every day that we

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"have been kept waiting off the time at the end of the contract." They said, "If there is any difficulty we shall be prepared to prove the fact that you have been here four times." I wrote to my friends and they proceeded as quick as possible. In answer to the telegram sent that fourth time the pattern came down and they inspected the sample piece.

1065. What was the nature of the pattern sent down?—The pattern exhibited; they had no other.

1066. Plain cloth, common dyed, and of a lighter weight than what you were delivering?—Yes, they reported at once, and that letter I sent to Mr. Howell afterwards; it was dated on the 7th of April, that is twenty-seven days after we delivered the piece.

1067. What was their report?—The report was that they were perfectly satisfied with our sample piece, and that we might proceed. We delivered the whole of the supply within twenty one days of the time, and only taking twenty-one days out of the twenty-seven that they had delayed us we were charged by the War Department to the amount of 69*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.* for fines, in consequence of not delivering in time. I wrote a letter remonstrating upon the subject, and after a delay of about six months we got 35*l.* 12*s.* 10*d.* allowed, the Director of Contracts having allowed fourteen days of the time.

1068. How many days had you been delayed?—Twenty-seven. They allowed us fourteen, and only remitted such portion of the fine as they thought proper. I again wrote and remonstrated very strongly. That letter, I think, was lost for six months. I went time after time, and saw Mr. Gwyn and his clerk. I left the second letter with Mr. Gwyn's clerk in his room. Mr. Howell said, "It is very extraordinary that this matter has not been attended to before; it seems strange that there should be this delay, I will have it looked to, Mr. Carr." I was told that over and over again. I went one day, and I was determined to make something out of this business. My correspondents thought I was neglecting their business, and allowing the fine to remain over in that way, when they had done no wrong. I felt that it was my duty to push the matter, and I got hold of some person, Mr. Gwyn was not there, and the clerk who received the letter was not there, he was on leave. I said to this person, "Can you tell me any one I can go to?" I went up and saw Mr. Conolly in the contract branch, he said, "You have been here a great number of times about this, Mr. Howell has mentioned it to me, and he gave special orders that it should be attended to. I will take you to a gentleman who, I think, will put the matter right." He took me to a room, and I waited, I think, an hour in another branch, not the contract department, and they sought for the letter, and could not find it; he said, "I do not like people coming here so frequently, I will find somebody that will find your letter, or I will try." He did so, and he found a gentleman who brought the letter. What makes the thing more remarkable is, Mr. Howell said, "No such letter has come to the War Department," but I told him that I had delivered it personally into the hands of a clerk in Mr. Gwyn's room, consequently it must have come. He told me several times it should be attended to, and Mr. Howell wanted me to write a copy. I did so, and to my surprise, when the letter was found, the copy was lost.

1069. Perhaps the original letter had got through the circumlocution which the copy may yet be going round?—I do not know; however this letter was found.

1070. (Chairman.) Has the copy been found?—I do not know. I got this matter settled, when the original letter was found, of course. I gave up troubling about the copy.

1071. (Mr. Turner.) And then 35*l.* out of the 65*l.* was allowed you?—Yes. I then wrote remonstrating, and on the 8th of January 1858, I got the thing finally settled by the remainder of the 29*l.* odd being paid. That is one of the specimens of the delay that I complain of.

1072. (Chairman.) Had you to pay the fine at all?

—No, we got the whole remitted ultimately in January this year. I have had another case in hand which shows equal stupidity and equal carelessness. I think it shows the bad management of the War Department at Pall Mall. I do not say who the parties are, for I do not know, but some one ought to know.

1073. (Mr. Turner.) Do you find in dealing with the authorities at Pall Mall that it is difficult to fasten responsibility on any one in particular?—It is. I think if some of the gentlemen would take a little pains in attending to their duties, instead of fining the contractors, the service would go on much better.

1074. (Colonel French.) Was the delay in the contract branch?—I do not know.

1075. (Chairman.) Would such a thing as sending a pattern to Weedon be in the contract branch?—I suppose it would be the clothing branch. I went to both branches, and had to do so frequently. I went and wrote to the head generally. I have another case which shows equal bad conduct, in which the parties are very much dissatisfied. On the 24th of December 1857, M. S. Hyam of King Street took a contract for 2,000 great coats for sergeants; that is a Weedon affair. In the notice for this contract there was the shortest possible time to be stated, and Messrs. Hyam stated that they would do the 2,000 great coats in three weeks. On the 24th of December 1857 the contract was sent to them to be executed in three weeks. The whole contract, I may state, was for 10,000 coats. A note came from the War Department accepting their tender for the making of 2,000 of them, to be done in three weeks. I immediately applied at Pall Mall to know where we should get the material from for making the great coats, as the time was short. I was told by a gentleman in Mr. Richards' room—either Mr. Milton or some other gentleman in that room—that we must write a letter to Weedon asking for a supply of material. I wrote to Mr. Elliott, the storekeeper at Weedon, also stating that Messrs. Hyam were informed that if this order was performed satisfactorily it would be considered by the Secretary of State-for-War whether a further extended contract for 8,000 should be allotted to them. On the 2nd of January we got a letter from Weedon stating that the contract had not been sent to Weedon, and consequently they could not do anything in it,—“Military Store Office, Weedon, January 2, 1858, No. 31,616.—Sir, With reference to your letter of the 29th ultimo requesting to know when material would be sent to Messrs. Hyam for making 2,000 great coats, under contract of 24th December 1857, ^{7,143}/₃₈, I have to inform you that no copy of this contract has yet been received at this office.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, J. S. ELLIOTT, Principal Military Storekeeper.” I then went up to Pall Mall to know what we were to do. I told them that three weeks was a very short time to make 2,000 great coats in; that we had got to the 2nd of January, and they did not know of it at Weedon, and we could not get any cloth. The answer by Mr. Milton or Mr. Richards, or some one in that room, at all events, I forget who was present, was that they did not know anything about it, and that it must pass through the ordinary routine. We waited and wrote, and called again and wrote to Weedon. I applied at Weedon when I was personally there, but we got no cloth or serge till the 20th January, and no canvas till the 3rd of March. We then applied both personally and by letter at Weedon. They wrote from Weedon that they had no canvass, and we must apply to Pall Mall to know how we were to get it. We wrote, but there was some very considerable delay before we ascertained where we were to get it. We ultimately got orders to provide the canvass, and we delivered the great coats satisfactorily; but we have had no application at all since. There is a quantity of both serge and cloth remaining, and we have had no instructions what to do with it, or heard anything about the 8,000 great coats. The condition of this being done was that we should probably get the 8,000, and we conceive, in consequence, of not

hearing from them since then, as there must have been great coats made, that there were some defects or delays supposed to be attaching to the completion of the supply.

1076. Have you cloth enough for making the rest?—We have a quantity of both serge and cloth, perhaps, sufficient for 500 or 600 coats, and Messrs. Hyam feel, in consequence of their not hearing anything more, and great coats having been made since, that something is attributed to them, although they are not blameable.

1077. Why did not you write and ask?—I have written and called at Pall Mall till I am tired of it.

1078. (*Colonel French.*) Did you supply the great coats in time after all?—We could not go on till the 3rd of March, and we were to furnish them in three weeks from the date of the contract. There are several other cases of the same kind, but those will be sufficient as a specimen.

1079. (*Chairman.*) I believe you have some statement to make about the supplies given to Messrs. Almond?—In October, or early in November, 1854, in consequence of the great demands there were for waterproof goods, I went to the Tower, after having got Mr. Spill at his request, or of one of his partners, put upon the list of contractors for the War Department for waterproof clothing. It went with their foreman or agent to the Tower, and I was told that there was a very large matter afloat.

1080. Are Messrs. Spill manufacturers?—Yes. I was told that there were some 40,000 garments of this sort, and 40,000 of the other. I said, "Well, we are in a position to do that better than any other house." No other house manufactures in the proportion that "we do." I saw Mr. Stacey, who was in the house ill, and Mr. Stacey said, "Well, I cannot say anything about this at the moment; it is in the hands of Captain Riddell; he will be here by and bye; you had better wait and see him." Captain Riddell was one of the officers from the artillery. There was a body of artillery leaving the country, and they wanted the goods to take with them, and he had been in treaty with different houses. While I was waiting, Mr. Stacey and Mr. Hodson were having some conversation about something or other, and Mr. Stacey said, "I find we are wrong; your friends are not the right party for these things, they are not manufacturers. There is the representative of the manufacturers who can do these goods, and will have to do them if we give the order to somebody else." I saw Captain Riddell; he had a coat that had been supplied by Messrs. Almond, I believe. I do not know who the coat was made by; it was not approved by Captain Riddell for the service of the artillery. One of Spill's men was with me at the time. He says, "that is not the sort of thing at all that we understood was wanted." We had been talking about it. I said to Capt. Riddell, "If you will go with me to the manufacturers, you shall see all the patterns that can be seen, and see the principals, and ascertain what they will do." He said, "I will go," and we had a cab and went down there; and he gave an order for 300 capes to be ready the next morning, and if they pleased, and could be ready for the artillery that was to go abroad with them, we might have a further order. We set to work and made the 300 capes, and delivered them next morning by 8 o'clock. Capt. Riddell also requested, after looking at a number of patterns, that different patterns should be made with certain alterations that he suggested. I was to meet him that night, but, in consequence of the patterns not being quite ready at the time, we were too late to meet Capt. Riddell at the War Office at Pall Mall, and he said he would meet me at my office. He then gave me an order for 800 capes to be made at 21s. a cape. He also said, that there would be a very large quantity more wanted, and he said, "If you will meet me to-morrow with Sir Thomas Hastings, if you do these things well you will get an order." I did meet him, and took a pattern of leggings and capes, which were submitted to him and Sir Thomas

Hastings, and approved, and I was promised the order.

1081. By whom?—By Sir Thomas Hastings; I went up at 4 o'clock expecting to get the order, and I saw one or two gentlemen passing in and out, but I did not get the order. Sir Thomas Hastings said, "Can you do these goods?" I said "If we cannot nobody else can." In the meantime, I had been down to Mr. Spill, and he said he would not do the order for anybody else than direct; I mentioned this to Sir Thomas Hastings at the request of Mr. Spill, and he said, "We shall see whether they will not do it for anybody else." I went to Mr. Spill's that night and brought Mr. Spill to London; he saw Sir Thomas Hastings, and the order was given to Mr. Almond and given by Mr. Almond to Mr. Spill. When I went the next morning to meet Captain Riddell, expecting the order, he said he could do no more, and we were to complete the order he had given at a guinea, the rest was in the hands of Sir Thomas Hastings.

1082. Mr. Spill being the manufacturer was willing to contract to deliver these 40,000 capes at a guinea. You made that offer to Sir Thomas Hastings, and the order was given to Messrs. Almond to make them at 23s. 6d.?—Yes; Mr. Spill was taken to Sir Thomas Hastings.

1083. Did Mr. Spill make them?—He made every one.

1084. Then Mr. Almond got 2s. 6d. or 3s. 6d. profit?—Yes. After Mr. Almond had come up and taken the order from Sir Thomas Hastings at 23s. 6d. he made a contract with Mr. Spill for 20s., they were to have been a guinea. When Mr. Spill gets home his foreman tells him there is a mistake, and he says to the foreman, "You must go back, this will not do, we cannot lose 2,000l. on 40,000 capes, you must go back and get it rectified," he said "You made the mess yourself, you had better go back yourself;" he did not go back, but the foreman went, and it was suggested that something could be done to meet this shilling. The pattern was got away by Mr. Almond and decreased in size.

1085. With the knowledge of the War Department?—I do not know. The whole of the 40,000 were made, at the decreased size, at 20s. and charged 23s. 6d.; there were 40,000 leggings we offered to do at 5s. or 5s. 3d. which they had 6s. for, and 40,000 hoods which we did at 3s. 6d. and he got 4s. for. I remonstrated with Mr. Spill at the course the thing was taking, because I felt I was ill-used both by Sir Thomas Hastings and him.

1086. Are you aware that they were not supplied in time?—He agreed to send them 1,000 a day, and I believe that they were so delivered.

1087. Do you know that in this case there was a fine of 4,500l.?—Yes.

1088. Did Mr. Spill deliver the goods in time according to his contract with Mr. Almond?—Yes.

1089. How did the delay arise if Messrs. Almond had only to hand them over and take their profit of 3s. 6d.?—There were a great many more articles besides the capes. We had 40,000 hoods, 40,000 leggings, and 40,000 capes, all in one order, or in one or two days.

1090. What was the price of the hoods?—3s. 6d. Mr. Spill got for them.

1091. The leggings?—I think 5s. or 5s. 3d. was the price.

1092. What was the date of your interviews at the War Office?—I cannot lay my hand now on some papers. A few months ago I moved my counting-house, and I put some papers into cases, and unfortunately those are blocked up by some bales. I could not get at them in time; it was only the other day I decided to come.

1093. Can you tell when the leggings were delivered, or the hoods, or any of the things?—I had nothing to do with that, having been at work night and day in getting this matter arranged, getting the patterns, and getting them approved; finding the course the

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matter was taking, I went the next day to Sir Thomas Hastings, and he said, "You see, Mr. Spill will do the order for somebody else; it is given to Mr. Almond."

1094. If the order was given, it was of no use Mr. Spill going to ask the authorities to break their contract. When did you, on Mr. Spill's behalf, apply to the War Office, that Mr. Spill might become a contractor?—That would be some months before. I applied about August the same year, in consequence of some small order that was out; one of his men came up to me to go to the Tower to get the samples; then I heard that this order was out; it would be about November. I think it was the 20th of November, as near as I recollect. As I was going to state, after having spent night and day for three or four days, I found it was taken out of my hands in that sort of way. I went down to Mr. Spill, to make some complaint; he said, "It will make no difference, Mr. Carr; it was for our convenience as regards money matters. Mr. Almond promised to put it into our hands. He promised to pay us 1000*l.* for every thousand coats delivered after we had delivered 2000; it will make no difference to you; your commission will be paid just the same." I went down occasionally and saw the proceedings going on, but I never got any settlement of the matter, and after a great many personal complaints I got 20*l.*, and then they said I was overpaid; the public must have suffered to the extent of 2*s.* 6*d.*, there is no question about that, for we could have done them as well for the Government at a guinea. We delivered 1,100 or 1,200, upon Captain Riddell's order, at a guinea, and should have delivered the whole for the same price.

1095. Do you undertake to say that the whole amount that Mr. Spill got from Mr. Almond was 1*l.*?—Yes. I am sure of it.

1096. Are you good friends with Mr. Spill?—I have not seen him for the last two years.

1097. Did Mr. Spill make any tender to the War Department?—He did for some small parcels.

1098. If we send to the War Department to inquire whether Mr. Spill has made any tender for those waterproof things, will their records show it?—It was not by tender. I made the offer myself verbally to Sir Thomas Hastings.

1099. You are an agent?—Yes. I was employed by Mr. Spill at the time.

1100. Did you make the offer for yourself or for Mr. Spill?—For Mr. Spill, of course.

1101. Was the offer so expressed?—Sir Thomas Hastings knew that it was for Mr. Spill.

1102. Was that offer in writing?—I am not quite sure whether it was in writing or not. I believe there was no writing between Captain Riddell or Sir Thomas Hastings. Captain Riddell was present up to the close, and the country suffered to the extent of 2*s.* 6*d.* The cape was cut smaller and made 1*s.* worse, that is 3*s.* 6*d.* lost in all.

1103. Have you any statement to make with regard to rugs?—It appears that a great many thousands of rugs were sold; according to my memorandum taken at the sale about 30,000 were sold at 2*s.* a rug.

1104. Is that return correct (*see Appendix No. 3*)?—I cannot tell to a few. I should say that is about right. Many thousands were never opened out of the bales at all; they were as good rugs as any they had in store.

1105. How many?—I saw thousands of them in the docks.

1106. Can you tell with any particularity how many serviceable rugs were sold?—It is impossible for me, looking at a pile of 8,000 rugs in bales, to tell what are serviceable or unserviceable. I saw thousands of them afterwards in the trade, and a great many opened out of the bales just as perfect as they ever were.

1107. How many?—Thousands. I have seen 5,000 or 6,000 at least in the hands of different people.

1108. There is a specific return of the serviceable and unserviceable rugs sold, the date of the sale, and the price given. Do you impugn the accuracy of

that return?—I say there was a great many more than 4,000 that were serviceable from what I have seen myself. I think it is wrong that they should sell nearly 30,000 rugs when a large portion are serviceable, and then put out a contract a few months afterwards for 50,000. In March 1858, one of my friends took a contract for 5,000 rugs at 4*s.* 9*d.*, and we delivered them an article far superior to anything that had been delivered under the same pattern, and they were rejected.

1109. What was the name of the contractor?—Richard Clarkson. I remonstrated about this, and I was told that they were not equal to pattern. I am prepared to deny that, for I have made millions. I am also prepared to prove that those were 10 or 15 per cent. better than they received from the previous contractor, who had supplied the deficiency of 50,000. They assured me that they were not. I said, "You will find out that they are." And after a great deal of difficulty we got passed a parcel of such rugs that they had not had before or better since.

1110. Were those supplied by tender?—Yes.

1111. Are you sure?—Quite sure.

1112. We have a return here, shewing that on the 15th of March 1858, Mr. Clarkson supplied 5,000 rugs at 4*s.* 9*d.*, and it is stated that they were bought at that price in default of Mr. Hargreaves?—They were contracted for by us publicly, the tender was sent and we tendered.

1113. Were not they bought in default of Mr. Hargreaves?—We do not know that; a great many had been bought on default, I understood, which had not been tendered for, that were supplied for the other rugs, and ours were better than those by 10 or 15 per cent.

1114. What is the point of your statement?—I want to shew the unfair way in which they do this, and the bad treatment Mr. Clarkson had in not giving him the next contract. There was a contract out for 10,000. Mr. Clarkson tendered for 5,000 at 4*s.* 8½*d.*, and 5,000 at 4*s.* 9½*d.* between March and October. Those two five thousands were given to the other parties at 5*s.* 3*d.* and 5*s.* 4*d.*

1115. Who said so?—The manufacturers.

1116. Look at that return (*handing a paper to the witness*)?—Here they are at 5½*s.* and 5*s.* 1*d.* The manufacturers in the country said they had 5*s.* 3*d.* Neither Neville, Poole, Carter, nor Gilbert and Gibbins are manufacturers, they get them from manufacturers, and Mr. Clarkson tendered for those at 4*s.* 8½*d.* and 4*s.* 9½*d.*, and was prepared to deliver them an article quite equal to any, and they refused his tender.

(*Mr. Gwyn.*) I suspect the rugs were very urgently required, and it was the duty of the officers to make a contract with those persons upon whom they could entirely depend. They made a contract to a certain extent with parties upon whom they could depend, and made another contract with people in whom they had not quite the same confidence, but who they thought would deliver in a fair time. I give that explanation in the absence of any paper.

(*Mr. Carr.*) I will explain why I raise this point. I told Mr. Elliott whenever he received rugs of the manufacture that they had received before, he would find that they were not up to the pattern. Messrs. Gilbert and Gibbins sent some 4,000 or 5,000 rugs precisely the same as they had delivered before, and they were all rejected. They remonstrated and said they were equal to the supply, but they were obliged to make them better and deliver them. We could have delivered and were delivering satisfactory rugs. At this time we offered at 4*s.* 8½*d.* and 4*s.* 9½*d.*, and when they sent 4,000 in, 2,500 were rejected. Therefore I say it is a great shame that the country should be put to that difference of expense and have an article sent in by people who are evidently favoured and not manufacturers, when the manufacturers' tender is refused. I will go on to the next—the 40,000. A tender was issued on the 4th or 5th of October, on Thursday, to be delivered on the Tuesday, for 10,000 rugs to be delivered in one month; which is of course

bad management. No one house could do it properly. Mr. Clarkson tendered for 5,000, to deliver 2,500 a month at 5s. 3d.; Mr. Neville got 10,000 at 5s. 3d.; Mr. Carter 7,000 at 5s. 3d. Neither of them were manufacturers; and Mr. Clarkson, who was prepared to send in 2,500 a month, gets none. Mr. Neville had an extended time given to deliver, I believe, on the 1st of January; and he had delivered rugs such as they had not had of anybody else. My friend complained of this gross injustice; he pays taxes, and so do I; he lost the order, and I lose my commission.

1117. Were any of Mr. Carter's rugs rejected?—Yes; I have seen them going along the Minorities during the wool sales. I saw a cart load going from the Tower within this fortnight. I went and touched them and wrung the water out of them. If they had anything in them, they had half a pound of water. If a man delivers a rug, and it has 8 ozs. of water in it, when it comes to be dried it is 8 ozs. light. I will be bound to say those had; those were Carter's. I watched them to Carter's, for I was determined that I would prove that thing.

1118. Was it not a proper thing to reject those rugs?—Of course.

1119. Then what is the bearing of your observation?—If they give orders to that kind of people who supply them much more inferior, there must be some favoritism or some gross injustice.

1120. Who is Mr. Carter?—He is a contractor and agent in London.

1121. Just as you are?—Yes; but he contracts himself. This was his own contract.

1122. Is not Mr. Carter an agent as you are for Mr. Clarkson, for the very first house in the trade?—Certainly not.

1123. Whose do you consider the first house in the trade?—Swallow's.

1124. Are not Haigh and Cook's?—Haigh and Cook do not make those goods at all. There is not a man within twelve miles round but I know what he can do.

1125. I understood Mr. Cook to state, that he had delivered rugs at the Tower?—He has not delivered any. Those were made by a person of the name of Tolson.

1126. You complain that Carter had sent in rugs full of water, which ought not to be done?—Yes. Messrs. Gilbert and Gibbins sent in 3,500 when our tender was refused. They were all rejected because they were inferior, and they delivered such rugs before.

1127. Had any of Mr. Clarkson's rugs been rejected?—Yes, but unfairly. Since they rejected the rugs, Mr. Howell wrote saying, that parties who made rugs of two qualities of yarn, bad in the middle and good at the ends, and did not deliver their contract properly, would not be allowed to tender a good many things of that kind, in reply to his asking for tenders.

1128. Was Mr. Clarkson struck off the list of contractors?—He has tenders sent, but he does not get the contracts; if they give to a London agent 10,000 at 5s. 3d., and another 7,000 at 5s. 3d., he ought, according to the accustomed rule, to have had his 5,000.

1129. How do you think the unfairness arose?—I will tell you why I think there is unfairness. Mr. Carter is a very great friend of Mr. Elliott. I hardly ever go to the Tower, but I see him with Mr. Elliott. I tell him before his face, as I have told him other matters before.

1130. Have you any reason to suppose that Mr. Elliott has anything on earth to do with the purchase or contracting for rugs?—I have.

1131. What reason?—I have understood that they recommend who shall be written to to send these supplies of goods. I was told by a gentleman that Mr. Swallow had told it to his agent that they had been recommended to have those rugs given to them; that they were bought for the supply of Hargreaves' default, at 5s. 3d. and 5s. 4½d.

1132. Was Hargreaves' a Carlisle house?—Yes. I was told that they had those other two 5,000 given to them because they could rely upon them. When I went to the Tower about the inspection of Mr. Clarkson's rugs, I remonstrated with Mr. Elliott about the quality: he told me that they were very nice rugs and very good rugs, but that they were slightly defective in the length of staple; that was what it was ultimately brought to, after a great deal of trouble and bother; I told him that the specification did not state any length of staple to be any criterion. They were to be equal in staple; it did not state the length, quality, or fineness of the staple. I told him also that the rugs which I had delivered were better by ten or fifteen per cent. than any they had received by previous contracts to meet the deficiencies of Hargreaves. Mr. Elliott denied that it was the case, but I am prepared to prove it; my friends had spun the yarn for the makers. I am prepared to prove how they made them, and that we made ours better by ten or fifteen per cent. and that they had rejected them. He said, "That is not correct." I said "It is so, you will find that when they come in. When Gilbert and Gibbins delivered some of theirs a day or two days after, like those which had been made before, they were all rejected. That proves that they reject goods and receive from others inferior goods, and when they come to give them the preference giving them 5,000 each to do, not giving Mr. Clarkson any, they do an injustice to Mr. Clarkson, because he was prepared to go on delivering such goods as were received, and Gilbert and Gibbins were prepared to send the same as they had sent, which were all rejected; they had a great difficulty to make up the deficiency.

1133. Did Mr. Clarkson ever send in rejected articles a second time?—No, not without re-assorting, according to the conditions; by the conditions they are allowed to be removed to be re-assorted. We did remove 2,000, or 3000, re-assorted them and sent them in and about two-thirds of what we had back were approved. On one occasion when I was there, when Mr. Carter had not the contract for rugs, and I was waiting to see Mr. Elliott, one of his viewers brought samples of six or seven different kinds of rugs into Mr. Elliott's room, and there was Mr. Carter examining them, at the time we had a difficulty about ours. I say that no contractor ought to be allowed to go and advise, which Mr. Carter does continually; he should not see other people's goods and be allowed to report upon them to make a prejudice for other contractors. I saw with my own eyes these rugs, which were within Mr. Elliott's room, and there was a consultation about them.

1134. Were you in the room?—In the adjoining room.

1135. How do you know what consultation took place?—I say that there was a consultation upon the rugs, because I heard it. I will also give another reason why I consider that it is unfair that Mr. Carter should be so frequently at the Tower; he is almost always there when I go there. Some time last year I heard Mr. Carter state to an officer in the East India Co.'s Store that a certain house had had 500 fine point blankets delivered, and they had been making them with cotton in; he said, "I told Mr. Elliott of it, and I gave him the means of detecting it, and they have been rejected." I met an agent of the house the same day, and I then said, "Do you know that your point blankets have been rejected at the Tower?" He said, "I have been once or twice, and could get no reply about them. I will write down and tell the house that a lot of goods are rejected for being said to have cotton in them."

1136. Did the man to whom you said this say that they had cotton in them?—He did not know; he said that he should write to the house. He did write to the house, and they said they were as nice goods as could possibly be made.

1137. Who is that agent?—Mr. Moore, in Gresham Street, is the agent. Messrs. Atkinson and Bush were the contractors. I merely mention this to show

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how prejudices are created against other contractors by those who are in favour. If Mr. Carter can state in another public department that goods are rejected, that he has told an inspector that they have cotton in them, and supplied the means of detecting it, it is an

unfair proceeding, and ought not to be countenanced. I am merely stating the fact of the way in which the thing comes about. I say the inspector has no right to consult Mr. Carter or anybody else about the goods.

Adjourned to Tuesday next at Eleven o'clock.

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Tuesday, 14th December 1858.

PRESENT :

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Mr. THOMAS CARR further examined.

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1138. (*Chairman.*) In your former examination you referred to a tender for rugs made by Mr. Clarkson; do you know why his tender was not accepted?—I do not.

1139. Have you never heard?—I never had any explanation or any reason given why.

1140. Had not Mr. Clarkson been a contractor in the early part of the year?—He had.

1141. At what price?—4s. 9d.

1142. Was that contract entered into on the 15th of March?—Yes.

1143. When were the rugs to be delivered?—I believe one portion in one month, and another portion in two months.

1144. Were you concerned in the delivery of the first portion under that contract?—I was.

1145. Were the three first samples that were delivered rejected?—The two first were, but I think not the third.

1146. Were not they all rejected until the delivery of a sample on the 23rd of April?—The first delivery was one rug on the 25th of March; that was rejected as not made of sound wool, nor so long in the staple, nor of the specific weight. The second delivery was on the 9th of April, and that was rejected as not made of sound wool, and not so long in the staple. There is a third report of 11 rugs, but Mr. Clarkson says in his letter this morning that he has not been able to find it; those were approved, for he was present in town at the time.

1147. The report before me states that the three first samples were rejected as inferior in quality and staple, and on the 23rd of April Mr. Clarkson delivered a fourth sample, which was approved; is that so?—I should not think so, because I have a report here from the Tower on the 14th of May, of 1,200 that were delivered after he had delivered the third sample; it would not be the date you speak of.

1148. He delivered his fourth sample before he delivered the 1,200?—Yes.

1149. According to this statement (I do not know whether it is correct), three samples were all rejected; he delivered a fourth sample on the 23rd of April, which was approved, and then on the 3rd of May he sent in the supply?—I have not that report.

1150. On the 3rd and 6th of May, or the 3rd and 7th of May he delivers 1,200 and 800, were they rejected?—Yes.

1151. Do you know the ground of rejection?—I do know the ground; not made of sound wool, not so long in the staple as the pattern, and mixed qualities.

1152. The report states that the supply resembled the rejected samples, and not the approved samples?—They were made to the approved sample. I must qualify that by this remark, that the sample was approved by Mr. Page in the presence of Mr. Elliott; the third sample I believe it was, and Mr. Page said,

"I would rather, though these are approved, that they were made a little finer," and Mr. Clarkson said, "I have no objection to do that, and shall be most happy to do so if you wish it." When he got home he made the bulk, and though he made them from the same pile of wool that the sample which was approved was made from, he put 20 lbs. to the pack of a finer class of wools to meet Mr. Page's wish, and the bulk was delivered made in that way, precisely the same. When the bulk was delivered, they were rejected as not long enough in the staple.

1153. Whether the rejection was right or wrong, the contract being for delivery within a certain time, was the result that no approved rugs were delivered for nearly three months after the time at which they were to have been delivered?—No, the approved rugs were delivered earlier than that, but the delay arose from the War Department not replying to Mr. Clarkson's letter; they kept his letter unanswered for more than a month.

1154. When were the first approved rugs delivered under that contract?—In the course of the month of May.

1155. What period in May?—I have not the particulars here.

1156. Here is a report of the 17th of May, which states that Mr. Clarkson has failed to make any supply of rugs up to this date?—We had made supplies of these that were approved in April, and he altered the make to suit the inspector's wishes by putting a little finer wool in, and then they were rejected.

1157. Had Mr. Clarkson, being under contract of the 15th of March to deliver rugs, up to the 17th of May delivered any rugs which were approved?—The samples of course had been approved in April.

1158. Three samples were rejected; one was approved, and then after that 2,000 rugs were delivered. But the inspectors say, rightly or wrongly, that the 2,000 rugs delivered were not in accordance with the approved samples, but in accordance with the rejected samples, and that therefore they rejected the bulk. Up to the 17th of May, whether the inspector's rejection was right or wrong, had any rugs of Mr. Clarkson been accepted?—On the 14th of May there were 1,000 delivered, which I believe were afterwards received.

1159. The short reason given is, that there being another contract, and a number of rugs required, there is a reference made to the principal military storekeeper for a report as to the most eligible offers to be accepted; and on the 17th of May Mr. Eaton reports that Mr. Clarkson and some other person had failed to make any supply of rugs up to that date. "Both have submitted samples of approved quality. "Mr. Clarkson has also made a delivery of 2,000, "the whole of which have been rejected. If the

"10,000 rugs demanded are urgently required, I submit there can be no question as to the policy of accepting the next lowest tenders. Mr. Carter states he can deliver 5,000 in one month, and Messrs. Gilbert state they can also deliver 5,000 immediately, and a further quantity by the 1st proximo." That may be a bad reason, but that is the reason you wished to know?—When I tendered those samples to Mr. Elliott, I told him we had delivered rugs 10 or 15 per cent. better than those delivered from other contractors, and I was prepared to prove, in my opinion, and I have made millions, that not only were they equal to the sample, but that they had received other rugs much inferior. They gave the 10,000 to Mr. Carter and Gilbert and Gibbins, who were prepared to deliver; and I told him, "When you receive those, you will find they are of inferior quality." They delivered 4,000 immediately, and they were all rejected as being inferior.

1160. I thought you were of opinion that it was a very improper thing for one contractor to give the authorities any information upon the supplies made by other contractors. Why did you mention anything about Gilbert and Gibbins' rugs to Mr. Elliott?—Because I knew the quality they had received was inferior to what we had delivered.

1161. You told us on Thursday that you thought it was a very unfair thing that Mr. Carter should supply the means of detecting cotton in blankets for instance; do you still think that that is unfair?—I do. But they refuse to receive goods 10 or 15 per cent. better than the samples that other people are delivering at an increased price. They sent in those goods, and they had been received, and I think it is unfair not to receive our goods.

1162. Were not you an agent for Mr. Clarkson, as Mr. Carter was for somebody else?—No; Mr. Carter was agent for himself.

1163. From whom does he get his rugs?—Tolson, of Dewsbury.

1164. Whom do you consider the best rug maker?—Swallow, of Heckmondwike, is the first rug maker.

1165. How long does it take to make a rug?—I have made 5,000 a week for years together.

1166. Could you put a rug in hand and complete it within a week of receiving the report?—We received the order on the 15th of March, and we produced a sample rug at the Tower on the 25th of March. We had the wool to put together, to spin, to dye, and make into a rug.

1167. If on the 23rd of April you had an approved sample, could you make 1,200 rugs upon that sample between the 23rd of April and the 3rd of the following month?—You could not make a large quantity in ten days, you would have to proceed afresh.

1168. Therefore, if you delivered a sample on the 23rd, if you were to deliver 2,000 rugs on the 3rd of May following, that is ten days afterwards, they must have been made by another sample or previously?—No, we had the pile of wool made precisely the same as we delivered on the 23rd of April. Mr. Clarkson telegraphed down home immediately, and this portion of finer wools was put together, and they commenced immediately. We could make at that time 1,500 a week.

1169. On the 23rd of April you had your sample approved, and on the 3rd of May you delivered 1,200 rugs; were those 1,200 rugs made by the approved sample?—They were all made after the sample was approved.

1170. To revert to the subject of the waterproof capes. Have you had any difference with Mr. Spill, to whom you referred the other day?—No.

1171. Are you not at law with him?—No.

1172. And have not been?—No.

1173. Are there any unsettled accounts between you?—No.

1174. Are you at all able to answer the question whether those blankets supplied by Atkinson and

Brush did contain cotton?—I do not know at all. I never went into the matter.

1175. Supposing they did contain cotton, do not you think it was a fraud?—I should say that no goods ought to be made contrary to the pattern, but I believe the War Department and the other departments have been in the habit of receiving some with cotton from other people.

1176. Do you mean to say that blankets have been received by the public authorities knowingly and willingly with cotton in them?—I say they have done so.

1177. Do you mean to say that they have done so willingly?—They had the same means of detection in the one case as in the other.

1178. Having given the specification that there should be no cotton in the blankets, have they willingly received blankets that had cotton in them?—I should presume not.

1179. Do you think the specification being that there should be no cotton in the blankets, it was a fraud to send in blankets containing cotton?—I do not know that there was cotton.

1180. Do you think it would be a fraud if there was cotton in the blankets?—I think it would be.

1181. Do you think, that being so, it is not the duty of honest men to furnish the Government with the means of detecting the fraud?—I think a man would have no business to interfere.

1182. Would you stand by and see one man trying to cheat another without giving him information?—I did not.

1183. Mr. Carter, it seems, tells the Government, "You will find cotton in those blankets." If he knew it, it was not a proper thing for him to say, in your opinion. As a matter of commercial morality, if one man is attempting a fraud, whether upon the Government, or upon another commercial man, do not you think it is the duty of an honest man to warn the person upon whom the fraud is attempted?—I should not interfere with other people's supplies; I never do.

1184. If you see a fraud about to be committed in the sale of goods to the Government, or to any other commercial man, do not you think it is an honest thing to warn the person upon whom the fraud is about to be committed?—I should not do it myself; I did not know it. I should not interfere with other people's business.

1185. (*Mr. Turner.*) The question put to you by the Chairman supposes that you do know it?—I heard Mr. Carter state himself that he had done it.

1186. (*Chairman.*) Am I to understand that you would object to such a communication being made, whether it was true or not?—I think a man has no business to make any communication whatever to the Government, unless they make it an open question, as I should suggest that every contractor shall be allowed to see what another does publicly, not to do it "under the rose."

1187. You were present when Mr. Carter said that?—He said so in another public office. It is a matter of doubt with any man whether there is such a thing in frequently, consequently I did not suppose Mr. Carter could know it.

1188. What is the next point upon which you wish to give evidence?—While we are upon the point of what Mr. Carter has done, (he is here I see,) I will tell you a few other things that I know he is in the habit of doing, and what the Tower people are in the habit of doing with him: If there are any samples wanted, Mr. Carter is applied to by either Mr. Elliott or Mr. Eaton to supply them, and he has supplied some lately.

1189. (*Mr. Turner.*) What samples?—Any supplies that they want in his line. He has lately supplied a new rug sample, since these contracts have been going on. He has lately supplied samples for police cloths. He has lately supplied a new sample for grey blankets, two or three pieces; samples of grey kersey, three pieces. Now at Woolwich, Quartermaster Grant and Quartermaster Mutch, who wish to do their business satisfactorily, order those samples

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of five or six different manufacturers, to get a fair competition, and to produce those things in the best way. It does not seem to be reasonable that Mr. Carter, who is a friend of Mr. Elliott, and continually at the Tower, should be employed in those things to the prejudice of everybody else, and should make all those things.

1190. What is the object of supplying those samples?—The War Department has been supplied with a great many samples. They are using now the pattern plain weave for kersey weave, and plain dyed for woaded dyed.

1191. Are the samples which are so supplied an indication of what Mr. Carter thinks should be the quality of the articles ordered, or are they sent in with a view of securing orders to those samples?—Every one that makes a sample has an advantage, but I say that competition ought to be as clear and open in the samples, as it is in anything else. Why should he make three samples of an article, and no other party make one at all? Mr. Carter is not a manufacturer, and I say that three or four, or half a dozen manufacturers who deliver those goods best to the Government, ought to be employed, their samples compared, and the best selected.

1192. (*Chairman.*) Without the interposition of a London agent?—Some of them do their business without a London agent.

1193. Would you have the application made to the manufacturers direct?—Of course; to those who are contractors I would always do so. All the documents go direct from the War Department, and from every department to the manufacturers direct; they do not go to the agent. Mr. Carter is an agent, and gets those things made in three or four hands.

1194. (*Mr. Turner.*) Those samples so supplied by Mr. Carter, if orders are to be given, I suppose would be submitted to the contractors generally, and not to Mr. Carter alone?—Of course they would.

1195. Then if the quality of the cloth (it matters not by whom the sample is supplied) is fairly submitted to competition before an order is given, what evil is there?—Because the Government have not a fair opportunity of getting the best sample made. There is no opportunity of comparing the ability of other people to produce those things.

1196. In fact, you think it would be desirable for the Government to apply to the best manufacturers they can find for samples of the article they require to buy; they should compare those samples one with another, and select that which they consider the best, that should be used as the standard pattern, throwing the supply open to the competition of the contractors they have on the list before them?—That is what I should advocate. But I will tell you another reason why I mention this. There is a contract out at the present moment for 10,000 grey blankets, and on going down to the Tower with one manufacturer on Friday, who had got the circular and was in town, to see the grey blanket sample, I found the specification stated that no shoddy, woollen waste, hair, or anything else but pure wool should be used, and that no soap, stoving, or dry raising, in getting up these goods shall be allowed. Besides my own experience, from making a great many of these goods, I had one of the most practical men I know looking at this sample on Friday, that was supplied by Mr. Carter, and is exhibited for the supply of grey blankets at this moment, and I say that it does contain shoddy or woollen waste, which they prohibit by their specification.

1197. Did not you cite an instance of cloth you had to supply at Weedon by specification, and not by sample?—Yes, all the cloths at this moment, unless the system has been altered within a few weeks at the War Department, are supplied upon this principle, as the same pattern is exhibited that I complained of their exhibiting two years ago. Though they have had supplies of 200,000 yards, they have not a pattern of the improved cloth, but the same pattern.

1198. Is a contractor expected to follow the speci-

cation or the pattern?—That is the difficulty we have to contend with. We are expected to try to do both, but it is totally impossible; and if we turn round upon an inspector, and say, "We are making to the specification," he will say, "We have got our pattern, and 'we must follow it; those are our instructions.'" Then we get into a difficulty, and that is what we complain of.

1199. Why do you accept an order which at the very commencement sets a trap for you?—If we did not accept the orders upon their terms, we could not accept them at all.

1200. I do not yet understand whether you are to follow the sample or the specification?—We are to follow the specification.

1201. I have had offers submitted to me where the specification says one thing, and the sample falsifies the specification; but I invariably have refused to have anything to say to the persons making such offers, inasmuch as they did not understand their business?—We must do the business in their way; if we did not, the Government would get no supplies.

1202. (*Chairman.*) You mentioned in some detail a case which occurred at Weedon, about kersey weave cloth. In that case, did you follow the specification?—Yes.

1203. And your goods were passed?—Yes.

1204. Have you ever known any instance in which, having followed the specification, and having thereby been obliged to deviate from the pattern, your goods have been rejected?—I have not myself, but I have heard people state those difficulties. I will tell you the reason why I have not met with those difficulties; I never allowed my friends to proceed with the bulk till they had got a sample approved. I attribute the success I have met with in delivering goods with less rejection than other people, to maintaining that point. I never will proceed, and we never do, till we have had a sample approved.

1205. You follow the specification, and you take the precaution of getting a sample approved first?—Yes; then they are received by that. As a rule, the contract states that we are to deliver a small proportion to be approved, before we proceed with our supplies, and as I have just said, I never allow any of my friends to proceed with the bulk, till a sample has been approved by the inspectors.

1206. (*Mr. Turner.*) Although the inspector may approve of a sample of the supply forwarded by the manufacturer, are not you aware that his instructions from the War Office are, to follow the sealed pattern and specification sent to him?—I consider that the greatest difficulty and hardship upon the inspectors are the instructions that they have given to them being so diametrically opposed to what they ought to be.

1207. The inspectors are obliged to follow the instructions they receive; if they have a sealed pattern sent to them, to which they are compelled to adhere in their inspection, must not they reject all the supply which does not conform to that pattern?—Just so.

1208. How can they adopt your pattern, which has only been approved of between you and the inspectors, and not by Sir Thomas Troubridge, or whoever seals the original pattern?—They can only do that by the contract, which states, that before a contractor shall proceed with the bulk, he must send in so many yards of cloth to be approved by the inspector; having done so, I presume that makes it official.

1209. (*Chairman.*) If I remember rightly, it was stated, although they will examine samples for the assistance of contractors, the examination after all must be by the original sealed pattern?—At the Tower they are very much better off, both as regards patterns and specifications, than they are at Pall Mall or Weedon; it is an old establishment, where they have had specifications for a great number of years; to their credit, I must say, that their patterns and specifications generally are very good and very clear. At Pall Mall it is not so, because they have no proper patterns, and till very recently had scarcely any specifications.

To prove that I will give you one case which occurred in September this year, with reference to some cloth, and I question if the point is yet decided whether it is to be delivered in London or at Weedon. An order was put out for cloth for the Guards in September, and the circulars issued by the War Department stated that they had no patterns to give to the contractors for certain portions of the cloths. This brought up several contractors from the country, and there was some four or five days from the issuing of the circular to getting in the tenders, and then they were shown a very small sample. This the contractors complained of, and in consequence of that some fresh patterns were produced, got somewhere in London, I presume; but they stated, "we do not give you these for any guide whatever, they are merely for you to see; if you choose to take a bit of it, you do it on your own responsibility. Here is the specification of what we require." They gave us a specification of white cloth, 28 inches wide, 1 lb. 8 oz. the yard; it is totally impossible to be made or produced in any way; that cloth at 58 inches wide was not 1 lb. 8 oz. Then they produced another pattern 54 inches wide, for the cloth to be 1 lb. 14 oz.; that pattern was only about 1 lb. 4 or 5 oz. in weight. There were three patterns of that kind exhibited, and the parties had to tender for the whole supply of the cloths, one-third to be delivered in two months, which was totally impossible to be done by any mortal man; he could not produce 11,000 yards, the third of 33,000 yards, in two months; another third was to be produced in one year, and another third on the 1st of June 1860. Now it seems to be totally unreasonable that the War Office should issue things of that kind with such vague patterns and specifications, and ask for one-third to be done in two months, which they must know is totally impossible, and give perhaps four days to send in these tenders, and then take a week or eight or nine days before they reply upon them. Those are the things I wish to state to you with a view of remedying them, for the very reason I gave you the other day; the responsibility to myself and others similarly situated is so great that I do not like it.

1210. (*Mr. Turner.*) Do you know anything about cotton cloth?—I have had something to do with cotton cloth, but I am a woollen manufacturer.

1211. Supposing that I am a warehouseman, and I offer you an order for 50,000 pieces of twilled cloth according to my specification, 36 inches wide, weighing 10 oz. to the yard, and that I submit a sample to guide you which is a plain cloth, not twilled, not 36 inches wide, but 35, and weighing two or three ounces less per yard than the specification states, and stipulate that my inspector shall have the power of rejection in any way he likes if the supply is not satisfactory, and that you should have no appeal; would you execute my order under those circumstances?—I myself individually would not; but as I told the Chairman the other day, I have not done anything with the Government direct for the last 10 years, but one contract.

1212. Would you execute my order given in the terms which I have described?—I would not, individually.

1213. Would any sensible man?—That is a question I should not like to answer. I represent a number of respectable men who are sensible, but they tell me, if we do not do the orders with these risks we cannot do them at all; we have got our mills and machinery to employ. For the last few years ordinary trade has been very uncertain, and we have been obliged to take these risks against our will. At this moment they are withdrawing tendering for these things. They say, when the trade becomes at all reasonably good, they will not do so, and the Government must get their supplies where they can.

1214. Supposing, instead of sending my order to you in those vague and contradictory terms, I sent a sensible straightforward order for twilled cloth, 36 inches wide, and to weigh so much per yard, with a sample of the cloth I require, about which there

could be no doubt, would you undertake to execute my order at a lower price than you would ask in the other case?—I should make a difference of 5, 7½, or 10 per cent. We do it now in the Government supplies to cover the risks.

1215. Your object being to cover the great risk that you run with orders so vaguely given in such an unbusinesslike manner?—That, I believe, is universally done. I should do it myself.

1216. Therefore the tax-payers of England suffer from the folly of the Government to that extent?—I should say to the extent of tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands of pounds a year on all their supplies. I am prepared to prove that in many instances we have invariably put on 5, 7½, and in some instances 10 per cent., after we have made our calculations for the contract, to cover risks.

1217. That being the case, in your opinion who is to blame, the inspectors at Weedon or the Tower, or those petty officers, the viewers, or the authorities at the War Office in the contract department?—Certainly not the inspectors; they have no power in the matter.

1218. Whom do you consider is to blame?—The parties who issue the contracts at Pall Mall, decidedly.

1219. (*Col. French.*) Still, if the parties at Pall Mall have not proper patterns, is it not the duty of the inspectors to report that such inconsistencies exist?—I believe they have done so. That I have nothing to do with.

1220. (*Chairman.*) Mr. Hoile stated that they had pointed that discrepancy out, and that in future the specifications and patterns are to come from the same authority?—Up to September that had not been done, as regards the cloth for the Guards. If you wish me to go into that point I can make a number of remarks upon what I consider the shortcomings of the War Department relative to those things, because I am in a position to prove them. I have seen in that pattern room twenty times, five or six, or eight or ten people who have come from Yorkshire, and the West of England, and other places, and have been waiting there for three or four hours together. I have gone three or four times a day to get patterns, and have gone away the night before the tenders were to go in, and frequently they have been postponed by the War Department to give more time, and even then they have not been supplied with patterns up to the date of the tenders going in; and we have had to tender frequently when we had no particulars that we could rely upon at all. I have been there when the pattern man has gone out of the pattern room to houses at the West-end army clothiers, and has brought in a yard or a yard and a half of cloth, and that has been taken into either Sir Thomas Troubridge, or Mr. Ramsay, or Mr. somebody-else, of course I do not know who, brought out sealed, and cut. I have known that when I have had a telegraph on the day the tenders were to go in, and the result is, they have had to be forwarded up by railway, and I have had to go to the War Department at ten o'clock at night with tenders when the patterns have not been decided before six; that has occurred not in one instance but twenty.

1221. (*Mr. Turner.*) You spoke of the patterns being sealed by Sir Thomas Troubridge, or Mr. Ramsay, or some other person; Sir Thomas Troubridge is not at the War Office, but at the Horse Guards?—At first he was at the War Office.

1222. Does not it rest with the Horse Guards to seal those patterns?—At that time it did not, because they were sealed at Pall Mall. I have seen them brought from army clothiers at the West-end, sealed and brought out after we had waited five or six or seven hours. I have known ten gentlemen from the country to be waiting for this being done.

1223. (*Chairman.*) You mean to say that the patterns have not been ready in time when the tenders have been issued?—I have taken tenders to the place twenty times, and twenty times to count that with, when they have not known that the contract was out,

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and the first intimation the pattern man had was the production of the War Department circular by me or others.

1224. In your opinion, a sufficient time is not allowed between the issuing of the tenders and the time for their receipt?—I have known circulars go out from Pall Mall to the manufacturers, they have had to telegraph up for patterns to be sent, or particulars, saying they must be in in three days. I have had to telegraph, and in many instances the tenders had to be sent in in a week, which is too little time for any party to make their preparations for a large contract. I have one in my pocket now which was issued on the 9th of December for rugs at the Tower to be in on the 16th; that is rather a long notice compared with some, but that is too little.

1225. What time would you suggest?—The East India Company, the Admiralty, and all other public bodies, that I know of, but the War Department, give longer time. If the East India Company issue a circular on the Wednesday, which they generally do, or on Tuesday, there is a fortnight given.

1226. Would that be sufficient, do you think, for the generality of contracts issued by the War Department?—That would be sufficient, not too much, because large contractors when they get a circular, supposing it to be for 50,000 or 100,000 yards of cloth, or a large proportion of goods, however well-informed they may be, do not know the state of the market sufficiently to tender satisfactorily to themselves, without making inquiry in the market; if they have not an opportunity of doing that, they must tender at a risk, and if they tender at a risk they do it at an increased price. Having done it at an increased price, the country must pay it.

1227. Do you think you know sufficiently soon whose tender is accepted?—That is another of the very great defects; we have been a fortnight after tenders have been sent in before we have known. Friends of mine have received orders at the end of a fortnight after having tendered. I have been up, at the request of parties, particularly when the wool market has been in a feverish state, day after day, and the reply that has been given to me has been this: "We do not know anything about it; we can give you no answer." I have applied sometimes to Mr. Gwyn, sometimes to Mr. Howell, and sometimes at the contract branch upstairs.

1228. Are you of opinion that under the Board of Ordnance there used to be greater promptitude?—Under the Board of Ordnance, for the twenty or thirty years of my experience, if I went there (and I have a hundred times) at half-past four o'clock, I could know whether I was a successful tenderer the day the tenders were opened; I have done that myself.

1229. What is the custom with the East India Company?—If we call at half-past two o'clock, when the tenders are sent in at eleven, we can invariably know whether our tender is accepted. I have never known but one instance at the East India House for the last thirty odd years that I have been connected with them, but what we have known on the same day, and that was in consequence of the excitement created at the time of the Indian mutiny; the Court sat later and the papers were not able to be got out of the room.

1230. Are you aware of any reason arising from the great variety or increased quantity of supplies which should necessitate a much longer time before a decision is come to at the War Office?—No. The East India contracts are larger at a time than the War Department, and they find no difficulty; I should presume that they had as great a number of people tendering, and I see no reason if there are a hundred people tendering, which there never is, at one o'clock, why the decision should not be known in two or three hours as well as two or three days or a week. I wish further to remark, that at the War Department they have a list of all parties tendering, and those parties are admitted by reference to their bankers or some respectable merchant; until that is done they are not

allowed to receive the circulars. When that is done I presume the War Department are satisfied; but it is quite clear from what has occurred, and may occur again, that those parties are not always allowed to be fairly treated by having their tenders received.

1231. In what respect?—Because those who tender at a less price are not always accepted, and being admitted on the list by reference, according to the rule of the War Department; everyone ought to stand their fair chance, and take the contract if they tender the lowest.

1232. As long as contractors' names are on the list, you think no circumstances ought to deprive them of the right to receive contracts, if their tenders are the lowest?—They receive no tenders until they give a satisfactory reference. The Board of Ordnance never did that to my knowledge, for all the years that I contracted with them. They never declined to give a tender, nor do the Admiralty or the East India Company, at any time. There is no instance, I believe, on record, where the East India Company have not given the contract to the lowest tender; and Captain Milne stated in one of these rooms, in my presence, that in only one instance in all the years he had been at the Admiralty, had that system been departed from, of receiving the lowest tender.

1233. Perhaps those departments do not require their supplies in so much hurry as the War Department?—They give a great deal more time.

1234. If the War Department want things in a hurry, I presume they cannot always take the lowest tender, if they are not sure that the man making the lowest tender will supply them?—I presume that no man would tender for an article, when he is to give a bond if called upon, but what he was prepared to supply. As the War Department take an opportunity, before they send a tender to any one, to have that party's character and position inquired into, I presume he is in a position to tender, and ought to be allowed to do so.

1235. He may be in a position to tender, but not in a position to perform. We have it in evidence, that in 1854 about 125 contracts were entered into, a great many of them by tender, which were not completed in time. Do you think there should be no exception to the rule, that the lowest tender should be accepted?—I decidedly say so.

1236. Are you aware that the almost invariable rule, except under special circumstances, is, that the lowest tender is accepted?—I am aware that that is so understood by contractors, but lately doubted.

1237. Can you state any instance, besides that of Mr. Clarkson, in which you know that the lowest tender has not been accepted?—I am not prepared to prove that at present. I believe if you call for a return from the War Department, you will find in it many instances. I only have Mr. Howell's own word for it, and he stated that there were such cases. He stated that the Secretary of State had a perfect right to do so, and did use that right. He is my authority.

1238. Without going into the cases in which the discretion of the Secretary of State may have been exercised, do you know any case, besides that of Mr. Clarkson, in which the lowest tender has not been accepted?—I am not at the present moment prepared to prove it, but I believe that to be the case.

1239. Do you know any case in which the circulars have not been sent to contractors on the list?—I know one instance that I can state to you. One of my own correspondents, Mr. Kershaw, of Gomersal, who is an army cloth manufacturer, and has been brought up in the trade for 20 years, applied to be placed on the list of contractors, was allowed to be so, and tendered for several supplies.

1240. Can you state in what year?—During the war. He tendered for several supplies to the Tower, and delivered supplies in 1855, 1856, and 1857; but either late in December 1857, or early in January 1858, there was a circular from the War Department issued for cloths. I had them sent by two or three or four. I had six or seven parties who regularly

tender for cloth, but not receiving one from Mr. Kershaw, knowing the nature of the cloth which I thought he was calculated to do.

1241. What kind of cloth was it?—I do not at the moment recollect. I wrote to him, stating that circulars were issued, and as I had not heard from him I feared there might be some mistake; would he let me know whether he had received it. He replied to say that he had not received the circular. I went to the War Department and saw Mr. Conolly, the party who issues the circulars, and he told me that by the order of the Director of Contracts Mr. Kershaw's name had been struck off the list of contractors. I wrote back to Mr. Kershaw and told him. I also saw Mr. Howell about it. Mr. Conolly said I had better do so. He said "There are reasons, Mr. Carr, for this." I said, "Mr. Kershaw has had none assigned to him; all the supplies he has delivered have been satisfactory. He has delivered red cloths, with very few pieces rejected, and scarlet cloths with only two or three pieces rejected; he has delivered grey kersey cloth at the Tower with scarcely a rejection, and all his contracts to the extent of some four or five have been done satisfactorily, with no complaints and very slight rejections. I wish to know what the reason is that he has been struck from the list, and whether I can have a circular for him?" He said I could not, and the Secretary of State had done it.

1242. Do you know what the reason was?—No.

1243. I can imagine that a contractor's name may be struck off the list, and then a circular would not be sent to him. Do you know any instance in which a circular has not been sent to a contractor whose name was on the list?—Scarcely a lot of circulars come out, but some one or other of my friends have been omitted to be sent to.

1244. Mr. Kershaw was struck off the list, rightly or wrongly, therefore his case does not apply; will you give an instance that does apply?—George Ellis and Nephew, of Leeds, are on the list, and have been very successful contractors. In the course of last year I inquired the reason why it has occurred several times, both with them and others, that a circular was not sent, and they stated to me that an alteration had been made in their books at the request of a gentleman from the city, who represented the house of Joshua Ellis and Company, there being two firms, one George Ellis and Nephew, and another Joshua Ellis and Company, and their names are in the War Department book following each other. On this occasion, when I went to inquire why George Ellis and Nephew had not had a circular for cloths, he said, "Some gentleman came here the other day, and said there are very frequent mistakes making about contract papers; and this man, who was the representative of Joshua Ellis and Company, had the name of Ellis and Nephew struck out at Leeds, and put Dewsbury." I said, "That is very extraordinary, you must know, and so must that party know, whoever he is, that there are two firms, George Ellis and Nephew, and Joshua Ellis and Company; they are not the same, and cannot be made the same in any way." I saw in the War Department book myself the name Leeds struck out, and Dewsbury put in; I had Leeds inserted again to remedy the mistake.

1245. That is perhaps negligence or a mistake, but that was not intentional favouritism?—I do not know who could go to Pall Mall and order Leeds to be struck out and Dewsbury to be put in.

1246. How far is Dewsbury from Leeds?—Nine or ten miles.

1247. Would not a circular addressed to George Ellis and Nephew, whether directed to Dewsbury or Leeds, find them easily enough?—They have been delivered after three or four days, but too late to tender sometimes.

1248. (Mr. Turner.) You have not yet answered the question. Did you say that you had known occasions when some of your friends were omitted in the circu-

lars sent out?—I did say so, and I say in addition to that, there is scarcely a lot of circulars issued but some one is left out.

1249. (Chairman.) You have given two instances, neither of which touch the main point to which your observation would lead. I understood you to mean that they were intentionally left out?—I will give another instance that I do know. During the war I had heard at the Tower that there was a contract out for a quantity of blue cloth for artillery greatcoats.

1250. Is this under the new system?—Since the War Department, I believe, was established. I went to Pall Mall and inquired the reason why several of my friends, who were contractors for that cloth, had not had a circular, and I was told by Mr. Hanby that a selection had been made of some few parties to be written to. I said, "Well, it is very singular that a selection should be made, and that London houses should have the circular. I happen to hold one in my hand that has been sent to a wholesale clothier's house in London, and the houses who always manufacture the cloth, three or four of whom I represent, have had no circular. That seems so singular to me, I have no right to ask, who made this selection?" Mr. Gwyn inquired into the matter, and before I left I got a War Department circular for two houses, that was J. and T. Taylor and Ellis and Nephew, for that blue cloth.

1251. (Chairman to Mr. Gwyn.) Have you any explanation to offer on the statement which has just been made by Mr. Carr?—I can only say that my memory is not so good as Mr. Carr's. I cannot say anything further than that. At the same time I think it necessary to state that Mr. Carr is perpetually coming to the War Department, representing himself as the agent for Mr. A., B., C., and D. I know nothing about him, and he is not the accredited agent of anybody that I know of, at least not by any letter or communication from his principals. The rule at the War Department is, never to make any communication to a person stating that he an agent, with reference to tenders, until the parties themselves have become acquainted with the decision. Mr. Carr perpetually comes to the War Department, sometimes about boots, sometimes, I believe, about iron; I believe about blankets sometimes, and sometimes about cloths. He states that he is agent for A., B., and C., but I tell you very fairly that I never communicate with Mr. Carr the affairs of other people, unless he comes to me as the accredited agent with a letter from the parties begging that I will so do. I cannot recollect the circumstance, although Mr. Carr's memory is so good upon the subject, as it was during the time that the contracts were under the Board of Ordnance, in which I was then employed. In the absence of recollecting whether I did or not put it right, I must give Mr. Carr full credit for a better memory than myself.

(Mr. Carr.) I never go to the War Department, or very rarely go, without an official letter in my hand or in my pocket. In all the inquiries I have ever made, I have never been to the War Department but I have had letters, or one or other of the parties I represent have been with me, and seen either Mr. Howell or Mr. Gwyn. If Mr. Gwyn at any time says he requires a personal identification or letter of my appointment as agent, I have the instructions of the party, and upon all documents that I am concerned with I put my name as agent for the parties. I presume that is as much as I can do in all the inquiries and communications I make.

1252. (Chairman to Mr. Gwyn.) Was the rule during the existence of the Board of Ordnance to have a list of contractors and send tenders to all those who were on the list?—It was the invariable rule to send to all parties on the list, except in a case of emergency, when it was thought that it would be better to apply to the parties who would be most likely to have the article required at the time. As a general rule we immediately sent to everybody on the list. Mr. Carr complains of the power of the

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Secretary of State, that he reserves to himself the right of rejecting any tender. If Mr. Carr will refer to the form of tender, of which I believe he has a copy, he will see that that is part and parcel of the conditions in the form of tender.

(Mr. Carr.) Not without assigning a reason.

(Mr. Gwyn.) The Secretary of State has to settle in his own mind whether he will give a reason to the contractor or not. It is not for me to criticise the course which such an official takes.

1253. (Chairman.) Have such houses as Taylor and Ellis, who occupy the first rank, as a general rule been applied to when contracts were wanted for the articles that they furnish?—Certainly, if not it has been owing to mistake or accident, and when it has been found out it has been immediately set right.

1254. (Mr. Turner.) If a tender paper is sent to a contractor, and he makes the lowest tender, which is not accepted by the War Office, why do they send him the circular if they do not intend to accept his offer in the event of his tender being the lowest?—It is just possible that the offer may be accompanied with certain conditions to which the Secretary of State cannot agree, connected either with a difference of weight, or a difference in the dye, or a difference of quality, or a different period of delivery. In all those cases, I consider, as I believe the Secretary of State does, that the service is to be considered rather than the contractor.

1255. The tenders being to one pattern and specification, how can there be any difference in dye or anything else?—We cannot control parties who tender from making observations upon their tender. When delays do occur in settling tenders, they generally arise from questions raised by the contractors themselves.

1256. (Chairman.) Do not you occasionally refer to Weedon, the Tower, or Woolwich, as the case may be, to inquire the opinion of the authorities there as to whether the lowest tender should be accepted?—Not with reference to these things, with reference to things purely professional.

1257. The question as to the 10,000 rugs of which we have been speaking, seems to have been referred to the authorities at the Tower to report whether it was expedient to accept the lowest tender; and they reported, that, although Mr. Clarkson's was the lowest tender, if the rugs were wanted in a hurry, it was not expedient to accept it?—That was with regard to the period at which the articles were wanted, looking to the wants of the service, and that was referred to the officers who could best give information.

1258. (Mr. Turner.) I understand you to say that the delay in not giving the order frequently arises from the stipulations or observations that the contractor has made in his tender. Supposing there are no such observations made, but the tender is simply according to the specification and pattern, would you in that case accept the lowest tender?—In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the lowest tender is invariably accepted.

1259. What happens in the hundredth case?—It is submitted to the Secretary of State, with the reasons why the lowest tender should not be accepted, and his orders are taken upon the subject.

1260. (Chairman to Mr. Carr.) Are you acquainted with a case where an agent (perhaps yourself) went to the War Office when he had not received a circular, was told he could not have one, and then he threatened exposure if one was not given?—The only case I remember is the one as regards this blue cloth, when I was told that a selection of six or seven or eight houses had been made by order.

1261. Did you threaten to expose Mr. Gwyn, or anybody else?—No. I told Mr. Hanby that it was very singular to me that a selection should be made of wholesale army clothiers and slop houses in London, and that there was, as far as I could find, not a single manufacturer's name in that selection. I applied for a circular for two, and did state, that if they were not

supplied I should write to the Secretary of State. I had nothing to expose. I go openly about what I do in these matters, and I got a circular before I left. The parties tendered, and supplied a portion of the cloth very satisfactorily, although they had not been selected.

1262. Do you know within what time the cloth was wanted?—I do not know at the moment.

1263. You have made some suggestions as to having a list of tenders open to all contractors?—I say that that is desirable. The fact is, I am told by a great number of people in the country, they are so dissatisfied with the way things are decided, that it would be policy for all contractors that are on the list to be able to apply to the War Department and see a list of all the parties who have been written to, and who have tendered, and to whom the contract has been given, to satisfy them that they have been fairly treated. I would go further than that, and prevent anybody, A. or B., reporting to the authorities at the Tower, Woolwich, or anywhere, as to doing this, that, and the other. I would allow all contractors to see how any contract that they had competed for had been executed. I think that would be an open, straightforward state of things.

1264. (Mr. Turner.) If Mr. Carter or anyone made himself busy about blankets that I was sending in, and said I had used cotton warps, and tried to do me an injury, when I had not used cotton warps, but was perfectly guiltless in the matter, I would bring an action against Mr. Carter in a court of law for defamation and slander?—To prevent that, I would do what I propose; I suggest that there should be an appeal against the decision of all Government authorities.

1265. Do you think that any merchant would submit to such a system as you propose? If I sent a tender out to half a dozen manufacturers to supply me with a certain quantity of material of any kind, and I selected one and gave him the order, I should not think it necessary to send to the other five to convince them that I had acted fairly to them; why should the Government do that?—I do not say to send for them, I say that every person should have the means of ascertaining whether he is fairly treated. If there is any difficulty, the inspector should apply to the opposing contractor to give him an opinion upon it, so that all parties who had competed for the supply should be in a position to give their opinion.

1266. Is not applying to the opposing contractor for his opinion acknowledging gross ignorance on their own part? I do not see that they should have any necessity to appeal for any opinion; should not they have that information amongst themselves, as they spend so much of the public money?—Unfortunately they have not that information.

1267. (Chairman.) Do you suggest that everybody who is a contractor or agent should have free access to the supplies as well as to the tenders?—I say if they cannot do without calling in other parties when they are opponents, let it be open to all.

1268. Would you recommend such a system as that every tender should be open to the inspection of every other tenderer?—I would rather have that; I should prefer it myself as an individual, than that there should be that private way of doing it as now.

1269. Would you recommend absolute publicity?—I would, as a check against anything of that kind, done as it is now done. I do not care about anything that I have to do with being known.

1270. Everybody is to tender a farthing under the next time, so as to drive the contracts down to the lowest possible figure?—They get to know privately what prices are tendered; if it was known publicly it would be better.

(Mr. Gwyn.) The prices are never known; no communication is ever made except by the parties themselves.

(Mr. Carr.) I can prove that after tenders for any given supply to the War Department are issued, I have seen twenty times myself, when I have been in

Leeds and the neighbourhood, a list shown of the precise number of yards that has been got by certain houses, and the prices got, within three days of the time of those tenders; how do they get those? I do not know.

1271. Do you mean to say that the decision has been known before the acceptance of the tender has been publicly announced?—No. When the tenders have been decided I have been in Leeds, and I have seen a list as I have just stated.

1272. Do you mean before the tender is accepted, or afterwards?—Afterwards. To whom is it made known? I do not know. I have seen a list sent from London quoting the quantity of yards and the prices that certain houses have got the contract for.

1273. (*Mr. Turner.*) The manufacturers competing for these contracts are continually about the business and looking sharp after it; may not they worm the information out in some way from one another?—I have never gone to ask what other people are doing; I say it is done, and is exhibited in the market.

1274. (*Chairman.*) You want publicity?—I do.

1275. In the case which you suggest, after the tender has been accepted publicity has been given?—No, I say I have seen in the hands of certain parties such information, but I do not know how they have obtained it; if it is to be done, it is better done openly, and let all parties know.

1276. Your suggestion is that private information is given from the Government?—It could not be got otherwise.

1277. Supposing a contract for 50,000 yards of cloth is divided between three or four houses, why should not they make known the amounts they have got and the prices?—I have been in the company of contractors when they have had lists shown them, and they have never spoken of it, nor did anyone know from them that they had a yard. How is that information obtained? It is obtained.

1278. (*Mr. Turner.*) As we are aware from recent events connected with State papers, things do ooze out wonderfully occasionally from public offices?—They do, and this information oozes out.

1279. (*Chairman.*) To revert to the blankets, do not you know as a matter of fact that there was a great quantity of cotton in those blankets?—I do not know.

1280. Do not you believe it?—I do not know; the man told me that there was not.

1281. Did you believe him?—I had as much reason to believe him as otherwise.

1282. Is Mr. Moore an agent?—Yes.

1283. Did you believe Mr. Moore when he told you that there was no cotton in the blankets which he sent in for Messrs. Atkinson, his principals?—I believe he thought so; he is not a manufacturer.

1284. You have also stated that the sample blanket delivered by Mr. Carter contained shoddy?—I believe it does.

1285. Can you at all tell to what extent?—No, it is quite impossible for either me or anybody else to tell to what extent it is in; the specification prohibits any waste or shoddy being used.

1286. How are you certain that the sample blanket contained shoddy?—When I was at the Tower on Friday, with one of my friends who was a contractor, and will tender to-day for these blankets, he happened to see the pattern. I had been led myself to suppose that the pattern made under present instructions would have been made without shoddy; he asked me my opinion by letter, and I said, I supposed there would be none.

1287. What makes you think there was shoddy in the blanket?—From looking at the pattern I saw it; my attention was called to it by my friend; there were six or seven bits of cotton thread in the pattern.

1288. What sort of thread do you mean?—Thread that might have come from rags, sewn garments. I saw in the space of about the size of my hand some five or six bits of cotton, to which my attention was called.

At one time I was up about those rugs, and the same thing was shown to me as an indication of having shoddy in. That is why they state that Mr. Clarkson's rugs were made of inferior wool, and in that sample pattern blanket I saw in the space of my hand six or seven bits of that same thing.

1289. Do you pledge yourself as a practical man that that sample blanket contained shoddy?—I say it must contain either waste or shoddy.

1290. Are there not chemical processes by which the presence of shoddy can be ascertained?—I believe there are; in this case you only find it in small quantities, such as thread from a garment.

1291. Either upon inspection or by chemical process cannot you infallibly detect the presence of shoddy?—I believe you can.

1292. You say that you ascertained it in this case by looking at the blankets?—Yes.

1293. (*Col. French.*) We have been told that unless there was more than 10 per cent. you could not discover shoddy?—I do not think anybody could tell any per-centage; you may be positive in your own mind that it is there, but be unable to prove it. In this case there were the indications pointed out by the Tower inspector, which could not be there without there being waste or shoddy; it was not wool.

1294. (*Chairman.*) Supposing the man was called who made the blanket, and positively stated that there was no shoddy in it, would that shake your judgment?—It would not beyond this; it might be worked in a machine where shoddy had been worked, and that would leave this indication, the appearance of shoddy.

1295. Then it might have been an accident?—Yes, by working it in the same machine where shoddy had been worked. I cannot do otherwise than tell you that there is that indication of it.

1296. Is that an infallible indication of shoddy having been used in the manufacture, or might it have been the result of accident?—I say by working it in the same machine that other goods had been worked in that had shoddy or waste in them, those threads might have been left in the machine, and got into the blanket.

1297. Have you any suggestion to offer for the good of the public service in future?—I would in the first place suggest that as the system of patterns is so very bad at the War Department, they should have proper patterns made of all the different supplies they require.

1298. Are you speaking merely with regard to clothing or with regard to the whole of the articles supplied for the use of the Government?—I am speaking of woollen cloths or any manufactured articles; a piece or a couple of pieces should be got in the way they have lately obtained them for the Woolwich supply; those should be inspected and approved by competent people, and the same piece should be cut in three, one kept for the War Department or for the officers of the War Department, another to cut for patterns for contractors, and the other for the inspectors, triplicate patterns of the precise article; then by no possibility could any contractor say that he had any complaint to make about the patterns not being properly furnished, nor could the inspector complain that he was called upon to inspect by a pattern different from the supply to be delivered. That I am quite satisfied would maintain a uniformity in the supplies that they have not had hitherto, and have not been able to get for the advantage and benefit of both the contractor and the inspectors. I would also have an appeal from the decision of any inspector or any Government authorities.

1299. To whom?—That is a matter for decision. I should say myself that the fairest course is this, that every contractor who tenders for anything, if he has reasonable cause to complain of the inspector, should appoint some competent merchant, similar to what was done in the case of Ellis and Company lately, and the Government should appoint another. There is no other means of satisfying the public and meeting

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the incompetency of inspectors and the tyranny of the War Department, or any other public office.

1300. Mr. Tait, of Limerick, who has been examined, and who impressed the Commissioners very favourably with his intelligence, said that he was present at a meeting of a number of clothiers at the War Department the other day, and that some sort of plan was sketched out by which a reference should be made to practical tradesmen appointed by Government. You surely do not mean to say that you would have an arbitration in every case of difference between a contractor and an inspector, as there might be between man and man?—It would not be required; if the Government inspectors and the Government authorities knew that there was the power of appeal, I am quite satisfied that that simple fact would do away with all the necessity for it. I should not object to an entire alteration of the specification. I think the Government would be wise to leave out the words “shoddy” and “woollen waste” altogether, particularly if they got their own patterns made properly.

1301. And leave out “cotton” also?—I would leave out anything in the specification of that kind, and merely have that the goods shall be made equal to pattern in quality, material, dye, and finish, according to what the article is; and I am quite satisfied of this, that that would bring in a greater number of competitors and much more fairly than at present, because they supply patterns for contractors to make by that have shoddy in them, and prohibit them from using shoddy; they have scarcely one pattern of colored cloth but has shoddy in it, consequently, it is an injustice to all contractors to be called upon to make an article without shoddy if the pattern has it in.

1302. The person who made the pattern of red cloth has deposed to the fact that there is no shoddy in it?—Red cloth they cannot introduce shoddy in; they can introduce it into greens and Oxfords, into grey kerseys and blues, and anything of that quality and colours, but reds is an article that they cannot, because I have supplied a large quantity of reds myself, and I know they cannot introduce it there; but if they leave out that statement in the specification, and adhere entirely to the pattern, by having proper patterns, I am satisfied that they would do away with a great deal of difficulty, and also do away with a great deal of hardship to the inspectors in having to inspect supplies by patterns which contain the thing that is prohibited by the specification.

1303. (Mr. Turner.) You gave the Commissioners to understand the other day with regard to the contract for 40,000 waterproof capes, that your friend Mr. Spill would have supplied them of a full size to the Government at 21s., and did supply a certain quantity, but that by some means which you were scarcely able to comprehend, Mr. Almond got an order over your head at 23s. 6d., and that after all Mr. Spill had to make them?—He did make them.

1304. Your statement was, “After Mr. Almond had come up and taken the order from Sir Thomas Hastings at 23s. 6d., he made a contract with Mr. Spill for 20s., they were to have been a guinea. When Mr. Spill gets home his foreman tells him ‘there is a mistake, and he says to the foreman, ‘You must go back; this will not do; we cannot lose 2,000l. on 40,000 capes; you must go back and get it rectified.’ He said, ‘You made the mess yourself; you had better go back yourself.’ He did not go back, but the foreman went, and it was suggested that something could be done to meet this shilling.” Then you made a very extraordinary statement, “The pattern was got away by Mr. Almond, and decreased in size”?—I think I stated that the foreman told me that the pattern had been got away from the War Department at the suggestion of Mr. Almond.

1305. On what authority do you make that statement?—On that of Mr. Spill’s foreman, in his presence, at his works.

1306. That is such an extraordinary charge that

I think we cannot be content without hearing something more about it. In the first place, what was the object of getting it away?—To reduce the size to save the shilling.

1307. To cut it down?—To reduce it to save the shilling; that was what was told me.

1308. Who can give positive information upon that point?—Either Mr. Langdon, who was with Mr. Spill at the time, or Mr. Miholl, his agent.

1309. Can Mr. Spill say anything about it?—Mr. Spill would not be there if Mr. Langdon was with Mr. Almond.

1310. (Chairman.) Who said “You must go back” and get it rectified?—That was said at White-chapel, but this was done or arranged in London.

1311. (Mr. Turner.) Does not Mr. Spill know whether the pattern was cut down?—I know the goods delivered were less than those we delivered to Captain Riddell, because I had seen them at the works.

1312. The patterns are here, so that they can be compared to ascertain in what respect your pattern differs from the pattern on which Mr. Spill made the supply under Mr. Almond’s contract?—There was but one pattern I submitted to Sir Thomas Hastings and Captain Riddell, that pattern was got away from the War Department, as I was told, by Mr. Langdon; there was no other, there were not two patterns made.

1313. Can you identify your own pattern when you see it?—I do not know that I could now; I state what was told me; if it was cut down it would not be the size that was produced.

1314. You only state that on hearsay?—The parties themselves will state that fact as I told the Chairman. (*Two waterproof coats were produced by Mr. C. S. Elliott from the Tower and examined by Mr. Carr.*)

(Mr. Carr.) I cannot say that these are or are not the patterns now, there is nothing to show me that they are the patterns that I took to the War Department at all.

1315. (Col. French.) Are they according to the specification?—There was no specification.

1316. (Chairman.) Are they the same size?—One is rather larger than the other in length.

1317. (Mr. Turner.) Look at the larger one first. As agent to a contractor to the extent of 40,000l. worth of one single article, have not you information to enable you to state whether that is the pattern you supplied?—Mr. Spill’s town traveller was with me during the whole operation with Sir Thomas Hastings and Captain Riddell, consequently details of this kind I left to the foreman and to the town traveller; I was merely present as Mr. Spill’s agent to manage the arrangement.

1318. (Chairman.) Do you mean to say that Mr. Spill made you his agent for that purpose?—He did.

1319. Why should he want an agent?—Because they constantly employ agents in London. Through a party who was with Mr. Spill, whom I had known for some years, it was suggested that some good might be done in this business; I went down and saw Mr. Spill; he engaged to give me a commission on every contract taken from the Government.

1320. Were you Mr. Spill’s agent in any other matter?—Nothing but contracts, but he had not taken any contract.

1321. Were you ever Mr. Spill’s agent except in this matter?—I have attended to other business, in getting patterns from the Tower, the Admiralty, and other places; he did not take a contract, consequently I had nothing to do with it. It was only when he got a contract that I had to do with it.

1322. He never got a contract?—He had not any other contract during the time. I could not be his agent when there was no contract.

1323. (Mr. Turner.) What we want to ascertain is, whether the largest of those two capes was the sample by which 1,200 were made at a guinea?—I

have no means of knowing that; that information must be got from Mr. Spill. Even if the pattern was reduced, there are no means of proving that that is different, because if they had taken it away before the supplies went in, that is the point that arises; that may be the pattern still, reduced from what it was at the time it was taken there.

1324. I suppose Mr. Spill understands his business well enough to know what the dimensions of the capes were of which he manufactured 1,200?—He may.

1325. According to your statement the 1,200 were of a size which was reduced in order that Messrs.

Almond's 40,000 might be made for a shilling less?—Yes. The pattern which they produced at Pall Mall was one of the capes which were made of the size of the 1,200. The contract for the 40,000 afterwards is of that pattern which they have recently produced.

1326. Cut down?—Mr. Spill's manager said that was the case.

1327. Can none of you tell the dimensions of the cape that you made at a guinea?—I have no doubt that the parties can. I had nothing to do with that part of it. When I saw the capes at Mr. Spill's afterwards, they told me that the size was less than that of the 1,200.

Mr. CHARLES SANDYS ELLIOTT further examined.

1328. (*Chairman.*) Where do you produce those two capes from?—They were patterns which were lodged at the Tower, received from the War Office at Pall Mall.

1329. When?—In 1854 and 1855, when the contracts were entered into during the war.

1330. Were they sent to the Tower?—Yes, they were sent to the Tower for the guidance of the inspecting officers.

1331. Do you remember 300 capes and 800 being examined before the bulk of the supply?—Yes; I remember that some capes were supplied under orders from Captain Riddell for the service of the Royal artillery. I believe Captain Riddell obtained that pattern from Mr. Carr who acted as a sort of agent of Mr. Spill, or from Mr. Spill direct, but that pattern was sent to the Tower for the guidance of the inspecting officers to examine that supply. Then subsequently a larger contract was entered into by Sir Thomas Hastings with the house of Messrs. Almond, and to govern that contract a larger sealed pattern was sent down from the War Office.

1332. (*Mr. Turner.*) Larger in size than the former pattern?—Yes, and better in quality.

1333. (*Chairman.*) Do you mean to say that the supply of 40,000 capes were of a larger size than those which Captain Riddell had?—They were of a larger size than those supplied to Captain Riddell. I am not making a statement which I cannot support; for to this sample that was sent for the guidance of the inspectors in examining the larger supply there is a small label attached.

1334. (*Chairman to Mr. Carr.*) We understand your statement to be that the 40,000 were smaller in size than the 1,100 supplied to Captain Riddell?—So I was told.

(*Mr. Elliott.*) There is a parchment label attached to the coat in Mr. Almond's handwriting; "G. W. Almond, our pattern." I daresay Mr. Almond can speak to his own handwriting.

1335. Is this the sealed pattern?—Yes. This is much fuller in the body than the other, and I believe was made so by direction of Sir Thomas Hastings to cover the knapsack or accoutrements. The cape first supplied under Captain Riddell's orders was considered by Sir Thomas Hastings to be too small, and confined the mens' arms too much; and Messrs. Almond were directed to submit a pattern larger than that one.

1336. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are you referring to the 300 and the 800, which were thought to be too small?—Yes. I have a personal recollection of the alteration of the pattern. When Captain Riddell came down to the Tower to ascertain whether he could get those

things very quickly, he consulted Mr. Stacey upon the subject; I was with him at the time at his house; the subject was discussed as to obtaining a better pattern; and this is not only a larger pattern, but those who are competent to express an opinion upon such matters would tell you, that in point of value the rubber is very much better, and I should say the coat was worth from 6s. to 8s. more than the smaller pattern.

1337. Mr. Spill made them both, did not he?—Yes.

1338. What is that other coat, is that the pattern by which the 300 were examined?—Yes, the first supplies to Captain Riddell; it bears Mr. Spill's own name; there is no question that that is the pattern.

1339. If this is the true state of the case, it is the direct reverse of what Mr. Carr says in every particular?—It is the direct reverse.

1340. Do you know anything about one of the patterns being taken away by Mr. Spill or Mr. Spill's man?—I never heard the statement till Mr. Carr made it the other day.

1341. Mr. Carr said nothing about Langdon telling him that the pattern was got away by Mr. Almond and decreased in size?—No, I never heard the subject even bruited before Mr. Carr mentioned it. I have no knowledge of it myself.

1342. (*Col. French.*) Why was not the contract given to Mr. Carr or his employer?—It was a contract entered into by Sir Thomas Hastings with Messrs. Almond. I am quite sure that those are the only two patterns of this description of coat, of unvulcanised india-rubber, that were ever sent to the Tower and left in charge of Mr. Eaton.

1343. (*Chairman.*) Do you know whether those 1,100 coats supplied to Captain Riddell were examined?—I do not; at that time some of the water-proof clothing was delivered at Hayter and Howell's for examination, on account of the crowded state of the Tower. Some were delivered at the Tower. I was not in the inspection department then, I was in the requisition department.

1344. If I understand rightly, 1,100 coats were contracted for with Mr. Spill direct at a guinea?—I think they were; I do not know the price.

(*Mr. Carr.*) Mr. Elliott says that those 1,100 coats were examined by one pattern, and the bulk of the supply by another. I am prepared to prove that those 1,100 were never inspected by anybody at all; they were delivered at the railway station to meet the troops that were going from Woolwich morning after morning; they were never inspected by one person or another.

Mr. GEORGE SPILL examined.

1345. (*Chairman.*) What are you?—A water-proofer.

1346. A manufacturer?—Yes.

1347. I believe you live at Whitechapel or Stepney?—Stepney.

1348. Do you remember this transaction at the end of 1854?—Yes, in November 1854.

1349. Was Mr. Carr your agent previously?—No.

1350. Do you know him?—No.

1351. He found you out with Captain Riddell, did not he?—No, my traveller knew him, it appears; but I had never seen him; this is the first time I ever recollect seeing the gentleman.

1352. I thought he was your agent?—No; the first I knew of Mr. Carr was when Mr. Almond fetched me one day from my factory to come before Sir Thomas Hastings; Sir Thomas Hastings had told him that Mr. Spill was there offering goods at

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some price." Mr. Almond said, "That cannot be the case, for I have just left Mr. Spill at his factory, and I drove direct up as fast I could; my cab is outside, I will go for him." Mr. Almond fetched me in my deshabille from the factory; Sir Thomas Hastings asked me if I was George Spill; I said I was; he said that a party had been there, and was then in the next room, who had stated that he was George Spill; I told Sir Thomas Hastings that I never allowed anybody to personate me; neither did I ever allow my agent, or at least my traveller, who it appears knew Mr. Carr, to take a contract; neither was I open to take a contract for the 40,000 capes. I heard something about 15,000 capes being wanted, but I always have done my business myself, and never allowed those matters to pass out of my hands.

1353. Did you, through your foreman or Mr. Carr, or in any other way, take a contract for 800 or 1,100 capes?—No; Captain Riddell came to my factory for several days, I think my traveller sometimes brought an order; it appears that it was through Mr. Carr.

1354. Did you make 300 or 800 or 1,100 capes?—1,100.

1355. For whom did you make them?—For Captain Riddell.

1356. What did you charge for them?—A guinea.

1357. Had Mr. Almond anything to do with them?—Nothing whatever.

1358. Did you afterwards make a larger quantity for Mr. Almond?—Yes.

1359. What did he pay you for them?—20s.

1360. Which were the largest, the 1,100 or the quantity afterwards supplied to Mr. Almond?—They were made larger after Captain Riddell's were supplied. Captain Riddell's were two or three sizes, and those made afterwards were extended, not in length but in width at the shoulders, or something of that sort.

1361. The coats that you made for Messrs. Almond were larger than those you made for Captain Riddell?—Yes, they were larger than the first ones that Captain Riddell had.

1362. Were they more valuable?—They might be, and probably were a little more valuable.

1363. Were they as good in material?—Quite so.

1364. Just explain to the Commissioners how it came to pass that you charged a guinea for the 1,100, and only charged 20s. for the 40,000, which were larger and better?—From the bulk we made a concession, and Mr. Almond promised to pay me on delivery to him.

1365. What was your contract for delivery to Mr. Almond?—1,000 capes, 1,000 leggings, and 1,000 hoods per diem for 40 days.

1366. Did he pay you ready money from day to day?—Yes, the ready money was the great inducement to take the shilling less.

1367. Did you make any offer to Sir Thomas Hastings or anybody else to take the contract direct from the Government?—No.

1368. Would you have taken it direct?—I could not have taken it to that extent direct.

1369. Why not?—I had certain assistance from Mr. Almond, which induced me. I should have foregone the order from the Government, and have taken it from Messrs. Almond for the sake of having the remittances daily.

1370. If you had taken the contract direct from the Government, would you have had any payment till all the supply was delivered?—No.

1371. Is not 3s. 6d. a garment, a very considerable sum to forego?—I was not aware of Mr. Almond's price.

1372. Were you willing to deliver to the Government 40,000 capes at a guinea, upon Government terms?—No; I could not venture into a contract for 40,000.

1373. Mr. Carr has stated that you were willing to take the contract from the Government?—From no authority of mine.

1374. Mr. Carr said in his evidence, "In the

"meantime I had been down to Mr. Spill, and he said he would not do the order for anybody else than direct." Did you ever say that?—No.

1375. Mr. Carr also says that he mentioned this to Sir Thomas Hastings at your request?—It is wrong.

1376. He says that he went to you that night and brought you up to London?—Mr. Carr has a better memory than I have; I cannot remember it. I went with Mr. Almond, and at that time Mr. Carr was in an adjoining room. Sir Thomas Hastings said there was a gentleman who said he was George Spill, but that was the first time I had seen Sir Thomas Hastings. Sir Thomas Hastings could not tell what sort of a person I was.

1377. Mr. Carr said, "I went to Mr. Spill's that night, and brought Mr. Spill to London; he saw Sir Thomas Hastings, and the order was given to Mr. Almond, and given by Mr. Almond to Mr. Spill. When I went the next morning to meet Captain Riddell, expecting the order, he said he could do no more, and we were to complete the order he had given at a guinea, the rest was in the hands of Sir Thomas Hastings." He is then asked this question, "Mr. Spill, being the manufacturer, was willing to contract to deliver these 40,000 capes at a guinea. You made that offer to Sir Thomas Hastings, and the order was given to Messrs. Almond at 23s. 6d.?"—He answers, "Yes." Is that so?—Mr. Carr made that statement from no authority of mine.

1378. This is the suggestion as to fraud, that when you got home your foreman told you there was a mistake, and you said, "'You must go back, and get it rectified;' he said, 'You made the mess yourself, you had better go back yourself.' He did not go back, but the foreman went, and it was suggested that something could be done to meet this shilling. The pattern was got away by Mr. Almond, and decreased in size." Is that true, or not?—I have no knowledge whatever of it.

1379. It could hardly be so, if you made the bulk larger?—No.

1380. I am afraid the capes did not give any great satisfaction after all?—Yes, I believe they did, taking the bulk into consideration, and the time there was to execute the order. In fact, there was not enough cloth in the country to make the goods, and we were obliged to get it the best way we could. Although our first pattern was black, we had to keep on proofing the cloth without being dyed, which did not depreciate the article at all. There were several changes during the time when the cloth was altered, and Mr. Almond submitted, I believe, every change that took place, which was from the necessity of the case, one description of cloth being entirely used up throughout the country. I may add that we were waterproofing at the time 7,875 yards of cloth, or $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles per diem.

1381. Is there any other waterproof manufacturer to the same extent as yourself?—I believe not, in clothing.

1382. Are you content with the terms that you made with Mr. Almond?—Perfectly.

1383. I understand you to say that you could not, owing to your circumstances, have taken the contract upon the terms that you might have had it?—I must have had some similar arrangement to what I had with Mr. Almond to have enabled me to have done so.

1384. (*Mr. Turner.*) Are those two coats which have been produced of your making? There is your ticket upon one and Mr. Almond's upon the other. Is that coat with your name upon it the one by which you made your 1,100 do you think?—I really could not say; that is our make of coat; both of them are our manufacture.

1385. Is that coat which you made for Mr. Almond rather larger than the other?—I submitted two to Mr. Almond both exactly the same; one we had back to work by, and the other I suppose was the

sealed pattern. This looks to be very much like one of them.

1386. Is that your manufacture?—Yes.

1387. Is that the one you executed the order by?—From the number of coats that I made I should not like to bind myself to say that this was the one. This is a decidedly better coat than the other.

1388. Did you, according to Mr. Carr's statement, cut them down to make them at the price?—There could be no cutting down, as Mr. Almond's cape is larger than the other pattern.

1389. Do you think that is 6s. better than the other?—I do not think I could go so far as Mr. Elliott did. I should say it is at least half-a-crown better.

Mr. ROBERT GWYN examined.

1395. (*Chairman.*) What is your office?—I am principal clerk to the Director of Contracts.

1396. Will you have the goodness to state what you know with regard to this contract with Messrs. Almond for waterproof capes?—Upon referring to the papers, I find that in the year 1854 a certain number of capes were purchased of Mr. Spill to the extent of 1,100 by Captain Riddell, for the service of the Royal artillery, at the cost of a guinea apiece; Captain Riddell reports the circumstance to the authorities, and I here see the approval of Mr. Monsell, who was then clerk of the Ordnance, of Captain Riddell's proceedings.

1397. What was the date?—The 20th of November 1854. Inside that I find a letter from Mr. Spill, in which he offers to supply them at 21s.

1398. What number?—He says, "from 700 to 800" of the above to sample now sent in in one week, and "from the enclosed sample about 1,000 per week." In a letter received 22nd November, Captain Riddell reported that he had purchased from Mr. Spill 300, which were delivered on the 21st of November 1854, and that purchase was approved by the authorities. He also recommended that 2,500 more should be ordered of Mr. Spill.

1399. By what authorities?—By the officers of the Board of Ordnance.

1400. Would that be Sir Thomas Hastings and Mr. Monsell?—One signature is Mr. Monsell's, and the minute itself is in his own hand writing; the other minute, with reference to the further supply, states, "Already ordered in the 40,000 to be supplied by 'Messrs. Almond,' that is in Sir Thomas Hastings' handwriting; the minute of the 21st November being 'Approved, and accept Messrs. Almond for 20,000 waterproof capes, the remainder to be deferred, as it appears that 13 weeks will be required to complete the 40,000.'" From what Mr. Spill has said I conclude that those were ordered in consequence of his having verbally told Sir Thomas Hastings that he could not supply them.

1401. Have you no personal knowledge of the matter?—I have no personal knowledge whatever but what I gather from the papers. Any communication that may have taken place between Mr. Spill and Sir Thomas Hastings took place verbally in Sir Thomas Hastings' room, and I was not present.

1402. As principal clerk to the Director of Contracts do you know whether any applications were made to any houses besides Messrs. Almond?—In the first place, there was no such officer at that time; and in the second place, I was in a subordinate situation at the time the Board of Ordnance existed. The gentleman in immediate communication with the Board officers was Mr. Hanby, who has retired from the service.

1403. Sir Thomas Hastings and Mr. Monsell, representing the Board of Ordnance, were concerned in the matter?—I believe so; I forget who was the third Board officer at the time; I think either Colonel Bruce or Colonel Maule.

1404. There were three officers only?—Yes, but

1390. Your one guinea coat must have been a very profitable article, if you could make a coat 6s. better for a shilling less?—Going into the market for that bulk is where you get the advantage in purchasing.

1391. (*Chairman.*) Is your foreman still with you?—No.

1392. When did he leave you?—Last January, the 20th.

1393. Had you any unpleasantness with him?—Very much.

1394. (*To Mr. Carr.*) When did Mr. Spill's foreman first communicate with you?—At the time the order was taken, and last week.

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the Master-general if he attended the Board of course constituted a fourth.

1405. Substantially the Board of Ordnance consisted of three officers?—Yes.

1406. And two of those officers appear to have sanctioned this transaction?—Two of them, upon separate papers, sanctioned this transaction in their handwriting.

1407. Do you know anything yourself as to the size of capes subsequently supplied, whether they were smaller or larger?—No, I had nothing to do with the patterns at all.

1408. (*Col. French.*) Did Mr. Almond bring any communication from any individual?—Not that I am aware of; it appears to have been done by Sir Thomas Hastings direct; though upon official papers, it did not pass originally through the official channel.

1409. It was not done by tender?—No, unless it was done by tender verbally; unless Sir Thomas Hastings made inquiries of different parties; that of course I know nothing about.

1410. Do you know when those articles were delivered?—I believe the articles for the artillery were purchased by Captain Riddell, who received the sanction afterwards of the Board of Ordnance; they were delivered, I believe, to the packers at Mark Lane with a view to an early despatch; but I see here that Captain Riddell states, in a letter received on the 22nd November, "I have the honour to report that I have ordered 1,100 capes of 'Mr. Spill for the Royal artillery, 300 of which will be delivered this morning for the two companies to embark in Her Majesty's ship 'Dauntless,' the remainder to be delivered this week, and an additional number will be required for the artillery, 2,500; I beg to request that they may be ordered to-morrow." Against that Sir Thomas Hastings on the 22nd of November writes, "Already ordered in the 40,000, for which the order was given on the 21st, to be supplied by Messrs. Almond."

1411. It is to be presumed that they were not inspected?—That I know nothing about; they were purchased in a great hurry by Captain Riddell, the officer employed for the purpose of purchasing articles for the artillery only.

1412. (*Chairman.*) If these dates are correct, the order to Mr. Almond must have been before Mr. Carr applied to the War Department to obtain the order for his principal?—I cannot say when Mr. Carr applied; I was not present. I know nothing of Mr. Carr in the transaction at all, nor does Mr. Spill appear to know anything about him.

1413. There was a contract with Messrs. Atkinson and Brush for 500 blankets?—For 521 blankets.

1414. Was that contract on the 16th of April 1857?—Yes.

1415. Were all of them rejected?—I believe the whole were rejected.

1416. Is that the report upon the rejection (*handing a paper to the witness*)?—It is.

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The same was read as follows :

Inspection Branch,
Military Store Office, Tower,
June 3, 1857.

Blankets supplied by Messrs. Atkinson and Co.

REPORT.

On the 14th ultimo Messrs. Atkinson, Brush, and Co., of Leeds, delivered in fulfilment of contract, 16th April 1857, 521 blankets (3 point) for Indian presents in Canada.

The sealed pattern by which the contract was entered into is made from pure wools, English and East India, and is well made in every particular.

The blankets supplied by Messrs. Atkinson and Co. are so very inferior to the sealed pattern, that I conceive it to be my duty to make a special report on the subject, that the Director of Stores may be apprised as to the extent of the fraud attempted.

These blankets are made of a coarse wool, mixed with a considerable amount of cotton; about one-half of the warp is of the latter material; the weft is badly spun, and the ground of the blanket very open.

Such disparity could not have arisen from inadvertence or misconception of the quality of the pattern. It is evident the blankets were supplied for the public service under the impression that they would be examined by inexperienced persons, incompetent to detect such a fraud.

A sample of the pattern and of the supply are forwarded herewith for the information of the Director of Stores, the difference in value being more than 20 per cent.

I respectfully submit that the most stringent measures be enforced in this matter; and I would suggest that the name of Messrs. Atkinson and Co. be erased from the list of contractors; that the blankets be purchased of another house, and the difference in price charged to their account; and that some steps may be taken to make known to the trade the fraud attempted and discovered, and the course pursued by the War Department.

Undue severity in the inspection of stores may doubtless prove vexatious and injurious to trade, but such a case as this will sufficiently establish the importance of a close and rigid examination, in order that the interests of the public and the fair-dealing merchant may be protected.

The official notice of rejection to the contractors will be withheld, pending the decision on this report, in the event of further reference or inquiry.

(Signed) CHAS. S. ELLIOTT,

R. Eaton, Esq., Superintendent of Inspectors.
Principal Military Storekeeper,
&c. &c. &c.

3/6/57

1417. Have you anything to say with reference to the examination of those blankets?—I made a memorandum at the time. Part of the pattern was sent up to Pall Mall, and a piece of a rejected blanket. If you will allow me, I will read the memorandum

which bears my signature. "Memorandum relative to the supply of blankets by Messrs. Atkinson and Co., in execution of their contract dated 16th April 1857. Messrs. Atkinson and Co. having, under their contract, dated 16th April last, delivered blankets which were rejected on the ground of their containing an admixture of cotton with the wool, two inches square of the pattern blanket, and two inches square of Atkinson's supply were submitted to a chemical test, namely, boiling in one-fifth of solution of potash, and four-fifths of water. The result was as follows:—The whole of the piece of blanket of the pattern disappeared, leaving no residuum whatsoever; the wool being an animal matter, became liquid gluten. On submitting the piece of blanket supplied by Messrs. Atkinson to the same process, after the dissolution of the wool forming a portion of it, a residuum of about 25 per cent. of cotton in the warp was obtained, being a residuum of vegetable fibre, the animal matter having disappeared." Sir Benjamin Hawes thought it had better be submitted to the chemist of the War Department, and that officer made a report essentially to the same effect, though not producing exactly the same results. Of course he was more acquainted with chemical experiments than I was; but that is the result of the experiment I made at the time (*producing a card with some cotton sealed on it*). I put my own seal upon it, with the proportions used in the experiment. "Solution of potash, one-fifth, water, four-fifths. About 25 per cent. of cotton extracted in my presence by a chemical process from two inches square of Atkinson's blankets, 15th June 1857." There is the cotton bodily. Whether there is any wool left in it I cannot say. (*Portions of the blankets were handed in, and the cotton declared by Mr. Turner to be quite visible.*)

1418. (*Chairman.*) I suppose, although you are not a chemist, you consider it your duty to make use of any knowledge in your possession that may be of service to the department?—If in my official career I become acquainted with anything that will assist the Secretary of State in coming to a just decision, I consider it my duty to communicate any information I may obtain from whatever source that information may come.

1419. Have Messrs. Atkinson and Brush been struck off the list of contractors?—They have.

1420. In consequence of this transaction?—Yes.

Mr. WILLIAM ALMOND further examined.

1421. (*Chairman.*) Mr. Carr has suggested, as he says, upon information derived from a foreman of Mr. Spill, that you having made a contract with the War Department for waterproof capes, and having contracted with Mr. Spill to make them at 3s. 6d. apiece less, got back the pattern from the War Office, and made it smaller. Is that so?—I never saw the pattern. The pattern was supplied from our house in the first place to Sir Thomas Hastings. We were called upon to make two working patterns; one was sealed by the Board and kept, the other I took away with me.

1422. Is that the same pattern which purports to bear your initials "G. W. A." on a piece of parchment in one of the button-holes?—That is the one I submitted first. There were two delivered according to this pattern, one sealed by Sir Thomas Hastings, and the other was taken away as a guide to work from, and from that day to this I have never seen that pattern.

1423. Mr. Spill appears to have furnished direct 1,100 of a somewhat smaller size than that at a guinea. It struck us as singular, that he should take a contract to supply 40,000 capes of rather a larger size at 1l.?—They were a great deal larger.

1424. Did you do anything by reducing the size of the pattern to give either yourself or Mr. Spill a greater profit?—Never; the only inducement for

Mr. Spill to take the contract was this: when we applied to him we could not get him to enter into any engagement whatever. He would not bind himself in writing; he said it was a most unheard-of thing, and he did not believe that any three men could complete the order in the given time; that he was in want of capital; and I said, "Will you undertake the order if that difficulty is got over?" He said, "I will not bind myself to complete the order in any given time; any risk must fall upon you." I furnished him with money to carry the matter on. He went to Manchester and everywhere to purchase the cloth. We used to pay him 3,000l. or 4,000l. every two or three days; in some instances he had 6,000l. We paid him, I think, within a fortnight of completing the order, nearly the whole amount. We gave him a large sum of money to start with. I paid him 4,000l. before he delivered a single thing to procure his naphtha, gutta-percha, or whatever he wanted.

1425. Having the command of ready money yourself you managed to make such profitable terms with Mr. Spill?—It might have turned out a very unprofitable affair; we ran all the risks, and we were open to a very large fine if he had broken down in the midst of it. I do not know what we should have lost by it.

1426. (*Mr. Turner.*) Hence your high price?—

Mr. W. Almond.

Yes. If the man had had to pay 10 or 12 per cent. for the use of money, it is fair to presume that he would do it cheaper for us. We used to pay him in cash, net.

1427. (*Colonel French.*) What total amount did you pay Mr. Spill?—About 64,000*l.* in forty days.

1428. (*Mr. Turner.*) You were lying out of your money all that time?—Yes; and we were under a very heavy fine afterwards.

1429. (*Chairman.*) How soon did you get paid the bulk of the money?—The bulk might have been paid, perhaps, within six to eight months. Before we received the bulk we received portions of it. I cannot speak from memory exactly.

1430. Decreasing the size of the pattern is an imputation of fraud upon you; neither more nor less?—It is. I am certain I never saw the pattern from the day I delivered it. My instructions from Sir Thomas Hastings were to make the capes larger across the shoulders to give the men plenty of room, so that they could wear a fur coat or anything underneath. We enlarged the cape four or five inches across the back, and made the sleeves larger after we took the contract. We were ordered to send in two patterns, which we did; one was sealed and kept by the Board of Ordnance, and the other was given to Mr. Spill to work from.

1431. Then the statement that the pattern was decreased by you is false?—Most decidedly. I never saw the cape, and never altered it, with the exception of making it four or five inches larger. There is a difference between Mr. Spill and his foreman, and upon it is hanging a trial. I have been subpoenaed this morning to show that his foreman had some claim upon him for a certain per-centage. This man Carr is a particular friend of the foreman, who has been dismissed; and I believe, between the two, they want

to rake up some evidence that will answer their purpose to-morrow. I believe that is the whole of it.

1432. It has been suggested that those things were failures after all?—I believe they were not. I never heard of it. A number were made afterwards by a Mr. Davis, a waterproofer, which I believe turned out a most awful failure. I know they cracked and split in all directions; but as far as regards these we had no complaints of them.

1433. Not after they had been in wear?—No.

1434. Did not they turn out uncommonly sticky?—I believe a few came back from the Crimea. I have no knowledge of it. I should have heard of it, most decidedly, if it had been so. On the other hand, I think we have supplied a number of officers from the fact of those being sent out to the privates.

1435. (*To Mr. Elliott.*) Do you know what has become of the waterproof capes?—A great many sent out to the East came home partly worn out in a very bad state.

1436. Were they sold?—A great many were sold.

1437. About what price was realized for those twenty-three and sixpenny capes?—When they came home they were not worth any man's while to take away; they were so matted together that you could not separate some of them.

1438. May we take it for granted that they were sold for next to nothing?—Yes, some were very good and some were very bad.

(*Mr. Almond.*) Their sticking together arose from pressure. Nothing of that kind, or japanned goods where there is composition, will stand pressure.

1439. (*Col. French.*) Can they be made to stand great heat?—I do not think it is possible; but a manufacturer could answer that question better than I can.

Mr. JEREMIAH CARTER examined.

1440. (*Chairman.*) What is your business?—Woolen warehouseman, contractor, and agent.

1441. Have you contracted with the Government?—I have contracted personally for the last five or six years; previously to that time my father had for forty years.

1442. He was in the same business?—Yes; he died about four or five years ago.

1443. Among other things have you contracted for rugs?—I have.

1444. You seem to have had an order for 5,000. Mr. Carr says, "A tender was issued on the 4th or 5th of October, on Thursday, to be delivered on the Tuesday, for 10,000 rugs, to be delivered in one month; which is of course bad management. No one house could do it properly. Mr. Clarkson tendered for 5,000, to deliver 2,500 a month at 5*s.* 3*d.*; Mr. Neville got 10,000 at 5*s.* 3*d.*; Mr. Carter 7,000 at 5*s.* 3*d.*."—I had not.

1445. How many had you?—I was not aware upon what subjects I should be examined this morning. I merely appeared here in consequence of a short paragraph I saw in the *Times*, from which I gather that in consequence of my being in constant communication with Mr. Elliott, he has shown some degree of favoritism towards myself. I utterly deny it. Moreover Mr. Carr states that 500 blankets were rejected at the Tower in consequence of information that I gave to Mr. Elliott. I utterly deny it.

1446. Had you any conversation with Mr. Elliott or with anybody at the Tower about blankets?—I was down at the Tower seeing Mr. Elliott upon the question of rugs, when Mr. Elliott put into my hand a sample of a blanket. When I saw it, knowing the description of blanket it was tendered for, and knowing also that there was a contract out at the time, I said, "This blanket, if it is submitted to you as part of the supply under the present contract, is rejected;" I had no hesitation in saying that, because I examined

the weft. I said, "That will do." I examined the warp and said, "My own impression is, there is cotton in it."

1447. When was this?—That I cannot say, because it was quite a casual conversation; there the thing ended. I was not aware that they were rejected, nor was I the means of their being rejected; they might have been rejected before.

1448. (*Mr. Turner.*) At all events you were consulted with regard to the quality of blankets which were delivered by another house?—I was shown that pattern, and I felt bound to give a candid opinion.

1449. (*Chairman.*) It is suggested that you are frequently at the Tower?—I am.

1450. Are you a personal friend of Mr. Elliott?—I am not.

1451. How is it that you are so frequently at the Tower?—Mr. Elliott has done me the honour to consult me upon patterns upon two or three occasions, in consequence of recommendations of my own that the specification and patterns should agree. The consequence was, that Mr. Elliott placed in my hand a new sample barrack rug, and I said, to be made in accordance with the specification it should be made of pure sound wool. I told Mr. Elliott, "Before I enter into it at all I shall give you the name of my manufacturer; (I am not a maker myself, as it is well known,) and I will also give you the material that is used in it, and then I defy any one to pull it to pieces."

1452. Had you at that time a contract for rugs?—At that time I believe there was no contract, speaking from memory.

1453. Mr. Carr says, "On one occasion when I was there, when Mr. Carter had not the contract for rugs, and I was waiting to see Mr. Elliott, one of his viewers brought samples of six or seven different kinds of rugs into Mr. Elliott's room, and there was Mr. Carter examining them, at the time

TOWER.

Mr. W. Almond.

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Mr. J. Carter.

TOWER. "we had a difficulty about ours. I say that no contractor ought to be allowed to go and advise, which Mr. Carter does continually; he should not see other people's goods, and be allowed to report upon them to make a prejudice for other contractors. I saw with my own eyes these rugs which were within Mr. Elliott's room, and there was a consultation about them;" were there rugs brought into Mr. Elliott's room?—Two rugs were brought into Mr. Elliott's room in my presence.

1454. Was there a consultation about them?—Only with reference to the new pattern; I did not know whose rugs they were at all. One pattern was yellower than the other; the other being redder.

1455. You were not reporting upon other people's rugs?—No; I was merely asked an opinion, and I gave it, as it was in reference to a new sample.

1456. Had you some rugs rejected under your last contract?—Unfortunately under my present contract I had 502 rejected.

1457. Five hundred and two rejected "very damp; when dry, from four to six oz. light in weight." I asked Mr. Carr whether any of your rugs were rejected, and he said, "Yes; I have seen them going along the Minories during the wool sales. I saw a cart-load going from the Tower within this fortnight. I went and touched them and wrung the water out of them. If they had anything in them they had half a pound of water." How came that to pass?—I know nothing of that at all. I can explain about that 502. On the 12th November my time was up for 2,500, and, unfortunately, owing to the man being anxious to save the fine to which he would be liable if they were not passed in time, a small portion of five bales was damp, there is no question about it, but it was unintentional.

1458. (*Mr. Turner.*) How did they become damp? were they made damp?—They were not damped; the men could not, unfortunately, keep pace with the men who were weaving, and they took the yarn before it was thoroughly dry.

1459. How do you mean, that they could not keep pace with the men that were weaving?—Because they could not spin the wool, dye it, and dry it fast enough.

1460. (*Chairman.*) How did the wool get wet?—In the dry-house the yarn is hung up to dry, it is impossible to dry it out of doors this weather; quite at the end of the hank it is liable, unless it stays a very long time in the dry-house, to have a dampness, which the upper part would not have, and the men had taken it off too soon.

1461. Does the wetness arise from the dye?—No.

1462. From what does it arise?—After it is dyed

it contains a great deal of water, of course, from the dyeing, then it is put into the dry-house to dry, and it is from taking it out of the dry-house too soon that the damp has arisen.

1463. (*Mr. Turner.*) That is to be woven?—Yes.

1464. The weaving takes a considerable time, and the wool is exposed to the atmosphere during the process; though it may be a little damp, do not you think in the process of winding the warp and winding the weft it would get quite dry?—I am alluding to the weft, it will not dry any more in the looms.

1465. How do you get the damp out of it afterwards?—If we had discovered it we should have put the rugs into the dry-house in order to dry them. I took the five bales back, had them all re-dried, and sent in again, with the exception of those that were light, and I believe they have all passed.

1466. When your goods were sent in were they the correct weight in that damp state?—They were much over weight, taking the whole of them; as much as from 2 oz. to 3 oz. over weight.

1467. Would you have liked a rival contractor to criticise the goods under those circumstances?—Most assuredly I should not have cared. They would not have gone in that damp way, had I known, as I was sure they would not have been passed. The first intimation I got of it was from the Tower that they were rejected.

1468. Would you have been quite satisfied in seeing Mr. Carr or some other contractor examining your goods?—If I had known they were my goods I should have asked what Mr. Carr was doing with them.

1469. (*Colonel French.*) Were the rugs rejected only on account of the dampness?—Only on account of the dampness. Mr. Carr has stated in to-day's examination that the sample of grey blanket contains shoddy. I utterly deny that. I should like to explain the circumstances connected with that blanket, as that is another piece of "favouritism." to use Mr. Carr's expression. I said to Mr. Elliott, "Before you put out any contract for grey blankets, do let us have the specification, and the grey blankets agree." Mr. Elliott said, "Will you get patterns made;" I said, "Yes; upon this understanding, that I give you the manufacturers' names who shall make them, and that I shall also give you full information as to what the blankets contain." I gave him the name of the manufacturers of the blankets, and that eventually approved was made by Haigh, Cook, and Wormald, the best manufacturers in the country, and does not contain a particle of shoddy.

1470. (*Chairman.*) Do you know that of your own knowledge?—Yes.

Mr. CHARLES SANDYS ELLIOTT further examined.

1471. (*Chairman.*) Do you know Mr. Carter?—Yes. I know him as a contractor only.

1472. Do you know him privately?—No, I do not.

1473. Have you ever been at his house?—No; nor do I know where he lives. I have no personal knowledge of Mr. Carter except knowing him as an old contractor, and knowing his father before him as a contractor, and knowing both father and son to be most honourable men. In every transaction they have had with the department they have shown a desire not only to consult their own interest, but the interest of the service, and they have been employed from time to time to provide patterns to govern future contracts.

1474. For which they were to tender?—For which they and all the world might tender, so far as the department at the Tower was concerned. I shall be happy to explain to the Commissioners the course we pursue in obtaining new patterns. The process of producing patterns is one that is generally attended with loss to the person making them; for the reason that in the manufacture of pattern cloths, they have to

set their looms to produce a small piece, one piece only. They have to prepare their blend of wool, and have to pay great attention to the requisition of the department as to weight, size, and quality, and the only price that they can charge is for the one piece that is produced. It is attended with a very great deal of trouble and labour; but contractors who have the interest of the service at stake, as Mr. Carter said just now, desire that the patterns and specifications should perfectly agree; and they do give themselves that trouble, and willingly undertake the preparation of patterns for the department, whenever they may be required.

1475. (*Mr. Turner.*) Why do you only send to one person to prepare a pattern? Would it not be desirable to employ four or five manufacturers if they would undertake it?—I think it would be a dangerous course, unless we had perfect confidence in every man we employed. As you may imagine, it is a much more arduous task for a person to assume the responsibility of placing confidence in six men than in one. Our usual course is to employ some house

Mr. C. S. Elliott.

that is known to the department as a first-class house, to prepare patterns; Mr. Carter is one of those, and he has at all times expressed himself willing to incur the trouble, the loss of time and labour involved in the preparation of patterns, and I think the department is greatly indebted to him for the trouble he has taken. With regard to the grey blanket, as there was a probability of further contracts coming before the public, it being my duty as superintendent of inspectors, to see that the patterns and specifications were correct before the storekeeper put forward his requisition, I found the pattern, with the assistance of my inspector, to be at variance with the specification. The specification stated that the supply was to be made of all sound wool, whereas the pattern which had been furnished during the War was undoubtedly impure; and Mr. Carter was employed to prepare samples of blankets, and submit them for our consideration. Mr. Carter employed several houses, three, I think, speaking from memory, and one of these was Messrs. Haigh, Cook, and Co. After a very careful examination of the various samples submitted, the one selected was considered to be perfectly in accordance with the specification, and a very fit and proper pattern for the service, light, warm, and durable; and it was submitted to the Secretary of State, approved by him, and sealed.

1476. (*Chairman.*) Did Mr. Carter submit two or three different blankets?—He submitted several samples, something like half a dozen.

1477. Then you have been employing him as a sort of agent, to procure from rival manufacturers three or four samples?—From three or four first-rate manufacturers in whom Mr. Carter could place confidence from his commercial knowledge. Those samples were submitted to us, and the best was selected.

1478. (*Mr. Turner.*) You have stated that the supplying patterns is a troublesome and difficult undertaking, and attended with expense and sacrifice?—Yes.

1479. Has not the person who furnishes the samples, if he intends afterwards to be a tenderer for the contracts, an advantage in knowing the precise nature of the material employed in the sample, and cannot he therefore with more certainty imitate the dye and finish of his own sample?—That is an unquestionable advantage, but the advantage is so small as not to be a matter for consideration. The inspection department is conducted by persons competent to express a sound and correct opinion, on whose judgment confidence may be placed. I believe the person preparing the pattern derives no substantial advantage whatever.

1480. If I were going to contract with Government for a large quantity of cotton cloth, and I was requested to furnish a sample, I should consider it an immense advantage to me that the sample was of my own manufacture, rather than the manufacture of my neighbour, because I should know the precise mixture of cotton that I had put in, the exact twist of the warp and the weft, the exact style of the weaving and everything about the sample. If it was another man's production, though I might by my ingenuity imitate it very closely, no manufacturer can imitate the manufactures of another establishment as well as he can his own?—I would give two answers to that question. The samples prepared as patterns are not samples produced from the manufacturers' stock, but are made according to the descriptions furnished by the department. In the second place, I consider that a manufacturer who understands his business knows as well how to imitate, in every essential point, the standard pattern as the person who made it, speaking with great deference to you.

1481. Are you aware that a buyer of cotton cloth in the Manchester market the moment he puts his hand on a piece of cloth can say, this is A, B, C, or D's make of goods almost as surely as he could identify a man's handwriting?—May I be permitted to

observe in reply, that the inspectors of the department do not require a fac-simile of the pattern; they require only equality, we do not require this man's make or another man's, we require a supply equal to the standard pattern.

1482. But your inspector, who perhaps knows nothing of the subject, is the judge whether the supply is equal to the standard pattern?—I contend that our inspectors do understand their business, and do understand the variation of the different makes; they are fully competent to express an opinion as to whether the supply is equal to the standard pattern or not. I speak that from my own conviction.

1483. (*Col. French.*) You were asked why you did not get specimens from various houses, and you said it was from want of confidence. How is that you have not the same confidence in other people that you have in Mr. Carter?—The confidence that I place in my official capacity in any Government contractor, is my knowledge of him in his transactions with the department. If in the course of my experience I find that a contractor acts up to the spirit and to the letter of his contract, and invariably endeavours to supply that which is equal to the pattern, I consider that man deserves my confidence. I am sorry to say there are a great many contractors who do not deserve my confidence, and whose names before the supplies came in would assure me that the inspector's report would be adverse to their goods.

1484. You must be unhappy if you have only one individual amongst the whole of the contractors in whom you can place confidence?—No; I did not say that. My reply to Mr. Turner was this: I say it is more difficult to assume the respectability of six persons than one. You may in a great measure be conversant, so far as a commercial transaction is concerned, with one man's honour and morality, but it is much more difficult to say that you are equally conversant with the standing and position of six men. I do not mean to say that we go to Mr. Carter exclusively, we employ several houses for different branches of trade. I have before referred to Mr. Elwell, of Wednesbury, a house of the highest standing in Staffordshire. We used to employ him for our edged tools, and Mr. Stacey used to go to him exclusively; and Major Ord, when appointed upon a Committee upon the subject of tools, went down to Mr. Elwell's place, and obtained supplies from him. It is the only course we can pursue; if a man wants to get a good pattern he goes to a house that he can rely upon.

1485. (*Chairman.*) I understood from Mr. Carter, that he only furnished one particular pattern. If Mr. Carter goes to different manufacturers, and gets a number to select from, he is only a sort of agent, through whom you endeavour to ascertain that the conditions you desire have been fulfilled by the various tenderers for samples, is not that so?—It is so; Mr. Carter's position stands so high that we feel perfectly persuaded he will not employ any manufacturer to accomplish our wishes unless he has full confidence in him. It is very difficult, as you can well imagine, for any person taking verbal instructions to produce a certain article successfully in the first attempt. Mr. Carter, and others who prepare patterns for us, very often fail in their first, second, third, and fourth attempt; it may be a very good article, but not what the department requires, therefore, Mr. Carter employs three or four manufacturers to produce as many different makes. Mr. Carter's statement is perfectly correct, he delivered the vouchers with the names of the manufacturers who made the samples. Mr. Carter is at present employed in preparing some grey kersey cloths. I have been authorized by the War Department to submit a sample of cloth for the soldiers' great coats, which shall possess certain merits and advantages over the cloth at present used. I gave my instructions to Mr. Carter, and he has employed three houses, and they have submitted samples; none of those samples have been

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approved; Mr. Carter sends them back to the manufacturers, pointing out the alterations suggested.

1486. Mr. Carter is not a manufacturer; do you ever go in woollens or goods of that kind to one manufacturer's house for the purpose of providing samples?—No, we have not done so; Mr. Elwell was both a contractor and a manufacturer, and being a man of the highest standing, we did not hesitate to get patterns of edged tools from him.

1487. With regard to Atkinson and Brush's blankets, did Mr. Carter point out the defects which caused their rejection?—Mr. Carter did not; the statement made by Mr. Carr is as gratuitous as it is untrue.

1488. What is the truth about it?—Mr. Page, the Tower inspector, was the first person who discovered the inferiority of the supply, and the existence of cotton (both the viewer and the inspector are present), and they pronounced the warp to contain cotton, which is as clear to an inexperienced person as it is to a professional. After the goods had been rejected, and the report made to the Director of Contracts, Mr. Carter called at the Tower upon matters of business with regard to the patterns for a supply, I cannot tell of what, and I placed a piece of blanket which I had in my possession before him, part of that which I forwarded to the Director of Stores, and asked him what he thought of it as compared with the pattern. Mr. Carter said, "This contains cotton," or words to that effect; he said, "If you will give me a piece, I will put it to a chemical test, and I will tell you the exact quantity that it contains;" nothing more passed.

1489. Was that after the rejection of the blankets by Mr. Page?—After the rejection by Mr. Page—after the official rejection, and after the official report. I state this on my honour, that it is really the case; that Mr. Carter did not originate the rejection, and was not consulted upon the quality of the supply, but it was shown to him, as I would show it to anybody else. It was a gross fraud, not upon the inspector, for the inspector has no interest in it, but upon the public; and in my report, which I heard read as I came into the room, my opinions are very forcibly expressed.

1490. Were Atkinson and Brush struck off the list of contractors?—Yes. Unfortunately, the recommendation that I made, that a circular should be sent round, was not attended to.

1491. Mr. Carter has given us his explanation of what Mr. Carr says was a consultation with you on six or seven different kinds of rugs that were brought into the room; do you confirm Mr. Carter's statement?—Mr. Carr may have heard a consultation upon the subject, but I have no doubt the statement made by Mr. Carter is the simple truth. Mr. Carter was receiving instructions from me to prepare a pattern rug. I proposed at that time to introduce an improvement. In our pattern the weft is dyed with peach wood, and I proposed that it should be dyed with madder, so as to procure a more permanent red. Mr. Carter was instructed to prepare this pattern; some rugs were brought down (only two), and I now say it for the first time in the presence of Mr. Carter, that one was made by him and the other by Gibbins and Co. There was a great contrast between the two rugs. In the one the warp prevailed, and in the other the weft. One had a red tint, and the other a yellow tint. It was simply a question of taste, which was preferable.

1492. Was it a consultation as to the approval or rejection of anybody's supply?—No; the rugs were taken out of Mr. Eaton's store.

1493. There are several reports here about Mr. Clarkson's rugs being rejected; the substance of them is, that Mr. Clarkson having sent in three samples, which were rejected, sent in a fourth sample, which was approved; that he subsequently sent in a supply

of 2,000 rugs that were all rejected; he asserts that they were of the same character as the sample which had been approved; you say that they were of the character of the first, second, and third samples which had been rejected, is that so?—The supply he made was similar in character to all the previous samples he had delivered. There was a small per-centage of the quality equal to the sample which had been approved; whether those were sent in merely to give a colour to the supply, I do not know, but such was the fact that they were of a mixed quality, and a great part were similar to the samples previously rejected, and I made a report to the Director of Stores to that effect.

1494. Mr. Carr complains that Clarkson failed when he tendered at 4s. 9d., and others at a higher price were accepted; was that the report which caused the acceptance of the higher price?—I have no doubt it was.

The same was read as follows:

Inspection Branch,
Military Store Office,
Tower, May 17, 1858.

BARRACK RUGS.

Tenders from Mr. Poole, Mr. Clarkson, and others,
for Rugs.

May 13, 1858. Referred to the Principal Military Storekeeper, Tower, for Report as to the most eligible offer to accept. ($\frac{1115}{1639}$ No. 2718. P. Tower, No. 527m.)

REPORT.

MR. EATON,

BOTH Mr. Poole and Mr. Clarkson have failed to make any supply of rugs up to this date. Both have submitted *samples* of approved quality. Mr. Clarkson has also made a delivery of 2,000, the whole of which have been rejected, as stated in my report of this date, in answer to reference $\frac{7115}{1639}$.

If the 10,000 rugs demanded are urgently required, I submit there can be no question as to the policy of accepting the next lowest tenders. Mr. Carter states he can deliver 5,000 in one month, and Messrs. Gilbert state they can also deliver 5,000 immediately, and a further quantity by the 1st proximo.

(Signed) CHAS. S. ELLIOTT,
Superintendent of Inspectors.
May 17, 1858.

R. Eaton, Esq.
Principal Military Storekeeper,
Tower.

Submitted:—Recommending that as rugs are urgently required, the tender of Mr. Carter, to supply 5,000 at 5s. $\frac{4}{10}$ d.; and Messrs. Gilbert and Co. to supply 2,000 at 5s., and 3,000 at 5s. 1d., to be delivered immediately, be accepted.

(Signed) R. EATON,
Principal Military Storekeeper.
18/5/58

1495. Mr. Gwyn has said that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the lowest tender is accepted; so far as you know is that the case?—I believe that to be the case; I am not personally concerned in the contract branch.

1496. You do occasionally recommend that the lowest tender shall not be accepted?—When supplies are urgently required, and it is questionable whether the person making the lowest tender can make the supply, the subject is referred to the storekeeper at the Tower, and by him to me; to report as to the manner in which persons who have tendered the lowest have executed their previous supplies. My duty is to confine myself to facts, as to whether the contractors tendering at the lowest price have executed their contracts fairly or not.

1497. You have also supplied the Commissioners with two returns with reference to the supply of rugs?—Yes.

CONTRACTS for RUGS between April 1856 and December 1858.

Date.	Contractor.	Numbers Supplied.	Price.	Remarks.
1857. 16 Oct.	Hargraves	2,533	s. d. 4 4	The original contract was for 42,000, but it was subsequently cancelled on three several occasions on account of default in delivery to the extent of 38,000, which were obtained of other parties.
7 Dec.	Gilbert, Gibbins.	1,000	5 3	In default of Hargraves.
12 "	Ditto	1,000 3,000	5 3 5 4	Ditto.
14 "	Carter	3,000	5 4 ¹⁰ ₁₀₀	
1858. 15 March	Frith and Sons	5,000	3 8 ¹ ₂	Ditto. This contract was originally for 10,000, cancelled to extent of 5,000 upon their failing to supply that number of proper quality, the difference of price being charged to them.
"	Lillwall and Poole.	2,500	4 9	Original contract for 5,000. (in default of Hargraves) cancelled to extent of 2,500 for non-delivery; the difference of price being charged to them.
"	Clarkson	5,000	4 9	In default of Hargraves.
21 May	Carter	5,000	5 0 ¹ ₁₀	Ditto.
"	Gilbert, Gibbins.	2,000 3,000	5 0 5 1	Ditto. In default of Frith, who contracted in default of Hargraves.
9 June	Ditto	2,000 3,000	5 0 5 1	
"	Carter	2,500	5 0 ⁴ ₁₀	In default of Lillwall, who contracted in default of Hargraves.
9 August	Ditto	1,406	5 0 ⁴ ₁₀	
9 Oct.	Poole & Co.	8,000	4 11 ¹ ₂	
"	Carter	10,000	5 1 ² ₁₀	
"	Neville	10,000	5 3	
"	Gilbert	7,000 5,000	5 3 5 1 ¹ ₂	
	Total	81,939		

THOMAS HOWELL,
Director of Contracts.

Inspection Branch, Military Store Office,
Tower, December 11, 1858.

A STATEMENT showing the Result of Inspection of Barrack Rugs and Point Blankets, delivered at the Tower, under the Contracts quoted.

Name of Contractor.	Date of Contract.	Quantity Ordered and Price.	Delivered for Inspection.	Rejected.	Cause of Rejection.
BARRACK RUGS.					
E. Clarkson	1858. 15 March	5,000 at 4s. 9d.	8,614	3,610	Not made of sound wool, and not so long in the staples as the pattern.
J. Carter	9 Oct.	10,000 at 5s. 1 ⁷ ₁₀ d.	3,974	502	Very damp. When dry, from 4 to 6 ounces light in weight.
Gilbert, Gibbins, & Co.	21 May	5,000 at 5s.	10,121	5,121	To be assorted. Not made of sound wool, and bad colours.
POINT BLANKETS.					
Atkinson & Co.	1857. 16 April	621 at 7s. 6d.	521	521	Cotton and woolwarps.

CHAS. S. ELLIOTT, Sup. of Inspectors.

1498. You denied the suggestion made the other day that there had been favouritism towards Messrs. Almond, does your denial of any such favouritism extend to all contractors?—Most unquestionably; I may further state in the way of answer, that so far as my own power is concerned, I cannot accept or reject stores; the inspectors are entirely responsible for that duty, I have no power to tell an inspector, even if my opinion differs from his, that he must accept or reject. If I were to see supplies approved by the inspector which were at variance with my superficial judgment, I should question him, and acquaint myself as far as I was able whether his judgment was sound or not. I should open the question with the principal viewers, to see whether they agreed universally, and if they were unanimous, I should not have the presumption to set my opinion against the opinion of practical men.

1499. (Col. French.) Have you used your influence in the special contracts which have been referred to for or against any individual?—Certainly not. My duty was more of a mechanical nature before I came into the inspection branch. As Mr. Stacey stated to the Commission the other day, I took an active part. I acknowledge that I did take an active part. Further than that, when necessary, I ascertained from the contractors the price and the time at which they would make their supplies. Time was our chief consideration, but whatever the consideration might be, the storekeeper or deputy storekeeper had the power to issue those orders, and I used no influence whatever.

1500. (Chairman.) The return of special contracts comes down to the 3rd of May 1855; was there, so far as you know, any special contract after that date?—I think there were some special contracts entered into, but I could not answer positively. Mr. Gwyn may be able to state the exact date beyond which the storekeeper of the Tower was informed that he was not to enter into any more special contracts.

1501. We are to understand that what Mr. Eaton told us is literally correct, that the storekeeper is confined to the amount he mentioned, namely, 200*l.* a month?—He can make no purchase above 5*l.* without special authority.

1502. (Mr. Turner.) I think your Tower stock was balanced, that is, the ledgers were balanced in October last year?—October 1857.

1503. And subsequently to that balance a remain was taken?—That was the balance.

1504. I am speaking of two operations, one showing what the ledger exhibits as a balance; was not there also a remain taken by other authorities?—Yes, it was completed on the 14th of October.

1505. That is now 14 months ago; up to the present time has there been any comparison between the state of the ledger and the actual existence of the stock, as counted?—No, I believe not; but the ledgers have been surrendered to the War Office up to 1857.

1506. The War Office authorities themselves took the remain?—Yes.

1507. (Mr. Turner to Mr. Gwyn.) When is it likely that the comparison of the ledger with the remain taken at the Tower will be made?—I have no duties connected with stores except to purchase them as they are required.

(Mr. Elliott.) I think Mr. Eaton stated that the ledger was sent in 12 months after the remain was taken, in answer to your question, and the business of the department did not permit that the ledger should be surrendered sooner. I cannot speak of the matter myself.

1508. (Chairman.) Do you wish to make any other statement?—I wish to refer to a statement that was made by Mr. Carr respecting Messrs. Gilbert's contract. Mr. Carr has assumed the merit of informing the inspection branch as to the qualities of the supplies made. It remains for me to contradict the statement that the inspector was guided by Mr. Carr's information, which he states he afforded to me, that supplies of a very inferior description were being

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made, and further, that such supplies had come into the Tower. I remember the conversation perfectly well; Mr. Carr called respecting Mr. Clarkson's supply, and he very much wished to impress upon my mind as the representative of the inspection branch that Clarkson's rugs were really equal to the pattern, and equal to the supplies that were being made. He said he knew from his own personal knowledge that the supplies that were being made by Clarkson were better than the supplies made by other houses. I told him that whatever his knowledge might be, I was quite convinced that the inspectors did not pass anything but what was equal to pattern. Mr. Carr stated that he had seen the yarn which had been used by another manufacturer; I told him he might know that, and he said he knew that such rugs had come into the Tower. I asked him whether he knew anything more; he said he knew more of them. I asked him whether he knew they had been accepted, he said he did not know; he might assume that. I told him he might assume that, but it was not the fact that rugs had been delivered inferior to the pattern and had been passed. Those were rugs that had been delivered by Gilbert & Company; he was speaking of a past fact.

1509. The Commissioners are not much concerned with personal matters, except as they are incidentally

involved in the public interest. 'You made some sort of statement before the Contracts' Committee that you believed certain persons were paid to give evidence against you. I have read your evidence upon the subject, and it seemed to be founded on some statement made by a man of the name of Conchie, whose antecedents and character I should have thought, as stated by yourself, would not particularly entitle him to much confidence. Do you retain the opinion that you then expressed?—I confess my opinion is altered by an interview I had with Conchie. Subsequently to Mr. Acland raising the question at the Tower, I requested his brother would acquaint him that I should be glad to see him. He came up to this Committee room, and hearing that he was outside, I requested your Secretary to accompany me outside to hear what the man had to say. I reminded him of what he said, and asked him whether he still adhered to it. He then prevaricated, and said he did not mean to say that an actual sum of money had been offered to him, but he was told by somebody or other. His whole statement was of such a rambling character, that I shall be very happy to withdraw my statement.

1510. You place no reliance upon Conchie's information?—No, I cannot. I am very glad to withdraw what I stated.

Adjourned to To-morrow at Twelve o'clock.

TOWER.

Wednesday, 15th December 1858.

PRESENT:

JAMES ASPINALL TURNER, Esq., M.P.
Colonel HENRY JOHN FRENCH.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq.

HENRY SELFE SELFE, Esq., in the Chair.

Rear-Admiral SIR THOMAS HASTINGS, K^c.C.B., examined.

Rear Admiral
Sir T. Hastings,
K^c.C.B.

15 Dec. 1858.

1511. (*Chairman.*) What was your office in 1854?—I was the Principal Storekeeper, and a member of the Board of Ordnance.

1512. In that capacity had you to superintend the provision of certain stores of clothing for the army in the Crimea?—Yes.

1513. Did you take the main part in procuring those supplies?—I conducted the principal part.

1514. I suppose you would acknowledge yourself substantially responsible?—Undoubtedly.

1515. Have you seen this return (*handing to the witness the Return of clothing provided by the Ordnance Department from 1st October 1854 to 23rd February 1855, for the supply of the Army in the Crimea, Parl. Paper, No. 399, 1855*)?—I have.

1516. We have abstracted that return as well as we could, and there appear to have been about 270 items for which contracts were made, 200 of which are stated to have been special contract, and the other 70 by tender. Will you have the goodness to explain, in the first instance, to the Commissioners what the meaning of "by special contract" is?—A special contract means a contract between the then Board of Ordnance and an individual, without tender.

1517. Messrs. Almond appear to have had 65 of those contracts, and Mr. Almond seems to have been under the impression, probably erroneously, that all the contracts which were entered into were contracts for which other persons besides himself had an opportunity of tendering; was that so?—In many instances it would be the case, because the special contract I have described would be a contract between the Board of Ordnance and an individual, but I cannot say that circulars in those cases were sent out. In general a

circular letter would have been sent out to say that the pressing nature of the demand would not admit of resorting to the usual mode of general contract, and therefore they were requested immediately to make their tender. Now this was done on the authority of the Board of Ordnance solely, but every contract was entered into under the directions of the Secretary-at-War or of the Treasury. The Board of Ordnance had no initiative in these things; the Board of Ordnance was the executive department, carrying out the instructions received from higher powers, and therefore on the books of the Board of Ordnance will be found by what order those various contracts were carried out. I believe they were carried out much to the advantage of the public. We have been accused of being the slaves of routine; now this is an exception to routine, and we exercised, as I contend, a very wise and beneficial discretion for the public. I will give an instance,—I was sent for by the Secretary-at-War on one occasion, who stated that they had received a telegraphic message that the "Prince" and her cargo had been destroyed, and that the troops were in danger of perishing from want of clothing;—I was asked, "What can you do?" I said, "It is obvious, that if we go to tender, we shall raise the price of those articles 40 or 50 per cent. directly." "I have the most entire confidence in the storekeeper at the Tower, both in his ability and integrity and his entire truthfulness. I will go down to him and see what can be done." That night, before the mails left, we had engaged one of the principal manufacturers in the woollen trade, Mr. Kynaston, to go into the country, and we gave him an unlimited order to buy. He very handsomely undertook that he would furnish

those things at a small commission above our contract price. He went down into the country, and within 50 hours the Secretary-at-War was informed that we were embarking things in a vessel which had been provided to carry them. He said, "How did you get the things supplied in so short a time?" I replied, "By not saying a word upon the subject, but by consulting a person in whom I have entire confidence, Mr. Stacey. He was through the late war in the military store office,—a large establishment which the Government had in those days out of the Ordnance Department (afterwards blended with it), under the late Mr. Trotter, and he advised me to employ a man in whom he had confidence, and the result is that the things are now coming into the Tower." That is one instance why, not I alone, but the Board of Ordnance deviated from the routine which was laid down, to go in all cases to contract, and unless good causes were shown to the contrary, to accept the lowest tender.

1518. Was the acceptance of the lowest tender an established rule under the Board of Ordnance as it is under the reorganized department?—Yes. The Duke of Wellington organized that department, and I do not hesitate to say that when it was broken up, the most efficient executive department in the State was destroyed, and many things which have occurred since would not have occurred if that Board had been in existence.

1519. I understand your statement to be this: the general rule being to issue circulars and invite tenders, this being an exceptional case, where the articles were required at once, you deviated from the ordinary rule, and employed substantially a broker of high character to purchase warm clothing?—Yes.

1520. That may be the case as regards warm clothing, but there are a great number of other contracts of a very miscellaneous character of which Messrs. Almond appear to have had a very large number. Can you inform the Commissioners how it came to pass that they had that large number?—It is a case analogous to the case of the warm clothing; it was decided by the higher authorities; (we acted as I have before said only as the executive,)—that those capes should be sent out, and the value of the things depended upon their being sent out immediately. The army was suffering in the Crimea, and we were called upon with the least possible delay to make supplies of leggings, capes, coats, sheets, and various other things. I do not hesitate to say that the authorities at that time were absolutely in dismay at the possible suffering of the troops, and they urged us in every way to think of no other thing but getting the articles with the utmost rapidity; it is perfectly clear that if we had pursued our habitual course of tender on those occasions, not much less than 14 days must have elapsed before we could have had those tenders in. Now I ask any gentleman, whether with an army in a state of perishing from cold, from wet, and from other evils, and those circumstances being put strongly before us, we could have taken any other course, or whether any man of conscience would have felt himself justified in waiting ten days, taking the lowest time, to furnish clothing for people who were actually dying for want of it. We have been accused of allowing routine to rule us, but it is false, from beginning to end; we acted in the way I have mentioned; whenever there was any urgent necessity for assistance to the troops in the Crimea, our orders from the Secretary-for-War, or the Secretary-at-War, at one time it was one, and at another time the other, were to take the entire responsibility upon ourselves, and to consider that we were not bound by expense, but to remember the grand object was to supply the wants of the army with all possible dispatch.

1521. Who was Secretary-at-War at that time?—Mr. Sidney Herbert, and the Secretary-for-War was the Duke of Newcastle.

1522. Probably the Commissioners might agree in what you are saying as to the necessity of deviating

from the ordinary rule of issuing tenders under very pressing circumstances; but we wish to ascertain from you, whether, in so deviating from the ordinary rule, any special favour was shown to any individual contractor?—There never was any favour shown; whenever contracts were made in a special way, I think I may venture to say, in 99 cases out of 100, more tenders than one were called for, but we could not take the lowest tender; if one man would bind himself to deliver articles ten days or a fortnight before another, we paid more to that individual who would so bind himself to deliver promptly. Mr. Almond was one of the persons who did offer to bind themselves. Mr. Almond was at the office repeatedly, urging that the penalties under which he had fallen should be remitted. We discussed the thing whilst I was at the Ordnance Board, and I believe up to the day I left, those penalties were not remitted. At the same time, I should say that Mr. Almond did exert himself so much in that emergency, that I thought remission should be made.

1523. He had, as I have already mentioned, 65 contracts?—I do not know that. I admit it is quite possible.

1524. And in only six of those contracts, according to the return, did he deliver them within the time specified?—I think a very large number were not delivered in time.

1525. Are you aware that as many as 35 were not delivered in time?—I think that very likely. I know he was in arrear; and when he took the contracts, I did not tell him so; but in some cases I thought it barely impossible that he could get through the thing in the time specified.

1526. You have mentioned Mr. Stacey. With regard to the supply of warm clothing obtained through Mr. Kynaston, did you delegate to anybody else at the Tower, or to your knowledge was any authority delegated to any of the subordinates at the Tower, to enter into contracts with Messrs. Almond or anybody else?—I can confidently state that no such authority was ever given by myself to anyone at the Tower, in any way, either directly or indirectly. I cannot give the same answer generally to the question, that no persons were authorized to do these things, for this reason; the Board of Ordnance was in a moribund state for some months before it was finally broken up; and had it not been for the conviction that my leaving it would have caused greater evil, I would have thrown up my office, because business had ceased to be transacted in the Board room, and frequently I found myself answerable for papers which were only signed by the then clerk of the Ordnance, Mr. Monsell, who was more immediately in communication with the Secretary-for-War. I recollect that in this very case of which we are speaking, with respect to the waterproof capes and leggings for the Royal artillery, there was some question about them with Captain Riddell, and when it came before me, I found fault with him for having gone somewhere or other to get things, without the Board's sanction. I cannot remember at this distance of time the particulars, but I do remember there was a difference. You will find the greater part of these things in the official papers.

1527. Mr. Gwyn stated yesterday that Captain Riddell on the 21st of November went to Mr. Spill at Stepney, and ordered 1100 capes at a guinea each?—That is exactly the thing I refer to.

1528. And then Mr. Spill, or somebody on his behalf, came up to Pall Mall and saw you and applied for a larger order which was in contemplation. We had a minute produced yesterday signed by you on the 22nd of November 1854, stating that 40,000 had then been ordered of Mr. Almond. Do you remember any interview with any one on that subject?—Yes; but I should premise that I have looked over the evidence and have seen some allusion to that fact. It is truly stated, that there was an instance of a person coming to me personating Mr. Spill, and, as far as my recollection goes, I desired that that person

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Rear Admiral
Sir T. Hastings,
K.C.B.

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might be detained. Mr. Almond came in; I do not remember whether he came by appointment, but I had an interview with him, and Mr. Almond offered to go down to the manufactory which he had just left, and bring the real Mr. Spill to me.

1529. Did you confront the two persons?—No; I do not recollect that I did; but I recollect the circumstance as distinctly as that I am present here.

1530. Did you understand the person to come representing himself as the veritable Mr. Spill?—I did; I understood that he was the person who had an order from Captain Riddell, and therefore he ought to have the other order, and then this was cleared up in the way I have mentioned.

1531. The real Mr. Spill afterwards furnished to Mr. Almond the 40,000 capes which Mr. Almond had contracted to furnish to the Government; he furnished them to Mr. Almond for a pound each, and you paid Mr. Almond 23s. 6d. each. Mr. Spill has told us that he would not, and could not, have taken the contract even at the 23s. 6d., because he had not the funds to have enabled him to have supplied the articles within the time required. Do you remember any conversation to that effect?—I do recollect something of that sort taking place; I will not say that it took place before the contract, but I know subsequently to the contract being taken, I was put in possession of the fact that Mr. Almond was not, as I supposed he was in the beginning, the actual manufacturer of those things; that he employed somebody else; that if Mr. Spill took the contract he had not the capital to undergo the risks of rejection, waiting for his money, &c., and, therefore, Mr. Almond stepped in and Mr. Spill performed the contract for Mr. Almond; I have a general remembrance of that.

1532. Do not you think, as a general rule, it would have been better where it was practicable, to go direct to the manufacturer, because the middlemen seem to have had a very considerable profit out of these transactions?—If you put that question to me as a general rule, I say at once that no public department should do otherwise than keep to the rule of open contract; I have no doubt that it is better than manufacturing for themselves. In this manufacturing country you may get what you please. I could show returns made to me from the great iron manufacturers, which would astound you as to the manufacturing power of this country; therefore I have no hesitation in saying that every public department, the Ordnance, of course, included, ought to be conscientiously bound by the principle of general contract, but I do contend that in the cases and in the circumstances before discussed, we should have been highly blameable, if we had not in every instance acted as we did. It is not now that I take up that idea,—from the day I went to the Board of Ordnance and examined what my duties were, I never would lend myself, nor ever did, to a special contract with any individual, unless it were under circumstances of overwhelming necessity. I remember no case in which public officers ever were placed, nor can I conceive a case in which they could be hereafter placed, in circumstances which more imperatively demanded the abrogation of the general law to meet the necessities of the times.

1533. Admitting the policy of a system of open contract as a general rule,—when you have occasion to make a special contract, would it not be better, if possible, to go direct to the manufacturer, rather than employ a middleman, however respectable, who happens to live in St. James's Street?—Allow me to say, that I was seated at my desk sometimes 14 hours a day. I examined those people, and satisfied myself that the things could be done; but the line you project for me, would have been an utter impossibility on those occasions; in fact at the close of that time when I gave up my office, I was so ill from exhaustion, consequent upon close attention to my duties, that I was laid up for a month and hardly expected to get round again. Now I believe no man ever went through more personal fatigue or more anxiety of mind than I did at that time; I declare, when I look

back upon what I did go through, I wonder how I struggled through the business as well as I did. It was a case in which I contend we were under a law of imperious necessity, and further, that the Ordnance Board exercised a wise and beneficial discretion for the good of the public, and I can faithfully say, that with respect to any one of those 65 contracts which Mr. Almond had at the time, they were granted to him by myself probably; I cannot say by my coadjutors, because the clerk of the Ordnance was absent for six weeks together during that period and at other times, therefore, it will not do for me to say that we unitedly did this, I can only say when we were together we acted for the good of the public; I know that throughout the whole of that business I had but one object in view, to get the supplies as quickly as possible, and as cheaply and good as I could. When Mr. Almond got that contract I was in communication with several other persons about the articles; I can speak to that confidently; we had, I think, 20 different parties offering for those things, and a man came to me, a Jew, I forget his name, and I said, "Are you a manufacturer?" It turned out that he was no manufacturer. Now we had a rule at the Board of Ordnance that all persons who came representing themselves to be the agents of other persons, unless they were accredited to us in an official manner, were to be told that we did not receive any communication from them, and that our rule was to deal with principals or other accredited agents.

1534. (*Mr. Turner.*) I agree with almost all the observations you have made; certainly with their general tenor. In the first place, I am glad to hear you express the opinion that in this manufacturing country there is power to do anything, if the proper means are set to work in a proper way. You have also expressed an opinion that it is better, as a general rule, to go to open tender and receive the offers of the different contractors, and let them compete with each other; but do not you think it would be better to adopt something of the plan you yourself adopted in an emergency, namely, to employ a competent buyer who would go to the most respectable manufacturers, who stand on their honour and high credit as manufacturers, for many of the articles which are now thrown into the hands of middlemen such as Messrs. Almond, Messrs. Hebbert, and a variety of others whom I can name, who are not manufacturers at all, but who simply want to edge themselves in between the manufacturer who produces the article and the Government who wishes to buy it?—I quite agree in that opinion, but I must qualify it in this way by saying that is the course which we pursued at the Board of Ordnance. We advertised twice a year, naming the various articles we required, and stating that we were willing to place the names of all parties on the list of the Board of Ordnance as persons to be applied to when those things were wanted, and they were requested to send an answer to that letter. Then when the answers came, the names of those who did send them were entered alphabetically in the books of the Board of Ordnance in the various classes in which the articles were nominally arranged; and in all those cases it was the bounden duty of the head clerk in the contract department,—and he was responsible to me for doing it,—to send letters to every individual. Every now and then it did happen (and I looked after it, as being an important thing) that a name was omitted, and I made a stir about it. I do not think that in any one instance I was not satisfied that the omission had been accidental on inquiry, and therefore I think you will perceive that the very object you have in view (what it may be now I do not know) was then attained. Our aim was to go direct to the manufacturer. We wrote those circulars and put them in the local papers, and every name we got was communicated with when things they dealt in were wanted.

1535. You wrote those letters and circulars to the houses who chose to take the means of getting themselves placed upon the official list of contractors.

Now, you will not get the highest class of manufacturing houses in this country to condescend to put themselves upon that list, because they know that they shall be subjected to arbitrary rejections and perplexities of all descriptions. They can sell their merchandise and their productions in the open market at the current market price, and they are satisfied with that and do not wish to get 10 per cent. extra profit by encountering all the difficulties thrown in their way officially; but if you send a competent buyer into the market who sees the goods and buys them, as you did through Messrs. Kynaston, you can be supplied with almost anything you choose to ask for. The manufacturers will supply what they shew you, and they stand upon their honour that everything shall be according to the sample which they have exhibited; but you deal with Jew houses, with middle men, with persons who are aiming at extra profit, and who will encounter all those risks, because by dodging and jugglery they expect to counteract some of your difficulties and get their goods passed; no respectable house will go through that ordeal?—From ten years' experience I think the thing stands in practice rather different from the way in which you have put it. I speak on my own knowledge, and if you send for the books of the late Board of Ordnance you will find a very large proportion of the names of highly respectable gentlemen on that list; and to show that it does not always do to trust even the most honorable merchants I can show you on that list one or two instances of most highly respectable persons who sent in goods which we could not receive. I happen to recollect one instance of a supply of blankets from most respectable parties, and when we came to examine those blankets, we found that the difference in that contract made by their not having been dried to the specified state of dryness would have been somewhere about 700*l.* or 800*l.* in favour of the merchant. In one question we had the decision of a court of law or of an arbitrator in our favour, I forget which; this was in the leather trade.

1536. (*Chairman.*) Do you remember when that was?—No, I left office at the end of May 1855. From my knowledge, manufacturers are obliged to depend upon foremen, and if you resort to the system of contract you must have a well paid, well overlooked body of inspectors; you must come to that at last, you can depend upon no man's honour, because it is not in his own keeping, he is obliged to depend upon other people. I have thought much of that subject, and I think we did right in employing brokers as we did in special emergent circumstances, but I do not think it is a system that would answer generally; if it became known that the system of brokerage was the rule of the department, I think, in ways that it is needless to describe, articles would be sent in that were not of the description desired. Nothing can be more fair than a specification and a pattern seen by and delivered to the contractor. I always contended at the Board of Ordnance that we had committed a fault if we had sent out a specification differing from the pattern, and if we had led the manufacturer astray, we were bound to take the articles and make the best use we could of them, or pay him compensation. A Government office should be actuated by the same principles of honour that govern the conduct of gentlemen between each other. I have always contended that a public board should act precisely as a man of truth and integrity would act upon such occasions, with no attempt at deluding or unfairly enforcing anything, but whenever a penalty was fairly incurred, it should never be remitted.

1537. (*Mr. Turner.*) In one instance you have named, you declined to deal with a Jew house who applied to you, because they were not manufacturers, and could not make the supply?—Our aim was to deal always with principals and with parties engaged in the trade. When I first went into office there was a very able man, who was afterwards the Secretary of the Board, and to whom I am indebted for a large portion of the knowledge I acquired in the transaction

of the particular branch of which he was then the head clerk, viz., the contract branch. I refer to Mr. Wood, and I recollect distinctly that he said to me on one occasion, "Sir Thomas, allow me to draw your attention in the beginning to the fact that this person is not a manufacturer." "Well," I said, "whenever you put a contract before me for approval, I should like invariably to be informed whether the person tendering is a manufacturer." In a general way our object and aim was to deal with manufacturers or principals. Those cases to which you allude all fall under the law of necessity, and not the rule of the Board.

1538. Of what particular articles were Messrs. Almond the manufacturers?—I do not know really. I question whether they manufactured any of the leggings or water-proof articles. I should think they purchased them elsewhere.

1539. Is Mr. Almond the manufacturer of any of the other articles for which he contracted?—I cannot tell at this moment.

1540. Does Mr. Almond profess to be the manufacturer of anything at present?—I think very likely. At that time all that we contended for was that the thing should be according to the pattern agreed upon, produced, and supplied in the shortest time. We threw aside general rules under a pressing necessity.

1541. I understand that you dealt with Mr. Almond rather extensively, because he was willing to bind himself as to time?—That was one of the reasons.

1542. In a great many instances, according to this return, there was no time whatever stated in which the contract given to Mr. Almond was to be performed?—That may be the case, but as there is no record that any fine was levied, probably the articles were supplied forthwith.

1543. (*Mr. Turner to Mr. Almond.*) In many of those instances in which no time is stated, is it the fact that the goods were on hand, and were taken away immediately, and therefore there was no necessity to state the time in the contract?—It is the fact. The goods were sometimes delivered at 12 at night, and very often we sent them down to meet the troops at Woolwich. The goods were supplied directly in those cases where no time was stated.

(*Sir T. Hastings.*) I think that is very probable.

(*Mr. Almond.*) Many hundreds of cases of goods were sent down to meet the troops where no time is stated; under those circumstances they were invariably sent off in 12 hours after we received the order.

(*Sir T. Hastings.*) To give an illustration of the necessity of immediate supplies, I may state that Lord Hardinge, who was then at the Horse Guards, repeatedly sent to me, saying, "We are obliged to alter such a destination; you must have the things to meet the troops at Southampton, that were intended to embark elsewhere." Those were the urgencies under which we were acting. Sometimes at the close of the day we received a note from the Admiralty or the Horse Guards, saying, "You must have such things ready, for a vessel is unexpectedly sailing. You have applied for such tonnage; we shall be ready by some short specified time;" and we were often working throughout the night to get those things away, not only at the Tower but in communication with the people from whom we were to get certain articles not then delivered.

1544. (*Chairman.*) The suggestion has been made, and I believe there has been a sort of suspicion floating about, and not an unreasonable one upon looking at that return, that Messrs. Almond have been favoured. Are you aware of any circumstances to justify that suspicion?—In the first place, I observe, I never knew Mr. Almond till he came before me in that matter about waterproof articles, military stores, clothing, and accoutrements required for the army in the Crimea. I did not know him when I came into this room again to-day. I knew nothing of Mr. Almond that could lead me to favour him at all. Every contract that I assented to, either

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individually, or as a member of the Board, was entered into under the conviction that in giving it to Mr. Almond we should get the thing we wanted in the most rapid way, and that we should get a good article. All those things were specified, agreed upon, and looked into before the contract was made.

1545. Are you willing to assume the responsibility in that respect?—I am.

1546. It is not at all suggested that you were the person who favoured Mr. Almond?—I see that I am suspected of having put money into my pocket upon public contracts for these articles. Every public man is a sort of shuttlecock, to be beaten about and his conduct sifted for the benefit of the public. I make no complaint about that.

1547. I never heard it suggested as to you, but there has been an impression that Mr. Elliott at the Tower, owing to the illness of his superior officer, having a great deal of work thrown upon him, and having to make all sorts of inquiries, had substantially the opportunity of selecting the person who should execute those orders. Do you think there is any truth in the suggestion?—You may depend upon it that that is entirely untrue. I have been from the age of 13 employed in a public capacity. I have filled the post of first lieutenant and captain of a man-of-war for 15 years. I was also for 14 years in command of H.M. gunnery establishment on board the "Excellent," I was in charge of the Royal Naval College, and I was afterwards a member of the Board of Ordnance for ten years. I always felt myself equal to the duties I was entrusted with, and have never suffered anybody to take the matters entrusted to me out of my hands. To keep the business more immediately under the control of the Board, I had a telegraph put up between the Tower and Pall Mall, and Woolwich, so that everything was done to keep those departments immediately under the control of their superiors; as Mr. Stacey was ill, I used to go down repeatedly to the Tower to control that department, and to see what was going on. I found, although he was sitting in his room, that his mind was as vigorous as mine, and he was as much on the alert as ever he had been; for a short time he was so ill that he could not do anything, but his general state was such as I have described it, and I am ready to take the responsibility. As to Mr. Elliott having any influence with me, he never had any beyond that of obtaining information for me when I had neither eyes, arms, or legs at liberty for the service. I also employed two or three gentlemen at Pall Mall in a similar way, who were very active, zealous, intelligent, and honest. I employed Mr. Elliott only in cases relative to the Tower. The Pall Mall gentlemen I sent about in the same way, and people might have assumed that they had authority of some sort, but neither Mr. Elliott nor any other person ever presumed to influence me as to who should have contracts; they reported only the information they had been sent to obtain.

1548. Those persons ascertained the facts preliminary to the negotiation, but the negotiation was completed by yourself?—Yes; I recollect that at a time when we were very much pressed for some accoutrements, boots and other things for the army, I had a great suspicion that we were not fairly dealt by, and I sent a gentleman at Pall Mall round, and he obtained information for me which enabled me, when the people came, probably the next day, to make the contract on very much more advantageous terms to the public.

1549. Mr. Stacey in answer to Mr. Turner expressed some surprise at finding that Messrs. Almond's house should have furnished warm clothing; he said, as you say, that Mr. Kynaston was the person employed to go to Leicester, and so forth, and I understood him to say, that he never did purchase through Mr. Kynaston warm clothing from Mr. Almond?—If you are under the impression that the only warm clothing was the clothing purchased through Mr. Kynaston, that would not be correct; that purchase only applies to what was purchased immediately to

fill up the blanks caused by the loss of the "Prince." There was a variety of other warm clothing purchased afterwards. In fact the sympathy of the Government was so great with the sufferings of the troops in the Crimea, that I at the time thought and said (though I was considered very hard-hearted), that we were doing too much.

1550. (Mr. Turner.) If that plan of purchasing through Mr. Kynaston was a good one, and the means of obtaining a speedy supply, why did not you pursue that system? When you were not under great pressure you afterwards gave an order for 30,000 pairs of worsted socks to Mr. Almond, who was not a woollen manufacturer?—I have not the slightest doubt that the same course was pursued in all those things; I know, speaking of my own knowledge, that we ascertained whether the thing we were going to purchase could be furnished to us cheaper than we could get it elsewhere, and whether the article could be obtained in quicker time.

1551. You gave Mr. Almond 12s. 6d. a dozen for socks, and immediately following there are similar things, apparently supplied by Mr. Kynaston, at 10s. 4d., then there some supplied by Messrs. Hebbert at 13s. 6d., but Mr. Kynaston supplied a very considerable number at 10s. 4d. a dozen?—As I before stated these questions arose about the socks that were wanted immediately, and in all probability we had a pressing order to send them down suddenly; we could not have got them so rapidly in any other way.

(Mr. Almond.) The socks that I supplied were all worsted, and I think if you applied to any manufacturing house you would find that I only got one farthing a pair profit; I believe some were supplied with cotton mixed with them.

(Sir T. Hastings.) Unless Mr. Almond knows that of his own knowledge, my belief is that the people employed to judge of those things as inspectors would not be taken in that sort of manner. Mr. Pew, the head of that branch, was a very acute and vigorous minded man.

1552. (To Mr. Almond.) You supplied 30,000 pairs at 12s. 6d. a dozen. Hebbert's at 6d. more than you, but yours are 2s. 2d. more than Mr. Kynaston's, and they are described as the same things.

(Mr. Almond.) I cannot speak from memory as to the precise pattern of them. Of course these things vary continually.

(Sir T. Hastings.) Perhaps you will allow me to state a fact which will have some bearing upon this question. I have seen tenders for general contracts sent out in the usual way, and I have noted a variation of from 35 to 40 per cent. in the same schedule, that has been laid before me, perhaps containing 15 or 20 names of persons offering to contract.

1553. (Chairman.) Although the things might generally bear the same name?—Exactly so. Present, for example, a circular to a certain manufacturer, and state that so many trousers or any sets of articles were wanted. How many will you take, and at what price? In tenders from as many as 15 or 20 manufacturers, I have seen a difference of 35 per cent. in the price offered.

1554. In the absence of explanation, from a return of this kind, we should presume that the articles were of the same kind?—I do not doubt that they were the same sort of articles; I would not attempt to shelter myself by any special pleading at all; I believe all the things were the same, and we did our best to get the best articles at the lowest price; it is not in one case, but repeatedly, the prices varied as much as 10 to 15 per cent. for the same articles made precisely by the same pattern, and with the same sort of cloth.

1555. Will you refer to the brown leather boots? There are 15,000 brown leather boots supplied by Mr. Almond, at 23s. a pair, and the next item is 20,000 brown leather boots supplied by Messrs. Hebbert, at 20s. a pair; does your memory serve you as to why there should have been that difference?—I cannot say that my memory serves me, but speaking from

it, I aver that at the time when we were dealing with the question of boots, I was very much surprised at the differences of prices; I also recollect that we tried to lower those prices; the boots were things which we were pressed to send out immediately; they were large boots worn over the trousers to walk about in the trenches with; and I endeavoured, in some instances, to lower the price, but the person who tendered high and who happened to be last in the tender, brought in his boots and said, "These are very superior in manufacture to those which you produce to me, and I cannot afford to make them for less; you may take them or not take them; I will supply those for our price; if you do not choose to take them at our price, I do not wish to supply them; owing to the material I make them of, I shall not make money, but I cannot afford to lose money." The things were absolutely wanted, and we accepted the tender; that is how the matter stands. In some cases also the boots varied in their length, some were knee boots, others came a little over the knee, others well up the thigh—in concurrence with the demands from the proper authorities.

1556. (*Mr. Turner*). During the delivery under these special contracts, among other things, Messrs. Almond supplied 30,000 pairs of boots at prices varying from 18s. 6d. to 30s.; were not boots rather out of their line?—Yes, I think so. I have not anything to say upon the subject; we were pressed by the Treasury or by the Secretary-at-War, and we found that we could get those things, and that unless we paid that price we could not get them; we thought it our duty to endeavour to provide for the necessities of the suffering soldiers; rather than stipulate too closely for the benefit of the public, we thought it our duty to look to the soldiers rather than to any little advantage that might have been gained by sending the thing out to general contract, which must have delayed the supply. I do not know that we should have got any advantage, because the moment we had sent out a general contract in those circumstances, the price would have gone up 15 or 20 per cent., but we should have lost in making the supply.

(*Mr. Turner*.) I do not attach any value to information of this sort which is now put before me from a house at Northampton, any more than I do to Mr. Almond's criticisms on somebody else's socks.

(*Mr. Almond*.) I merely stated that our pattern was all worsted and several times there were socks supplied mixed with cotton. I never saw them. What I supplied were for hospital service, and the demand was particularly made that they should be all worsted, and they were washed before they went out.

(*Mr. Turner*.) Another man insinuates something about you. I have a letter from a Northampton house, in which it is broadly stated that you had a most enormous profit. Comparing the prices at which they were willing to supply similar boots at with those which you charged, they make out that you must have got a profit of 10,000*l.* on those boots.

(*Mr. Almond*.) That is a great mistake; I made no remark upon Mr. Kynaston's socks. I merely stated that the sock I supplied at 1*s.* a pair was all worsted; and as for the boots, I took two places, one at Northampton and one at Kettering, and all those knee boots were cut out of Scotch hides in London, blocked, and sent down there. When another contract was out, a Northampton man took them at 16*s.*, but at the time I took that order, something like 8,000 Scotch hides were required, and you must be quite aware that to execute the order in three weeks they could never have been dressed in the time, and we had to buy the leather at any price we could get it at; we were obliged to cut the hides up, and we did complete a great portion of the order in two or three weeks.

1557. (*Chairman to Sir Thomas Hastings*.) Is there any other item in that return upon which you wish to make any remark?—There is one to which you have not adverted, namely, the cholera belts;

I remember the circumstance perfectly well; there are cholera belts down here I see at 1*s.* 9d. We had a contract for them at that time at 1*s.* 6d., and we had a special contract with Kynaston and Son at 1*s.* 1d. "Belts, cholera—6,000—special contract—Wilson." Then we had a tender at 1*s.* 6d. by Hebbert, and by Gilpin; they are not manufacturers, but they supplied those things for the colonels of regiments at that time; then we came down to a special contract with Messrs. Kynaston at 1*s.* 1d.

1558. (*Mr. Turner*). Mr. Kynaston being in the trade?—Yes. Then we go on with Wilson's contract at 1*s.* 9d., and I happen to recollect about that contract. I called the attention of the clerk of the Ordnance to it; that contract was made without my knowledge, and I could not understand why it should have been taken at a higher price than the others. After investigating the matter, it appeared to me that the number was small, that a subsequent contract taken by the same man was brought down to the usual price. I was satisfied that there was no ground to attribute any wrong motive in what had been done; but as I just cast my eye over the paper, it recalls things to my memory. The fact is, you have 1*s.* 9d. by special contract made by Mr. Monsell without my concurrence, which I think ought not to have been made, and when the man comes forward again he takes the contract at 1*s.* 6d. like the other people; it is the very same article, and Mr. Kynaston supplied the same just as good at 1*s.* 1d.

1559. Do you say advisedly "just as good"?—Yes.

1560. (*Chairman*.) Although Kynaston contracted for 30,000 at 1*s.* 1d., they were supplied within the time, and the person who contracted for 6,000 at 1*s.* 9d. did not supply them within the time?—No.

1561. (*Mr. Turner*.) Can there be a stronger illustration of the policy of applying to manufacturers of the articles that are wanted?—I agree with you entirely. The thing indispensable for the public is that whenever the thing is one of ordinary manufacture in the country, the interest of the country is, that you should go to contract under rules laid down, with specifications well understood and defined, and patterns correctly made, and then with a proper degree of inspection, I have no hesitation in saying that if you take a run of seven years upon the trade, you would benefit the country 25 per cent. over what you could manufacture on Government account. I do not care what plausible things are put up, no Government in its senses in this country, where you can get anything you want, from a needle to a steam engine of the greatest power and complexity, would set up a large manufacturing establishment. I contended so, when I was at the Board of Ordnance; that was the rule when I first went, and when the rule was deviated from, I wrote a strong letter to the Duke of Newcastle, which letter I did not send, because my colleagues abandoned their intention of carrying out a large shell factory at Woolwich Arsenal upon my statement. I said, "Gentlemen, you may do as you please;"—(they were going to do it without me): "if you pursue that course, I will send this letter to the Duke of Newcastle, but I send it to you before, that I may not take you by surprise," and they abandoned their purpose and kept to the smaller work, to which I had previously unwillingly assented. Subsequently, when Lord Panmure came in, (speaking with all reverence of him as a peer of the realm,) who is no more to be compared with the Duke of Newcastle than the moon is to the sun, as an administrator, I did send the letter to him, and he put up the factories, not only for shells, but guns. Now iron is pre-eminently the manufacture of Great Britain. (*See letter in Appendix No. 5.*)

1562. (*Mr. Turner*.) It is rather a delicate question to put to you, but I have gathered from the evidence which you have given so clearly and satisfactorily before us, that immense pains were taken during a very anxious period when the country was in a great difficulty to do your duty in the arduous position

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in which you were placed. Now, of late, things have been changed, and, to use an expression which has been a good deal bandied about, they seem to have got into a mess. Am I to understand that you do not think things have been going on so satisfactorily for the supply of the army as they were during the time when you administered affairs at the Board of Ordnance?—Of course it is not pleasant to me to give opinions, but if the Commissioners wish me to give an opinion, I will give the best in my power. I hold that anybody who comes for examination before a public tribunal is bound to state the truth to the extent of his ability, if desired to do so. I will premise that my opinions are embodied in a letter, a copy of which I have, which will shew exactly what I thought at the time (*handing in the letter*).

1563. Do you adhere to the opinions here stated?—I do, fully and entirely.

1564. (*Chairman*). Has that letter ever been published?—No. I could not read the examinations at Weedon without seeing that with the Board of Ordnance such things could not have happened. When I saw that the Government was going to break up that establishment, I said to one of the heads of Department with whom I was in communication, “I see it is determined to break up the Board of Ordnance; I do not mean to serve any longer when that is done, therefore my opinion is quite independent of the change. I have not a word to say against it. If you choose to make a Secretary-for-War, make him Secretary-for-War as the head of this department, but do not break up the Board of Ordnance; do not throw away your tools before you can get others for them; make them a subordinate board under the Secretary-for-War; do not allow them to suppose that they are to have an independent action. If you do that you will preserve all your machinery, and be enabled to carry on the business of the country. If you do not do that, you will get into a scrape. I am of opinion that that is the best thing you can do.” They were really going to blend the Ordnance and the Naval Ordnance together, and the original plan was to have no naval officer. I said to the head of the naval department, “I would not take office on any terms under certain people. I would not serve under them at all, for I have nothing to gain by it; therefore I am quite independent in my opinion. You may be assured that you will be at a dead lock, unless you appoint a naval officer to carry on the business between the Admiralty, the Secretary-for-War, and the Departments at Woolwich. He should be placed under the control of the Secretary-for-War.” Finally a naval officer was appointed. I still believe that the destruction of the Board of Ordnance has been the great error which has led to mischief. Under the mistaken feelings of the times, and in face of a Treasury report made by Sir Stafford Northcote and Sir Charles Trevelyan, after inquiring into the state of the public departments, stating that the Board of Ordnance was the best organized department under the Government as an executive board, they destroyed that board. I do not mean to say anything against the head of the War Department, no individual can grasp the extent and multiplicity of its details. I defy any human being, however great his intellect may be, to conduct it with that degree of constant and unswerving supervision which is necessary where so much public money is to be spent. I am quite sure that formerly at the Tower and at Woolwich all the departments were acting under supervision; they knew for every single thing that they did, if they went out of the law, they would be called to account; now they may do what they like, and there is no complete check or control. As an Englishman, I say honestly that I think the whole system is bad at Woolwich; there is not the proper control—perhaps there I might stop—but I do contend that it was more beneficial when the Director-general had some control over those departments, and previously when the Commandant

possessed military authority in the Arsenal; then every man said, “I have an eye overlooking, and a hand pressing on me; I am responsible for what I do.” You may depend upon it that the heads of those three departments, if they choose, can now make ducks and drakes of the public money in what they do. They have a wider discretionary power.

1565. (*Mr. Turner*). I cannot agree with you after having investigated what is going on at Woolwich?—I do not say that they do; I say it may be done, because there is no efficient control.

1566. As I made the remark that I perfectly agreed with you with regard to the capability of the manufacturing energy of this country to supply all the articles required for the use of the army and navy, I might perhaps give an erroneous impression as to the extent to which I carried that opinion. I mean to say that, in my opinion, the manufacturing talent of this country can supply on better terms than any Government arrangement that could be made, those articles to which the commercial and manufacturing industry of the country is applied, such as woollen cloth, boots, shoes, and in fact nearly all the articles which may be enumerated under the designation of clothing; but I do not mean to say that it may not be desirable for the Government to hold in its own hands a manufactory of the different articles which no private manufacturing establishment is likely to undertake, such for instance, as the vast variety of articles which are produced at the laboratory at Woolwich, which ought to be always ready in case of an emergency to turn out a large supply. Now, no manufacturing establishment in the country would be likely to be in a position, in case of emergency, to supply such articles; they could not put down the machinery, except they had a regular standing order by which that machinery could be employed. The Government can do that at Woolwich, and in many of those articles I think it is quite right that the country should have a national establishment, where they should be prepared, in case of emergency, to meet the wants of the army and navy. My observation applies only to the commercial and general industry of the country, which is employed, whether the Government want them or not for general trade purposes?—The iron trade is pre-eminently the greatest British manufacture, and requires practical skill to conduct it well. I think the iron gun factory is a total mistake; you have to import the iron, you have to import the coal. At the Low Moor works they have the whole of those materials nearer at hand. I do not hesitate to say that A. would make iron guns 20 per cent. cheaper at Low Moor than they could be made at Woolwich by B., both being private parties. The manufacturing power of this country in iron is something astonishing. I have referred to this subject in my letter, in speaking of the intended expenditure for the erection of a shell foundry in the Royal Arsenal, “At this time the Low Moor iron foundry, one of the largest in England, is under contract to supply 10,000 tons of shot and shell at the rate in a few weeks of 400 tons a week.” I do not say that you should not have a laboratory established, but that has been carried much too far. I was one of the parties consenting to it; I think it is a useful thing; I believe conscientiously that the Government have been losers to the extent of 500,000*l.* by that unnecessary iron gun factory. In addition to importing the iron and coal, you have to maintain constantly a larger establishment of workmen than is necessary; and at the present time how does it stand? Until the last casting they have not been able to give guns to the public stores, they have broken up, I suppose, fully 40 per cent. or 50 per cent. of the iron guns they have cast; all the loss of the guns burst has fallen on the public, but on the old system, it must have fallen on the contractors. Now the guns are proved by those who make them, which is, to say the least of it, absurd. Would you allow Low Moor and Gospel Oak to prove the guns they supply? I will add how that matter stands. When I went to the Board of Ordnance from the

"Excellent," I had had an extensive trial of guns, and I found the new iron gun was of a more brittle material than the old ones cast years ago. That opinion, expressed while I was at Portsmouth, was rather ridiculed at Woolwich, but when I came to the Ordnance, the first thing I induced the Master-General to do was to appoint a Committee, of which the late General Dundas, a most upright, able, and zealous man, and distinguished both in the art of war and in military science, was the head, and assisted by two or four of the most able and scientific men in metallurgy, more especially in iron work. At the same time we communicated to the two great foundries, Low Moor and Gospel Oak, that we were dissatisfied with their manufacture; they candidly admitted that there was something they could not comprehend in the question. The Committee of science met repeatedly, and during the 10 years I was at the Ordnance, they never could agree upon a report. I do not blame them, the question is surrounded by difficulties. Here we have a proof of the comparative value of theory and science versus a grounded practice in questions of iron founding. I do not ridicule them, because I know that they are very useful things, but I will give you the result of practice. Within six or eight months of the time that this Committee was appointed by the Master-General, we had a report from the Low Moor foundry, and subsequently one from Gospel Oak, saying that they had discovered the causes which had led them to produce guns of a less tenacious character than formerly, that they had remedied the evil, and were quite ready to submit their guns to any test that might be fixed on. They sent in their guns, and instead of a number of guns being burst in the ratio they had been before, the whole of their guns for several succeeding proofs passed without a single gun giving way. There is the result of science and practice. I do not hesitate to say, that the iron foundries of this country are in such a state of overwhelming power as to have rendered either a shell manufactory or an iron foundry totally, absolutely, and entirely unnecessary at Woolwich.

1567. (*Col. French.*) Were any deficiencies found during the war with respect to the supply of cannon? —I never heard of any.

1568. If we do not employ our great iron foundries, might not our enemies possibly do so?—In answer to your question on that point, I say yes; but I have not stated one of the strongest arguments for not going to the expense of spending half a million of money for this factory; supposing you have the factory, we cannot for one moment suppose that the Chancellor of the Exchequer will find the funds to keep that foundry going if the things are not

wanted in peace; supposing they are not wanted, the foundry would be reduced to zero; then you could not put it in action immediately, but if you depend upon the country, and use a vigilant inspection and proof with respect to all the articles supplied, manufacturers will extend their establishments to any extent; Mr. Hood, the Low Moor manager, said to me, "If you will guarantee me a certain demand," (I tried to get a guarantee for him) "instead of 400 tons we will produce six times as much." I do not speak on speculation, but these are the words he made use of:—"We will not only do this, but we will produce to any extent; you have only to say that you will take these things for three, five, or ten years, and we will extend our factory to whatever extent you please."

1569. (*Chairman.*) I apprehend you do not propose to blow up the factory at present existing?—No, on the contrary, I would keep it as low as possible; you will not get such good or cheap guns there, as are supplied by the iron founders. What I have stated about practice bears upon that point; these men at Gospel Oak and Low Moor are dealing every day with iron. At this moment we are ignorant of much that tends to make iron either a good or a bad article, but improvements are introduced from time to time by the watchful experience of those people who are engaged in it.

1570. Mr. Elliott is naturally anxious, as he has been made the subject of remark, to have the benefit of whatever testimonial you may be able to give to his general character as a public servant?—During the time that I was a member of the Board of Ordnance, Mr. Elliott was brought under my notice by Mr. Stacey, the storekeeper at the Tower, as being a very intelligent active person, trustworthy, and fit, if I required to employ a person to ascertain doubtful points, to be employed. I therefore employed Mr. Elliott, and I found him intelligent, and I have every reason to believe, perfectly faithful. I would further say, that I do not think during the time that I was at the Board of Ordnance, and during that part of it in which Mr. Elliott was so employed by me, that even if he had the inclination, that he could under the vigilant exercise of Mr. Stacey's supervision have given any contract unfairly to any individual, for I am quite sure that in all cases Mr. Stacey investigated the matter fully himself, and satisfied himself that the person he recommended to me was a proper person to undertake the contract, and the result of any determination that he came to was the consequence of a conviction in his own mind that the thing was right to be done. My firm conviction is, that Mr. Elliott never exercised any improper or unfair influence over Mr. Stacey's mind.

Adjourned.

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Kt. C.B.

15 Dec. 1858.

APPENDIX

TO TOWER EVIDENCE.

APPENDIX No. 1. (Question 13.)

Military Store Office, Tower,
December 4, 1858.
MEMORANDUM showing the Numbers of Officers, Clerks,
Foremen, Artificers, Labourers, &c. employed in this
Department, with their Salaries and Rates of Pay.

	£	£	
1 principal military storekeeper	-	850	per annum.
3 deputy military storekeepers	-	510 to 590	"
5 assistant military storekeepers	-	220 to 380	"
7 military store clerks, 1st class	-	200 to 220	"
21 " " 2nd class	-	110 to 150	"
4 inspectors	-	250	"
6 storeholders	-	100 to 110	{ Increasing 5l. per ann. to 140l. per annum.
10 temporary clerks	-	100	per annum.
1 office keeper	-	95	"
1 messenger	-	95	"
1 engine keeper	-	90	"
		s. d.	
1 principal foreman	-	7 0	per diem.
1 superintending principal foreman	-	7 0	"
1 second superintending principal foreman	-	5 6	"
9 principal viewers	-	7 0	"
19 first class viewers	-	6 0	"
22 second class viewers	-	5 0	"

1 foreman of artificers	-	-	-	6 0	per diem.
1 working smith	-	-	-	4 9	"
1 assistant smith	-	-	-	2 11	"
6 carpenters	-	-	-	4 6	"
2 jobbing carpenters	-	-	-	3 4	"
1 cooper	-	-	-	4 6	"
1 master armourer	-	-	-	5 0	"
1 assistant armourer	-	-	-	4 0	"
4 painters	-	-	-	4 2	"
1 engraver	-	-	-	4 2	"
15 first class foremen	-	-	-	4 6	"
13 second class foremen	-	-	-	3 8	"
50 first class labourers	-	-	-	2 10	"
50 second class labourers	-	-	-	2 8	"
106 third class labourers	-	-	-	2 6	"
2 boys	-	-	-	2 1	"
8 boys	-	-	-	2 4	"
18 women	-	-	-	1 8	"
9 temporary viewers	-	-	-	5 0	"
12 temporary carpenters	-	-	-	4 6	"
5 temporary painters	-	-	-	4 2	"
71 temporary labourers	-	-	-	2 6	"
6 temporary women	-	-	-	1 8	"
1 stevedore	-	-	-	5 6	"
1 extra messenger	-	-	-	3 6	"
2 extra messengers	-	-	-	3 4	"

R. EATON,
Principal Military Storekeeper.

APPENDIX No. 2. (Question 111.)

TOWER.

A RETURN showing the number and description of Obsolete STORES at the TOWER, with their approximate Value, and Remarks as to what Services they may be applied.

Articles.	Serviceable.	Repair-able.	Full Price.	Total Cost.	Remarks.
<i>Camp Equipage :—</i>			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Tents, O.P. { Circular { Single	5	-	7 1 8	35 8 4	
White duck { Double	360	-	3 3 9	1,151 5 0	
Irish pattern, single canvas	113	7	2 10 0	300 0 0	
Laboratory { Large	-	3	11 10 8	34 12 0	
White duck { Small	-	3	8 12 1	25 16 3	
Kettles, light camp, with bags, O.P.	6	-	0 1 4	0 8 0	
Walls for marquees, HP. Wt. Dk. O.P.	43	-	0 10 0	21 10 0	
Pins, picketting, 10" iron, O.P.	297	-	0 0 6½	8 1 10½	
Saddles, pack, with fittings complete	13	-	4 15 0	61 15 0	
Girths, O.P. { Pack saddle	9	-	0 2 0	0 18 0	
With small ropes	488	-	0 2 0	48 16 0	
" buckles	20	-	0 2 0	2 0 0	
With one rope	23	-	0 1 6	1 14 6	
Wanties, O.P. { " two ropes	220	-	0 2 6	27 10 0	
" leather flaps	10	-	0 2 0	1 0 0	
Covers, mule, canvas tarred, O.P.	30	-	0 3 6	5 5 0	
Bags, O.P. { Common artillery	14,016	-	0 1 4	934 8 0	
do. do.	186	-	0 2 1	12 8 0	
do. cavalry	15,786	-	0 2 1	1,644 7 6	
<i>Miscellaneous :—</i>			2s. 3d. each.	17 11 0	
Shelves, cast iron	156	-	0 2 8	158 16 0	
Canilevers, double	1,191	-	0 1 10	31 10 8	
" right	344	-	1s. 10d. each	31 1 6	
" left	339	-	0 2 6	0 15 0	
Rails for canilevers with three pins to each rail	6	-	0 8 0	2 0 0	
Posts, drying	5	-	0 4 8	0 4 8	
Partitions for storehouse shelves	1	-	0 0 0½	1 13 2½	
Pins, surplus, without rails	797	-	1	1 3 0	
Plain { 4s. 10d.	1	-	5	5 15 0	
For { 5s. 0d.	5	-	5	5 15 0	
For stands { 5s. 6d.	5	-	1	5 15 0	
{ 6s. 0d.	1	-	2	2 6 0	
Mangers { Right { 5s. 6d.	1	-	1	1 3 0	
hand { 6s. 4d.	1	-	1	1 3 0	
Left hand 6s. 0d.	2	-	2	2 6 0	
For stone corbels { 5s. 0d.	1	-	1	1 3 0	
{ 5s. 6d.	1	-	1	1 3 0	
{ 6s. 0d.	1	-	1	1 3 0	

Articles.	Serviceable.	Repairable.	Full Price.	Total Cost.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Troughs { Farriers - - - - -	1	-	4 3 10	4 3 10	
Cast iron { Armourers - - - - -	1	-	1 0 2	1 0 2	
Bedsteads, { Without racks - - - - -	11	18	0 18 0	25 2 0	
H. P. { With racks - - - - -	4	3	1 1 10	7 12 10	
Fire engine, No. 2 - - - - -	-	1	44 16 0	44 16 0	
Pipe branch for No 2 engine, 4 feet, with nose-pipe and spreader.	1	-	0 15 3	0 15 3	
Spanners for engines - - - - -	5	-	0 1 0	0 5 0	
Ranges, mess kitchen, Part 118 - - - - -	15	2	7 15 0	131 15 0	
<i>Tools :—</i>					
Adzes, coopers, gun metal, O.P. - - - - -	12	-	0 4 9	2 17 0	
Drivers, upright - - - - -	5	-	0 0 6	0 2 6	
Vices, coopers gun metal - - - - -	3	-	0 0 4	0 1 0	
Gauges, barrel armourers - - - - -	1	-	0 1 0	0 1 0	
Plates, breast, wood - - - - -	113	-	0 0 9	4 4 9	
Bits for boring bayonets - - - - -	20	-	1 10 0	30 0 0	
Keys for vice, hand, O.P. - - - - -	16	-	0 0 6	0 8 0	
Drills, smiths or armourers - - - - -	378	-	0 0 5½	8 5 4	
Plates, screw, 3 taps - - - - -	95	-	0 2 9	13 1 3	
Taps for ditto - - - - -	281	-	0 0 2	2 7 8	
Rasps, mouth - - - - -	3	-	0 1 0	0 3 0	
Hammers, handled { Turning, farriers - - - - -	14	-	0 2 9	1 18 6	
{ Shoeing, " - - - - -	3	-	0 2 3	0 6 9	
{ Pointing, " - - - - -	1	-	0 0 11	0 0 11	
Hatchets, carvers (unhandled) - - - - -	51	-	0 1 7	4 0 9	
Handles for ditto - - - - -	48	-	0 0 6	1 4 0	
Handles or thrifts for augers - - - - -	1	-	0 0 2	0 0 2	
Handcuffs (figure 8), pairs - - - - -	32	-	0 4 0	6 8 0	
Mouth-piece, bugle - - - - -	4	-	0 0 4	0 1 4	
Plates, breast, smiths wood - - - - -	9	-	0 0 9	0 6 9	
Spikes, marline, horn - - - - -	78	-	0 0 6	1 19 0	
Braces, collar makers - - - - -	12	-	0 2 0	1 4 0	
Bits { Rimer, square - - - - -	13	-	0 0 6½	0 7 0½	
{ Hove - - - - -	329	-	0 0 6½	8 18 2½	
{ Auger - - - - -	169	-	0 0 6½	4 11 6½	
Nipples, saddlers - - - - -	60	-	0 0 8	2 0 0	
Ends, copper, for tamping bars, 1½" holes - - - - -	5	-	0 1 3	0 6 3	
Cocks, brass, wine casks keys, 3s. 8d. - - - - -	76	-	0 1 0	3 16 0	
Few Irons { Large - - - - -	5	-	0 2 9	0 14 6	
{ Small - - - - -	1	-	0 1 6	0 1 6	
Holdfasts, iron, armourers - - - - -	2	-	0 1 0	0 2 0	
Irons, edge - - - - -	2	-	0 0 6	0 1 0	
Bits, dowling sash, with collars - - - - -	1	-	0 0 6	0 0 6	
Ironwork for military stand pieces - - - - -	6	-	0 0 2	0 1 0	
Tops for lightning conductor - - - - -	2	-	1 10 2	3 0 4	
Plates, cast iron, 9½ inch diameter - - - - -	3	-	4d. each.	0 1 0	
<i>Arms :—</i>					
Lances - - - - -	576	505	0 13 0	702 13 0	
Swords, serjeants { Line - - - - -	869	314	0 15 3	902 0 9	
{ Artillery - - - - -	107	2,371	0 15 0	1,858 10 0	
{ Rifle - - - - -	547	-	-	410 5 0	
Muskets, percussion { P. /42, smooth bore - - - - -	4,873	5,920	2 16 8	30,580 3 4	
{ Ex. service " - - - - -	3,233	2,2063	2 0 0	50,592 0 0	
{ P. /38, back action - - - - -	98	-	2 15 6	271 19 0	
{ Artillery, smooth bore - - - - -	270	-	2 18 0	783 0 0	
Muskets, flint, of sorts - - - - -	-	57,790	2 2 0	121,359 0 0	
Barrels, land service, short flint - - - - -	2,366	-	0 10 0	1,183 0 0	
Barrels { Carbine - - - - -	521	-	0 8 0	208 8 0	
{ Pistol - - - - -	1,049	-	0 4 0	209 16 0	
{ Musket, per P. /39 - - - - -	79	-	-	47 8 0	
{ " /38 - - - - -	1,776	-	0 12 0	1,065 12 0	
{ Artillery and Sappers - - - - -	995	-	0 9 0	447 15 0	
{ Serjeants, P. /42 - - - - -	850	-	0 8 9	371 17 6	
{ Ex. Service - - - - -	262	-	0 9 0	119 18 0	
Locks, musket, under progress for ex. service - - - - -	4,692	-	0 4 0	938 8 0	
Muskets, serjeants, P. /42 - - - - -	931	-	0 2 4	108 12 4	
" R. and T. ex. service - - - - -	849	-	0 3 6	148 11 6	
" Artillery, P. /42 - - - - -	1,381	-	0 4 0	276 4 0	
" P. /38, back action - - - - -	120	-	0 4 0	24 0 0	
Bayonets { Land flint - - - - -	237	-	0 2 7	30 12 3	
{ India, 2/6 P. under progress for alteration to ex. service. - - - - -	2,882	-	0 4 0	576 8 0	
Carbine, India P. - - - - -	440	-	0 4 0	88 0 0	
Sword, Sappers, P. /42. - - - - -	371	-	0 5 0	92 15 0	
Wads, cork, musket, P. /42 - - - - -	5,100	-	0 0 2	42 10 0	
Wads, cork, musket, P. /51 - - - - -	17,000	-	0 0 2	141 13 4	
" " carbine - - - - -	13,600	-	0 0 2	113 6 8	
" " pistol - - - - -	8,800	-	0 0 2	73 6 8	
Flints { Musket - - - - -	209,698	-	-	220 3 7¾	
{ Carbine - - - - -	24,386	-	21s. per No.	25 12 1¼	
{ Pistol, large - - - - -	29,326	-	-	30 15 10	
Loops, barrel, 6½ { Wire - - - - -	11,078	-	3d. per doz.	138 9 6	
{ Bolt - - - - -	19,004	-	3d. "	237 1 0	
{ Swivel - - - - -	12,305	-	3d. "	153 16 3	
Pins, breach, ½d. { Musket, ex. service - - - - -	10,510	-	¾d. each.	21 17 11	
{ " P. /39 - - - - -	1,674	-	¾d. "	3 9 9	
{ Pistol flint - - - - -	399	-	½d. "	0 16 7½	

Articles.	Serviceable.	Repairable.	Full Price.	Total Cost.	Remarks.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Pistols, brass instruments, P. /42	4,262	-	9d. each.	159 16 6	
Caps, nose	1,416	-	2d. "	11 16 0	
Pieces, ex. service	2,475	-	2½d. "	25 15 7½	
Plates { Heel " " P. /42	6,479	-	8d. "	215 19 4	
" " " E. S. -	1,875	-		62 10 0	
" " " P. /42	1,366	-	1½d. "	8 10 9	
" " " E. S. -	1,386	-		8 13 3	
Pipes, long " " P. /42	405	-	1d. "	1 13 9	
Sights, back " " "	38,342	-	0 3 6	6,657 7 0	
Barrels { Line R. L. F. -	32,973	-	0 10 0	16,486 10 0	
" Sea service -	2,631	-	0 5 0	657 15 0	
Rammers { Musket, P. /51	106	-	0 10 6	55 13 0	
" P. /51 and P. /42	9,062	-	0 0 9	339 16 6	
Musket { Sea service -	822	-	0 0 8	27 8 0	
Lumps for bayonets -	15,915	-	0 0 1	66 6 3	
Bayonets, musketry line, R. and F., P. /42	13,434	-	0 5 0	3,358 10 0	
" " " P. /51	325	-		81 5 0	
Sights { P. /51 and P. /42	11,599	-	0 3 6	2,029 16 6	
Back { Sea service -	11,466	-		2,006 11 0	
Bolts, { Small -	10,931	-	½d. each.	22 15 5	
Musket { Large -	23,432	-	¼d. "	24 8 2	
Nails, { Side -	21,071	-	½d. "	43 17 11	
Musket { Breech -	15,534	-		32 7 3	
Swivels, shaft, P. /42	1,106	-	2d. "	9 4 4	
" snap cap -	3,600	-	3d. "	45 0 0	
Springs, bayonet, P. /42	4,164	-	0 0 1	17 7 0	
" rammers " -	13,122	-	0 0 3	164 0 6	
Triggers, musket " -	16,467	-	0 0 6	411 13 6	
Locks, musket " -	1,534	-	0 8 3	632 15 6	
" { E. S. -	668	-	0 4 0	133 12 0	
Cramps, tram spring -	6,555	-	0 1 0	327 15 0	
Jags, brass, P. /51 and P. /42	3,566	-	0 0 4	59 8 8	
Ball drawers -	4,135	-	0 0 3	51 13 9	
Keys, nipple { Single -	1,890	-	0 1 1	102 7 6	
Musket { Double -	8,738	-	0 1 3	546 2 6	
Worms, musket, infantry -	11,270	-	0 0 2½	117 7 11	
Pistols, flint lock -	-	5,000	1 3 0	5,750 0 0	
Caps, nose, malleable iron	11,963	-	2d. each.	99 13 10	
Caps, side " " -	23,350	-	¼d. "	24 6 5½	
Handles " " -	11,968	-	6d. "	299 4 0	
Plates, heel " " -	11,968	-	8d. "	398 18 8	
" trigger " " -	11,968	-	1½d. "	74 16 0	
<i>Accoutrements :-</i>					
Pouches, with brass ends, Foot Artillery	184	-	0 2 5	22 4 8	
Pouches { Musket, common, sea service	17,991	-	0 3 3	2,923 10 9	
" Pistol -	17,281	-	0 2 6	2,160 2 6	
Magazines, leather	6,137	-	10d. each.	256 10 10	
Pouches, 60 rounds, P. /50, black	10,856	-	0 6 6	3,528 4 0	
Cases, Pioneers, cps. { Saw	10	-	0 12 6	6 5 0	
Old pattern { Mallock -	1	-	0 1 6	0 1 6	
" Spade -	17	-	0 9 6	8 1 6	
Cases, { Broad axe -	9	-	0 9 6	4 5 6	
Pioneer appts. { Felling axe -	17	-	0 3 6	2 19 6	
Old pattern, { Bill hook -	22	-	0 3 0	3 6 0	
" Punches -	19	-	0 1 0	0 19 0	
Belts, pouch, P. /50, buff	13,778	-	0 3 6	2,411 3 0	
" waist { R. and F., buff	11,601	-	0 2 7	1,498 9 3	
" Serjeants -	151	-	0 4 6	33 19 6	
Pouches, " -	118	-	0 5 5	31 19 2	
Frogs, " -	195	-	0 1 9	17 1 3	
Slings, black sabretache -	1,142	-	0 1 2	61 12 4	
Billets " " -	1,146	-	0 0 7½	35 16 3	
Pouches or pockets, Colt's, common	96	-	0 2 8	12 16 0	
Holsters, plain, " black leather -	10	-	0 3 5	1 14 2	
				274,179 10 1	

The prices inserted in this list are those that were paid many years ago for the stores when new, and the present value is very much less. The stores generally are inapplicable to any existing services. The greater portion consists of arms and materials, of patterns which have been superseded by others constructed on new and improved principles; but it has not been considered politic to dispose of any considerable number of arms, and it would be premature to do so until the store should have been amply replenished with others of the new patterns. A number of flint lock arms of an inferior description were sold some years ago, and the prices obtained were about six shillings each.

E. C. KING,
For Principal Military Storekeeper.

APPENDIX No. 3. (Question 167.)

RETURN showing the Number of RUGS (distinguishing Serviceable and Unserviceable) sold at the Tower and Victoria Docks, since the Crimean War.

S. signifies Serviceable; U. Unserviceable.

Date of Sale.	Voucher No.	Where Sold.	RUGS.													
			Single and Barrack.		Foreign.		Horse.		Hospital.		Coloured.		Cotton.		Of Sorts.	
			S.	U.	S.	U.	S.	U.	S.	U.	S.	U.	S.	U.	S.	U.
1856.																
March 27 -	9,541	Tower - - - -	—	—	—	183	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 27 -	9,547	" - - - -	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May 27 -	1,559	" - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17
July 9 -	2,373	" - - - -	150	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 17 -	2,091	Victoria Docks -	4,514	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 17 -	"	" - - - -	—	13	—	—	—	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 28 -	2,364	Tower - - - -	—	—	—	138	—	—	—	—	—	229	—	—	—	—
" 6 -	3,765	Victoria Docks -	—	185	—	—	—	30	—	185	—	—	150	—	—	—
Sept. 9 -	4,157	" - - - -	—	8,639	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 12 -	3,777	Tower - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	73
Oct. 16 -	5,230	Victoria Docks -	—	5,500	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	600	—	—	—	—
Nov. 5 -	5,465	" - - - -	—	500	—	—	—	—	—	900 col.	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 21 -	5,808	" - - - -	—	1,000	—	—	—	—	—	600 "	—	—	—	—	589 French.	—
Dec. 3 -	5,247	Tower - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	793 and Woollen.	—
" 10 -	6,006	Victoria Docks -	—	3,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	250	—	—	—	—
" 31 -	6,226	" - - - -	—	1,492	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1857.																
Jan. 28 -	6,267	Victoria Docks -	—	—	—	—	—	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 28 -	6,267	" - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	127	—	—	—	270
Feb. 9 -	6,669	Tower - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70
" 26 -	6,672	Victoria Docks -	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April 6 -	1,186	Tower - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	68	—	—
May 28 -	1,430	" - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
" 28 -	1,430	" - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5mule
Aug. 3 -	3,153	" - - - -	—	1,588	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	400
Oct. 29 -	3,155	" - - - -	39	151	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	102	—	—	—	—
1858.																
Feb. 18 -	3,312	Tower - - - -	—	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aug. 18 -	7,769	" - - - -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
			4,703	22,113	—	321	—	116	—	1,691	—	1,309	—	1,600	—	869

Military Store Office, Tower, November 19, 1858. R. EATON, P.M.S.

APPENDIX No. 4. (Question 337.)

EXTRACT from the Tower Office Books at the War Office, on the Circumstances connected with the Dismissal of John Cufley, late a Labourer, Tower.

No. 870. Order, March 11, 1846. ^C/_{2,554}.

John Cufley was a labourer in the small arm branch of the principal storekeeper's department, and was employed in the examination of small arm accoutrements supplied by contractors, to ascertain their conformity with the approved patterns.

In the early part of February last I was informed that he had been guilty of demanding money from contractors, to facilitate his passing of their supplies; and on personal inquiry of Mr Oliphant, I learned that one of the sub-contractors to the latter had complained of repeated applications

having been made to him by Cufley for money, who in one instance had received 1*l*. from him, and teased him for more, which Mr. Oliphant offered to prove.

Having charged Cufley with this conduct, I found that he could not deny it, upon which I immediately dismissed him from the service, and reported my having done so to the principal storekeeper, who entirely approved thereof.

Mr. Cufley's conjecture as to Mr. Morris having pre-determined to get him dismissed, on account of another transaction, is wholly undeserving of attention.

(Signed) R. PARRETT, C.C.

March 13, 1846.

B. O. March, 46 ^C/₂₅₅₄, No. 947.

Cufley's dismissal approved.

B. O. March, 46 ^C/₄₅, No. 971.

Cufley's dismissal approved.

APPENDIX No. 5. (Question 1561.)

COPY of a letter from Sir T. HASTINGS to Lord PANMURE, sent from Ordnance Office towards the end of 1854 or early in 1855.

MY LORD,

Having learnt from my colleagues that you meditate sanctioning the establishing a foundry in the Royal Arsenal for casting shells for the land and sea service, I feel it my duty to lay before your Lordship my reasons for believing that such a measure is quite unnecessary.

First, because the contractors are ready to furnish many more shot and shells than will be required during war from year to year.

Secondly, because, though our contracts in time of peace scarcely amounted to 100 tons a week, yet in the first eight months of the war they have been expanded to 300 tons a week, with one company, which has also offered to increase their supply to 450 tons a week, if required.

We have also tenders from other old and experienced contractors to the amount of 800 tons a week, and of new contractors to the amount of 900 tons a week; making a total per week of upwards of 2,000 tons, and by the year of more than 104,000 tons!!!

Thirdly, having touched on the quantity, which may easily be obtained, I proceed to show the quality:—The Books of the Inspector of Artillery prove, that the rejections under the most stringent rules of examination amount to one per cent. only. In these circumstances, when we have excess in quantity as to proffered supply, and almost perfectibility as to quality, I am at a loss to comprehend why an outlay of 15,000*l*. should now be made, or why a large and costly permanent establishment should be added to the annual expenses of the department.

It is imagined, that it might give some control over the contractors,—an argument which would be of some avail, if we were dealing with a close body like the gunpowder merchants,—but we are concerned with one of the staple manufactures of the country, and so many persons have capital embarked in it, that an active competition will

always exist, which it is well known invariably brings prices down to the lowest point of profit: that such has been the case, the books of the Ordnance will show; for at one period iron was 3*l.* 10*s.* per ton, guns 14*l.* per ton, shot and shell from 7*l.* 6*s.* to 7*l.* 9*s.* per ton.

These prices have risen "to 20*l.* for guns per ton," with the price of iron, labour and coal; and that shells of shrapnell, in consequence of the introduction of an improved, but more difficult pattern, but as soon as use has accustomed the founders to make it, a reduction in price will take place; indeed the fall has commenced, for these shells are now offered by the highest priced contractors at 33*l.* a ton and by the lowest at 16*l.* and 17*l.* a ton; a year ago, they could only be obtained at 60*l.* a ton.

It should be added here that during the time I have supervised these contracts, the contractors have behaved with liberality, and a readiness to meet the wants of the service, sometimes to a considerable inconvenience to themselves.

The rule which governs the price of iron guns, shot, and shell is the price of pig iron in the market; they rise and fall together.

I now beg leave to observe to your Lordship that the opinions of those who consider that a saving would be made by establishing a foundry in the Royal Arsenal are not based on well considered or sustainable data; for it is clear we cannot obtain coal at Woolwich, where it is subject to the city of London duties, so cheaply as in the iron and coal districts; the price would be as 20*s.* to 10*s.* at least, plus the cost of conveyance. Iron also would be dearer, considerably so, labour would be as high, and if to this be added the difference between the amount of work obtained by the vigilant energy in action in private works as compared with the result in public works of a similar character, the hope of deriving any economical benefit from the establishment of a Royal Foundry will be at an end. Why, therefore, incur the expense of setting one up? It could not give a supply equal to our wants in war, though in peace it might give sufficient to break up the contract system; consequently when war occurred there would be no power of expansion to the enormous extent which has recently been displayed.

Here also I would request your Lordship's attention to the fact that the Admiralty construct no steam engines. If then private enterprise and skill can be relied on to furnish these costly and highly wrought instruments, may we not much more rely on it to furnish such comparatively simple articles as shot and shell? Observe also it is not proposed to cast iron guns, though of much more importance.

I must in addition solicit your Lordship's attention to the fact that the clever and ingenious officer who has been mainly instrumental in leading to the present conclusions is so fully imbued with the idea that whatever is made for the Royal Laboratory should be made in it, that he actually proposed recently (although the wood work of the department is now *well* done and *close* by in the Royal Carriage department) that an establishment for that purpose should be specially set up in the Royal Laboratory to meet and carry out his views.

In reference to the question of every thing pertaining to the reception of iron ordnance, shot, and shell, that was settled long since by the late Duke of Wellington, who, when Master General, directed that the Inspector of Artillery should take charge of all those duties, and that all large castings in brass and iron should be placed under the supervision of that officer.

The experience of nearly ten years in superintending the manufacturing departments in the Royal Arsenal has convinced me that this wise division of them should not be disturbed. I also consider, should it be determined after the reasons now offered against the measure, to establish a foundry in the Royal Arsenal, that it should be placed under the management of the Inspector of Artillery and not under that of the Director of the Royal Laboratory, who coincides with me in this opinion.

It would then be placed in the hands of the same officer as the factories recently established for the manufacture of Lancaster's shells, for his oval-bored guns. These guns and shells were introduced into the service on the report of a committee, of which Rear-Admiral Chads was president; certain defects were pointed out as pertaining to them, and experiments were recommended which have not removed them. The difficulty and slowness of loading them will prevent their being brought into general use in the navy. Vice Admiral Dundas' recent report shows that either the shell or the fuze is still defective. Sir Thomas Maitland, the present captain of the "Excellent," takes the same view, and he is supported in his opinion by the practice at the Needles and at Bomarsund.

The Director-General of Artillery considers that 68-pounders of 95 cwt., and 8-inch guns of 65 cwt., are the only guns of this nature fit for oval boring; the 52 cwt. are too weak.

The great weight of the first-named guns precludes their being used in sieges, except in those which may be carried on near the sea. The conclusion is, that the use of Lancaster's gun will be a limited one.

Permit me now to invite your Lordship's attention to what has been done in this matter. First, for plant and services, Mr. Lancaster has been paid about 10,000*l.*; it was soon seen that the shells could not be made by hand effectively. The Board then adopted a plan proposed by Mr. Anderson and Mr. Lancaster; the machine invented by Mr. Anderson succeeded; that which was the joint invention of these gentlemen failed; the expenditure incurred, building included, was about 12,000*l.*

The Board then consulted Sir Charles Fox and Mr. Whitworth, and ordered that the alterations they suggested should be carried into effect by Sir Charles Fox, at a probable expense of 8,000*l.* more.

They proposed to increase the velocity of the rolls, and calculated that the shells would be pushed through them before the iron cooled; they still entertain this opinion. But the Board, without waiting for a trial of the before-named gentleman's plan, again revert, on Mr. Anderson's suggestion, to the original, but an improved system of fabricating these shells by skilled hand labour, and to effect it 25,000*l.* more will be required. This sum would have been exceeded had not the plan of Mr. Anderson been reduced one third for buildings and machinery on my suggestion.

I feel it to be my duty to bring these facts under your Lordship's notice, because I consider the intended expenditure for the erection of a foundry in the Royal Arsenal, and consequently a large increase of permanent establishment in workmen highly paid, to be unnecessary. At this moment the Lowmoor foundry, one of the largest in England, is under contract to supply 10,000 tons of shot and shell at the rate (in a few weeks) of 400 tons a week, and as demanded. Lawrie and Co. of Glasgow, who claim to have the largest foundry in the world, offered to supply all that was estimated for and would be required this year, and within the times stipulated. There are a number of other contractors of reputation who have taken contracts, and the Board might have doubled its supplies. Some of the contractors have also written to state that, if their services are required, they will refuse the foreign orders which have been offered to them.

In these circumstances I take leave to submit to your Lordship that, until some of the contractors have failed in their contracts, or until some want for a foundry should be made apparent, that the expense of erecting one should not be incurred.

I have now only to add that a sense of duty alone has led me to write this statement, and that, whatever your Lordship's decision may be, I shall endeavour to carry it into full effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. HASTINGS.

APPENDIX No. 6. (Question 68.)

STATEMENT showing the STORES SURPLUS and DEFICIENT in the Balance of the TOWER LEDGER to the 6th October 1857, as compared with the Quantities found to exist on taking Stock by actual Survey.

Description of Article.		Ledger Balance.	Actual Stock.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
Appointments	Fencing	9,149	9,176	27	
	Pioneers	7,298	9,394	2,096	
	Lance	3,941	2,607	-	1,334
Muskets, percussion, rifled for conical balls		70,496	87,429	16,933	
Muskets, percussion, common		-	12,764	12,764	
Rifles, common		218	415	197	
Pistols, percussion		905	1,516	611	
Pieces, fowling		52	61	9	
Implements for	Deane's revolvers	11,983	14,445	2,462	
	Colt's	124,417	81,813	-	42,604
	Sharpe's breech-loading carbines	10,744	13,519	2,775	
	Rifled muskets	243,163	302,057	58,894	
	Brunswick rifles	6,323	6,605	282	
	Green's breech-loading carbines	66,238	1,005,758	939,520	
	Pistols, cavalry	3,827	561	-	3,266
Implements, miscellaneous	Pieces, fowling	83	226	143	
	miscellaneous	202,255	271,153	68,898	
	Rifled muskets, extra service	15,155	117,078	101,923	
	Percussion arms	8,218	17,916	9,698	
	Pistols, percussion	5,388	5,364	-	24
	Carbines, Victoria	159	5,479	5,320	
	Muskets, percussion, various	189,210	231,574	42,364	
Materials for	Brunswick rifles	653	3,247	2,594	
	Constabulary carbines	430	168	-	262
	Wall pieces	2,585	495	-	2,090
	Yeomanry carbines, flint and percussion	328	76	-	252
	Muskets, serjeants; Line O. P. and pattn. / 39 percussion	239	4,007	3,768	
	Short rifles	-	2,687	2,687	
		12,890	7,892	-	4,998
Bands musket		4,004	4,203	199	
		47,679	45,884	-	1,795
Barrels	For flint arms	1,083	753	-	330
	For percussion arms	8,910	9,192	282	
Bayonets and rammers		3,547	5,752	2,205	
Carbines rifled for conical balls		1,942	2,275	333	
" percussion, common		5,376	3,692	-	1,684
Lances		5,530	4,443	-	1,187
Locks fitted with cocks		19,717	14,040	-	5,677
Locks, percussion, without cocks		49,393	18,888	-	30,505
Nails, lock percussion, small		2,335	9,040	6,705	
Scabbard, sword, of sorts		38,056	46,842	8,786	
Stocks, pistol and musket		8,759	44,500	35,741	
Swords, with scabbards		-	79	79	
Wads, cork		18,745	18,075	-	670
Tools, small arm		696	242	-	454
Accoutrements	Royal Artillery	7,877	5,601	-	2,276
	Royal Horse Artillery	25,193	923	-	24,270
	Sappers and miners	60,216	71,833	11,617	
	Infantry, O. P.	27,567	27,756	189	
	Cavalry	23,400	22,700	-	700
	Black for enrolled Pensioners and Militia Artillery	84,294	94,593	10,299	
	Rifle, black	10,748	14,590	3,842	
	Sea service	513	99	-	414
	Militia Infantry, Regulation pattern, 1853	248	1,302	1,054	
	Police	224	336	112	
	Pioneers	387,406	467,912	80,506	
	Convict service, black leather	47,336	96,782	49,446	
	Infantry pattern, 1854	10,423	3,540	-	6,883
	Scabbards, leather, for sword bayonets and swords	103,398	115,486	12,088	
	Plates, belt	124,067	154,068	30,001	
	Land Transport Corps, and Cossacks of the Sultan	3,126	2,318	-	808
	Miscellaneous	1,989	2,228	239	
Camp Equipage	Knapsacks	35	37	2	
	Circular Cotton	2,341	348	7	
	Laboratory Large	572	569	-	3
	Marquees, Officers	3	38	35	
	Hospital	14	-	-	14
	Insides	16,002	19,005	3,003	
	Outsides	8,414	6,536	-	1,878
	Canteens	3,468	2,714	-	754
	Kettles, Camp	877	781	-	96
	Valeizes for Tents, serviceable	457,493	458,376	883	
Mallets	" repairable	2,064	11,123	9,059	
	Pins, of sorts	7,382	6,855	-	527
	Bags, pin and pole	364	-	-	364
	Tent, serviceable	2,236	2,152	-	84
	" repairable	703	553	-	150
	Picket	60,000	66,086	6,086	
	Handles for	196	27	-	169
	Buttons, wood	67,053	67,556	503	
	Roofs for tents	-	2,979	2,979	
	Runners, wood	285	230	-	55
Poles, tent, serviceable	Sheets, waterproof	14	269	255	
	Vases	-	6,805	6,805	
	Walls	16,726	17,320	594	
	Lines, weather	15,660	15,103	-	557
	Hooks, brass	11,671	16,415	4,744	
Eyes, brass		-	-	-	-
Poles, tent, serviceable		-	-	-	-

Description of Article.					Ledger Balance.	Actual Stock.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
Camp Equipage	Poles, tent, repairable	-	-	-	3,567	1,337	-	2,230
	Bags, corn, serviceable	-	-	-	17,456	35,832	18,376	-
	" repairable	-	-	-	4,399	-	-	4,399
	" Nose, cavalry, canvas	-	-	-	-	18,065	18,065	-
	Havresacks	-	-	-	1,403	28,131	26,728	-
	Bags, biscuit, &c.	-	-	-	4,518	7,329	2,811	-
	Buckets, leather, water	-	-	-	-	3,775	3,775	-
	Poles, camp color	-	-	-	559	459	-	100
	Cords, forage	-	-	-	39,020	38,540	-	480
	Covers, horse and mule	-	-	-	3,198	3,947	749	-
	Covers, black linen, &c.	-	-	-	1,645	1,625	-	20
	Fetters, horse heel	-	-	-	-	187	187	-
	Hooks, bill	-	-	-	-	901	901	-
	Nets, forage	-	-	-	26,788	28,725	1,937	-
	Ropes, picket serviceable	-	-	-	122	3,911	3,789	-
	" repairable	-	-	-	3,832	-	-	3,832
	Ropes, heel, cotton	-	-	-	-	3,881	3,881	-
Clothing, Hospital	Sacks, corn	-	-	-	26,919	9,638	-	17,281
	Caps, cotton and woollen	-	-	-	86,734	89,073	2,339	-
	Drawers, flannel	-	-	-	28,911	46,773	17,862	-
	Gowns, cotton and serge	-	-	-	32,001	34,218	2,217	-
	" flannel	-	-	-	3,360	2,663	-	697
	Trousers	-	-	-	2,200	1,292	-	908
	Trousers, cotton and serge	-	-	-	26,354	24,815	-	1,539
	Waistcoat, flannel	-	-	-	8,111	4,116	-	3,995
	" cotton and serge	-	-	-	31,401	28,832	-	2,569
	Shirts, flannel	-	-	-	76,728	69,204	-	7,524
	Covers, cap	-	-	-	-	2,996	2,996	-
	Belts, cholera	-	-	-	11,010	12,449	1,439	-
	Aprons of sorts	-	-	-	1,808	359	-	1,449
	Caps, woollen	-	-	-	1,590	4,196	2,606	-
	Bandages	-	-	-	9,208	26,545	17,337	-
	Drawers, cotton	-	-	-	-	198	198	-
	Frocks, of sorts	-	-	-	5,847	7,055	1,208	-
Clothing miscellaneous.	Mitts, pairs	-	-	-	192	48	-	144
	Neckerchiefs	-	-	-	7,673	1,281	-	6,392
	Handkerchiefs, cotton	-	-	-	41,912	42,354	442	-
	" silk	-	-	-	256	-	-	256
	Hats, felt	-	-	-	66	387	321	-
	" police, &c.	-	-	-	2,049	-	-	2,049
	" prison, convicts, japanned and straw	-	-	-	-	217	217	-
	Jackets, of sorts	-	-	-	4,876	960	-	3,916
	Shirts, cotton, &c.	-	-	-	23,476	17,473	-	6,003
	" blue serge	-	-	-	-	688	688	-
	Shoes, of sorts	-	-	-	2,217	592	-	1,625
	Slippers, pairs	-	-	-	2,672	30,045½	27,373½	-
	Stockings, cotton	-	-	-	1,296	6,869	5,573	-
	" worsted	-	-	-	3,3376	3,275	-	30,101
	Trousers, of sorts	-	-	-	6,193	3,073	-	3,120
	Waistcoats	-	-	-	802	7,141	6,339	-
	Flannel, red striped, yards	-	-	-	67,280	20,247	-	47,033
Clothing—cloth, undressed convicts, yards	" yards	-	-	-	18,958	24,985	6,027	-
	" pieces	-	-	-	-	45	45	-
	Serge, of sorts, yards	-	-	-	9,327	5,648	-	3,679
	" for great coats, yards	-	-	-	31,671	-	-	31,671
	Reels of cotton	-	-	-	-	6,644	6,644	-
	" Tape, of sorts, yards	-	-	-	-	1,552	1,552	-
	Thread, pounds	-	-	-	209,151	184,756	-	24,395
	Reels of thread	-	-	-	5,500	5,163	-	337
	Balls " "	-	-	-	2,531	251	-	2,280
	Worsted, pounds	-	-	-	-	1,764	1,764	-
	" "	-	-	-	-	881	881	-
	Sheeting, yards	-	-	-	-	1,010	1,010	-
	Covers for boxes	-	-	-	-	1,005	1,005	-
	" waggons	-	-	-	-	49	49	-
	" blanket and bed	-	-	-	5,277	4,958	-	319
	Cases, slip	-	-	-	29	14,863	14,834	-
Waterproof	Leggings	-	-	-	3,739	3,379	-	360
	Hoods	-	-	-	3,403	3,790	387	-
	Capes, convicts	-	-	-	-	89	89	-
	Sheets	-	-	-	4,984	-	-	4,984
	Sheets, roan colour	-	-	-	9,842	-	-	9,842
	Coats, great	-	-	-	116	25	-	91
	Capes, serviceable	-	-	-	-	5,332	5,332	-
	" unserviceable	-	-	-	-	2,617	2,617	-
	" repairable	-	-	-	2,086	2,072	-	14
	Covers, blanket, unserviceable	-	-	-	6,932	8,620	1,688	-
	" bed	-	-	-	-	764	764	-
	" bed, dressed in oil	-	-	-	-	228	228	-
	Sheeting, yards	-	-	-	-	76	76	-
	Felt	-	-	-	352	250	-	102
	Covers, bearskin	-	-	-	-	480	480	-
	" "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
For bedding	Linen, yards	-	-	-	299,378	333,802	34,424	-
	Sheets	-	-	-	156,663	156,245	-	418
	Cahco, yards	-	-	-	114,764	102,691	-	12,073
	Blankets	-	-	-	158,632	159,134	502	-
	Beds	-	-	-	5,481	6,215	734	-
	Palliassees	-	-	-	69,627	83,538	13,911	-
	Bolsters	-	-	-	6,504	4,845	-	1,659
	Rugs	-	-	-	29,691	26,465	-	3,226
	" "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	" "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Description of Article.						Ledger Balance.	Actual Stock.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
<i>Miscellaneous Stores.</i>									
Aprons, canvas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,779	1,779	
Bags, sand	-	-	-	-	-	6,449	73,520	67,071	
„ squad	-	-	-	-	-	515	657	142	
„ bran	-	-	-	-	-	1,080	-	-	1,080
Bands	Guard	-	-	-	-	1,369	1,321	-	48
	Iron musket	-	-	-	-	7,211	6,632	-	579
	Lance	-	-	-	-	1,861	1,282	-	579
	Staples for do.	-	-	-	-	1,049	2,250	1,210	
Basins	Earthenware	-	-	-	-	-	412	412	
	Metal, galvanized	-	-	-	-	-	4,823	4,823	
	Metal, of sorts	-	-	-	-	19,118	19,806	688	
Baskets	Dust, lined with tin	-	-	-	-	937	6	-	931
	Clothes	-	-	-	-	91	141	50	
	Bread	-	-	-	-	232	128	-	104
	Of sorts	-	-	-	-	971	917	-	54
Bunting, yards	-	-	-	-	-	5,722	5,383	-	339
Buttons	White metal	-	-	-	-	-	2,996	2,996	
	Bone	-	-	-	-	56,738	226,581	169,843	
	Shirt	-	-	-	-	182,644	-	-	182,644
	Metal, of sorts	-	-	-	-	679,266	407,468	-	271,798
	Of sorts	-	-	-	-	279,462	-	-	279,462
	Spare, dozen	-	-	-	-	40,638	-	-	40,638
Caps, bearskin, unserviceable	-	-	-	-	-	-	735	735	
Chains for ditto	„	-	-	-	-	-	735	735	
Buckets, fire	-	-	-	-	-	-	221	221	
Engines, fire	-	-	-	-	-	13	11	-	2
Pipes, suction, lengths	-	-	-	-	-	73	115	42	
Cocoa-nut fibre, pounds	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,132	4,132	
Asphalte, felt	-	-	-	-	-	1,400	6,312	4,912	
Files for papers	-	-	-	-	-	341	235	-	106
Flags	Lance	-	-	-	-	2,543	478	-	2,065
	Royal Standard, serviceable	-	-	-	-	41	23	-	18
	„ „ repairable	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	16
	Union	-	-	-	-	170	203	33	
	Pendant	-	-	-	-	11	20	9	
	Ordnance	-	-	-	-	30	13	-	17
	Silk, regimental	-	-	-	-	158	2	-	156
	Various, for signals	-	-	-	-	130	126	-	4
	Powder	-	-	-	-	10	30	20	
	Musketry, drill practice	-	-	-	-	-	493	493	
Forks	Of sorts, serviceable	-	-	-	-	511	-	-	511
	Colours, Queens	-	-	-	-	64	-	-	64
	flesh	-	-	-	-	2,860	2,816	-	44
	„ pitch and stable	-	-	-	-	404	285	-	119
	Handles for ditto	-	-	-	-	1,717	1,101	-	616
	Forms, soldiers'	-	-	-	-	2,304	2,336	32	
	Ironwork for ditto, sets	-	-	-	-	1,108	7,915	6,807	
	Drivers' screw, notched, for ditto	-	-	-	-	1,387	2,130	743	
	Pins and bolts for ditto	-	-	-	-	-	1,173	1,173	
	Washers for ditto	-	-	-	-	-	6,800	6,800	
Funnel, tins, of sorts	-	-	-	-	-	1,645	1,429	-	216
Feeders, hospital	„	-	-	-	-	-	544	544	
Fenders, of sorts	-	-	-	-	-	1,873	2,186	313	
Pokers	„	-	-	-	-	2,239	3,131	892	
Shovels	„	-	-	-	-	4,420	4,398	-	22
Tongs	„	-	-	-	-	2,720	2,612	-	108
Grates, stoves, and ranges	-	-	-	-	-	1,512	1,715	203	
Pipes, feet, for ditto	-	-	-	-	-	2,595	7,710	5,115	
Glass, window, squares	-	-	-	-	-	1,459	1,927	468	
Glass, broken, lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	1,275	1,225	-	50
Pipe	Air pipe	-	-	-	-	-	644	644	
	Earthenware	-	-	-	-	1,472	1,067	-	405
	Of sorts, feet	-	-	-	-	4,223	3,585	-	638
Hair, lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	22,255	19,434	-	2,821
Handcuffs, pairs	-	-	-	-	-	376	420	44	
Housewives	-	-	-	-	-	30	203	173	
Kettles, cooking, and tea of sorts	-	-	-	-	-	2,287	3,747	1,460	
Lamps, of sorts	-	-	-	-	-	2,184	2,220	36	
Lanterns, of sorts	-	-	-	-	-	2,244	2,448	204	
Lead, black, lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	383	720	337	
Knives	-	-	-	-	-	11,819	12,055	236	
Forks	-	-	-	-	-	10,039	10,728	689	
Leather, lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	32,681	30,280	-	2,401
Skins and hides	-	-	-	-	-	82	39	-	43
Strings for shoes, pairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,236	7,236	
Webbing yards	-	-	-	-	-	33,937	67,991½	34,054½	
Materials, leather, for boots and shoes.	Soles, outer	pairs	-	-	-	72	585	513	
	„ inner	„	-	-	-	91	802	711	
	„ middle	„	-	-	-	-	25	25	
	„ piece	„	-	-	-	-	62	62	
	Lefts	„	-	-	-	-	1,656	1,656	
	Top pieces	„	-	-	-	179	731	552	
	Split lefts	„	-	-	-	-	364	364	
	Welts	„	-	-	-	2	499	497	
	Shoe stiffners	„	-	-	-	-	125	125	
	Hind quarter boots	„	-	-	-	-	63	63	
	Vamps	„	-	-	-	-	860	860	
	Tongues	„	-	-	-	-	693	693	
	Hind quarter shoes	„	-	-	-	-	577	577	
	Linings, counter	„	-	-	-	-	234	234	
	Rands	„	-	-	-	-	1,400	1,400	
	Facings, shoe	„	-	-	-	-	550	550	

Description of Article.		Ledger Balance.	Actual Stock.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
Miscellaneous Stores—continued.					
Line and cord,	Facings, boot	-	227	227	
	Counter shoe	-	561	561	
	yards	43,681	49,143	5,462	
	lbs.	6,478	21,647	15,169	
Shoemakers' tools, &c.	Blades, awl	1,581	3,569	1,988	
	Knives, of sorts	55	315	260	
	Nippers	157	36	-	121
	Seams set	33	8	-	25
	Nails, of sorts	1,045	792	-	253
	Bills, lbs. oz.	1 12	252 8	250 12	
	Lasting, gross and odd	1,742 34	37 12	-	1,705 22
	Plates, pairs	148	277	129	
	Toes, square turned	92	-	-	92
	Wax, lbs.	475	440	-	35
	Rasps	429	337	-	92
	Stones, rough	-	926	926	
	Tips, toe, pairs	-	72	72	
	„ heel „	17	-	-	17
	Lead, lbs.	9,074	7,083	-	1,991
Matchets		658	4	-	654
		542	485	-	57
	Brass and copper	1,689	1,379	-	310
	Pewter	1,914	1,993	79	
Measures	Tin	464	295	-	169
		7,643	804	-	6,839
		-	115	115	
Mats	Rope	3,463	3,345	-	118
	Russian	50	10	-	40
	Cocoa-nut fibre	360	308	-	52
Mallets, of sorts		133,777	128,273	-	5,504
Mattocks		23	197	174	
Mauls, of sorts		1,119	978	-	141
Needles „		-	536	536	
Nippers „		204	-	-	204
Pencils	Carpenters	16 96	-	-	16 96
	Red lead	991	1,016	25	
	Slate	1,049	-	-	1,049
Phlems, farriers, sets		-	604	604	
Cases for ditto		1,211	-	-	1,211
Picks, of sorts		1,420	1,504	84	
Handles for ditto		1,588	1,466	-	122
Pincers, of sorts		215	244	29	
Pins, of sorts		226	898	672	
Pipes, clyster		1,071	1,876	805	
Covers for planes		733	702	-	31
Plates, of sorts		1,328	1,343	15	
Pliers „		951	1,076	125	
Points, masons		1,374	1,553	179	
Pokers, of sorts		2,114	2,180	66	
Pritchets, farriers		20	30	10	
Rules—carpenters, masons, &c.		1,592	1,830	238	
Rippers, slates		20	39	19	
Scrapers, of sorts		1,076	1,277	201	
Tools, slaters		278	318	40	
Shaves, of sorts		167	200	33	
Shears		813	846	33	
Shoot, baling		1,746	339	-	1,407
Slices, of sorts		607	645	38	
Spikes, of sorts		3,124	3,214	90	
Squares, wood		776	1,028	252	
Squares, metal, sorts		1,196	1,329	133	
Stakes „		460	474	14	
Stamps, farriers'		534	627	93	
Steels, butchers		553	592	39	
Sticks, bleeding		14,545	1,375	-	13,170
Stocks, carpenters		294	175	-	119
Bits for „		24	108	84	
Saws „		6,929	7,431	502	
Crosses		-	87½	87½	
Stones, of sorts		-	1,915	1,121	
Stones, powder, lbs.		794	-	-	-
Strings, drill catgut		2,979	3,966	987	
Shoemakers blades, awl		6,261	6,447	186	
Thimbles, of sorts		2,304	2,296	-	8
Tongs „		195	215	20	
Trowels „		-	725	725	
Twiches „		1,618	1,033	-	525
Handles for bills		8,396	7,693	-	703
Wedges, iron		2,570	644	-	1,926
Solder, lbs.		198,338	198,986	648	
Spelter „		237	139	-	98
Tin sheets		818	882	64	
Zinc „		52	62	10	
Nets, portable		889	1,739	850	
Copper mills, coffee		2,015	4,604	2,589	
Baskets, bottle		288	25	-	263
Bottles, of sorts		4,475	14	-	4,461
Crates		1,642	11,177	9,535	
Cases, tin		11,746	7,519	-	4,227
Cases		3,798	792	-	3,006
Chests, arm		3,544	3,822	278	
Casks		-	-	-	-
Pails, of sorts		-	-	-	-

Description of Article.					Ledger Balance.	Actual Stock.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
Miscellaneous Stores—continued.								
Paint	Dry, lbs.	-	-	-	837	463	-	374
	Ground, of sorts, lbs.	-	-	-	24,600	2,899	-	21,701
	Water colour cakes	-	-	-	1,331	1,216	-	115
Pans	Sauce, tin	-	-	-	5,722	5,566	-	156
	" iron	-	-	-	1,131	1,052	-	79
	Bed	-	-	-	4,635	4,909	274	-
	Dust	-	-	-	239	1,052	813	-
	Frying	-	-	-	272	443	171	-
	Of sorts	-	-	-	292	-	-	292
	Pegs, clothes	-	-	-	1,544	2,119	575	-
	Pins, common, lbs.	-	-	-	50	4	-	46
	Pitch	-	-	-	435	801	366	-
	Plates, earthenware	-	-	-	1,777	2,112	335	-
	" pewter	-	-	-	1,696	1,273	-	423
	" tin	-	-	-	9,286	13,103	3,817	-
	Porringers, of sorts	-	-	-	3,304	3,017	-	287
	Pots, iron	-	-	-	525	494	-	31
	" pewter	-	-	-	12,573	1,955	-	10,618
	" tin	-	-	-	38,929	2,050	-	36,879
	" zinc	-	-	-	-	17,008	17,008	-
	" tin, spitting	-	-	-	-	4,642	4,642	-
	" " drinking, barrack pattern	-	-	-	-	30,457	30,457	-
	Pumps, pipe, feet for	-	-	-	6,482	7,421	939	-
	Bolts and nuts	-	-	-	547	272	-	275
	Flanges, gutta percha	-	-	-	449	312	-	137
	Salt cellars	-	-	-	-	2,862	2,862	-
	Rollers, brackets, pairs	-	-	-	1,296	902½	-	393½
	Rope, lbs.	-	-	-	36,793	14,766	-	22,027
	Blankets, horse, serviceable	-	-	-	8,082	5,709	-	2,373
	" " repairable	-	-	-	122	-	-	122
	Scoops, tin	-	-	-	-	90	90	-
	" wood	-	-	-	113	12	-	101
	Handles for flour scrapers	-	-	-	403	144	-	259
	" road scrapers	-	-	-	-	506	506	-
	Shovels, stable, sorts	-	-	-	1,799	1,931	132	-
	" " repairable	-	-	-	156	-	-	156
	" wood, of sorts	-	-	-	155	33	-	122
	" cast and wrought iron	-	-	-	-	382	382	-
	Rails	-	-	-	1,052	299	-	753
	Pins	-	-	-	-	4,442	4,442	-
	Cantilevers	-	-	-	1,482	1,874	392	-
	Shelves, galvanized	-	-	-	-	96	96	-
	Skirting	-	-	-	-	57	57	-
	Iron, feet	-	-	-	1,393	1,261	-	132
	Handles, pieces, for	-	-	-	551	529	-	22
	Sieves, hair	-	-	-	-	231	231	-
	Bottoms, hair, for sieves, yards	-	-	-	5,952	5,805	-	147
	Snuffers, of sorts	-	-	-	405	316	-	89
	Spades	-	-	-	184	6	-	178
	Handles for ditto	-	-	-	5,104	32,198	27,094	-
	Spoons, table, iron	-	-	-	26,298	1,372	-	24,926
	" of sorts, serviceable	-	-	-	1,597	-	-	1,597
	" " repairable	-	-	-	327	1,373	1,046	-
	Soap, of sorts, lbs.	-	-	-	6,649	801	-	5,848
	" soft, lbs.	-	-	-	3,259	1,559	-	1,700
	Sponge, pieces, of sorts	-	-	-	-	485	485	-
	Bolts and nuts	-	-	-	52	80	28	-
	Bearers	-	-	-	-	62	62	-
	Standards and bases	-	-	-	754	120	-	634
	Heel posts with caps, &c., complete	-	-	-	2	83	81	-
	Brackets, saddle	-	-	-	182	64	-	118
	Racks, hay	-	-	-	124	72	-	52
	Pails, swinging	-	-	-	408	237	-	171
	Chains, of sorts	-	-	-	-	388	388	-
	Hooks, "	-	-	-	454	418	-	36
	Washers	-	-	-	2,755	2,897	142	-
	Irons, stamping	-	-	-	2,096	2,622	526	-
	Hammers, "	-	-	-	5,879	5,006	-	873
	Stamps, copper inlaid, wood, and of sorts	-	-	-	1,308	5,065	-	3,757
	Figures and letters	-	-	-	22	503	481	-
	Letters for stamping wood, sets	-	-	-	-	219	219	-
	" of sorts	-	-	-	-	1,685	1,685	-
	" plated	-	-	-	160	-	-	160
	Marks, of sorts	-	-	-	346	201	-	145
	Stools, serjeants', serviceable	-	-	-	37	-	-	37
	" " repairable	-	-	-	5,758	2,285	-	3,473
	Bottoms for serjeants' stools	-	-	-	153	186	33	-
	Stools, of sorts	-	-	-	354	-	-	354
	Stools, camp	-	-	-	10,440	6,871	-	3,569
	Frames, iron, for stools, night	-	-	-	-	559	559	-
	" wood	-	-	-	68	9	-	59
	" " repairable	-	-	-	11,496	11,249	-	247
	Pans, pewter, and zinc for ditto	-	-	-	5,701	5,605	-	96
	Lids for pans	-	-	-	960	794	-	166
	Tarpaulins, of sorts, serviceable	-	-	-	136	15	-	121
	" " repairable	-	-	-	-	174	174	-
	Covers mule, dressed	-	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	-
	Tables, parts of, ironwork, Dowel's	-	-	-	9,973	10,437	464	-
	Ironwork for ditto, N.P., sets	-	-	-	-	1,189	1,189	-
	Tables, bedside, H.P., in materials	-	-	-	-	81	81	-
	" bedroom	-	-	-	1,918	1,935	17	-
	" boards or tops, of sorts	-	-	-	101	-	-	101
	" of sorts, serviceable	-	-	-	338	77	-	261
	" " repairable	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Description of Article.				Ledger Balance.	Actual Stock.	Surplus.	Deficiency.	
Miscellaneous Stores—continued.								
Tables, living room, coast-guard	-	-	-	-	43	43		
" bedside, H.P., serviceable	-	-	-	2,146	2,410	264		
" " " repairable	-	-	-	481	-	-	481	
" trestles, iron, for	-	-	-	57	2,901	2,844		
" officers	-	-	-	318	217	-	101	
Taps, wood	-	-	-	108	162	54		
Tins, dinner, of sorts	-	-	-	3,162	2,788	-	374	
Wick, cotton, lbs.	-	-	-	-	481	481		
" round, in number	-	-	-	6,817	3,024	-	3,793	
" flat, yards	-	-	-	144	313	169		
" " in pieces	-	-	-	715	-	-	715	
Tubes, reflecting	-	-	-	736	835	99		
Thread and twine, lbs., sorts	-	-	-	116,351	60,226	-	56,325	
Tiles, of sorts	-	-	-	1,287	222	-	1,065	
Hoes, of sorts	-	-	-	4,118	4,032	-	86	
Handles for ditto	-	-	-	3,574	3,256	-	318	
Handles for scythes	-	-	-	1,197	2,682	1,485		
Rakes, of sorts	-	-	-	2,811	2,879	68		
Sickles	-	-	-	5,059	5,134	75		
Towels, of sorts, serviceable	-	-	-	55,446	55,468	22		
" " repairable	-	-	-	246	3	-	243	
Trays, coal, of sorts	-	-	-	1,049	876	-	173	
Tow, lbs.	-	-	-	560	302	-	258	
Tubs, meat, of sorts	-	-	-	257	350	93		
" washing, serviceable	-	-	-	1,665	1,719	54		
" " repairable	-	-	-	-	46	46		
Urinals, pewter, serviceable	-	-	-	3,805	3,603	-	202	
" " repairable	-	-	-	50	-	-	50	
Waterdecks, saddle, of sorts	-	-	-	12,032	8,426	-	3,606	
Wax, bees, lbs.	-	-	-	1,185	1,044	-	141	
Wrenches, of sorts	-	-	-	1,448	1,330	-	118	
Washers, iron, of sorts	-	-	-	-	3,799	3,799		
Whiting, lbs.	-	-	-	2,044	388	-	1,656	
Rags, linen, lbs., unserviceable	-	-	-	-	3,808	3,808		
Sheets, old linen, "	-	-	-	-	260	260		
Sheeting, yards, "	-	-	-	78	-	-	78	
Stamps, iron, of sorts	-	-	-	-	127	127		
" wood " "	-	-	-	-	115	115		
Files, old " "	-	-	-	590	279	-	311	
Brushes, of sorts, " "	-	-	-	-	245	245		
Girths	-	-	-	1,131	513	-	618	
Valizes, leather	-	-	-	-	109	109		
Numnahs	-	-	-	564	455	-	109	
Wanties	-	-	-	911	253	-	658	
Dubbing, lbs.	-	-	-	35,140	31,553	-	3,587	
Tins for dubbing	-	-	-	37,121	61,939	24,818		
Dishes, tin, of sorts	-	-	-	13,426	12,956	-	470	
Corks, bottle	-	-	-	10,435	12,400	1,965		
Cotton, waste, lbs.	-	-	-	1,781	112	-	1,669	
Cups, tin, drinking	-	-	-	46,557	45,621	-	936	
" pewter	-	-	-	3,793	3,377	-	416	
Cups, of sorts	-	-	-	17,017	-	-	17,017	
Combs, horse and hair	-	-	-	7,095	8,487	1,392		
" of sorts	-	-	-	1,288	-	-	1,288	
Cocks, of sorts	-	-	-	950	1,012	62		
Cloths, table, of sorts	-	-	-	138	257	119		
Charcoal, of sorts, lbs.	-	-	-	-	5,195	5,195		
Clay, pipe, "	-	-	-	1,771	2,027	256		
Cisterns, of sorts	-	-	-	185	173	-	12	
Waterpipes for cisterns	-	-	-	603	178	-	425	
Chests and safes, iron	-	-	-	17	40	23		
Chairs, of sorts	-	-	-	487	736	249		
Bottoms for chairs	-	-	-	12,204	2,543	-	9,661	
Casks beakers, of sorts	-	-	-	459	128	-	331	
Canisters, tin	-	-	-	772	902	130		
Cans, tin, gruel water, &c., &c.	-	-	-	4,491	2,405	-	2,086	
Cans, water, wood	-	-	-	1,632	1,285	-	347	
Candlesticks, of sorts	-	-	-	1,490	1,142	-	348	
Candles, of sorts, lbs.	-	-	-	7,141	7,025	-	116	
Brushes	Dry rubbing	Heads	-	-	328	248	-	80
		Clamps	-	-	862	806	-	56
		Irons	-	-	272	243	-	29
		Handles	-	-	203	2	-	201
	Sweep-Scrubbing	Hand	-	-	12,136	10,936	-	1,200
		Heads long	-	-	5,954	3,158	-	2,796
		Handles	-	-	7,092	6,841	-	251
		Clamps	-	-	3,320	2,757	-	563
	Mop	Hand	-	-	7,487	8,857	1,370	
		Heads long	-	-	2,466	1,947	-	519
		Handles	-	-	4,610	9,536	4,926	
		Ferrules	-	-	10,673	8,127	-	2,546
Brushes, armorers hard	Heads	-	-	5,710	6,013	303		
	Handles	-	-	-	205	205		
	Ferrules	-	-	-	322	322		
	Armorers soft	-	-	4,798	5,120	-	2,710	
	Ceiling, of sorts	-	-	11,292	8,582	-		
	Gun, soft	-	-	184	217	33		
	Graining	-	-	9	85	76		
	Harness	-	-	16	14	-	2	
Horses	-	-	19,333	15,660	-	3,673		
Hair	-	-	6,225	6,419	194			
Marking	-	-	8,154	8,034	-	120		
	-	-	236	167	-	69		

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Description of Article.					Ledger Balance.	Actual Stock.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
Miscellaneous Stores—continued.								
Brushes	Painters	-	-	-	6,606	6,591	-	15
	Pencil hair, of sorts	-	-	-	2,006	1,856	-	150
	Sticks for ditto	-	-	-	-	1,364	1,364	-
	Shoe	-	-	-	42	5,789	5,747	-
	Water	-	-	-	19,015	18,905	-	110
	Stove	-	-	-	1,061	1,110	49	-
	Black lead	-	-	-	2,174	2,472	298	-
	Shaving	-	-	-	3,100	3,456	356	-
	Sash tool	-	-	-	2,856	2,659	-	197
	Whitewash	Large	-	-	-	10,072	9,097	-	975
Small		-	-	-	416	369	-	47
Two-hand		-	-	-	60	2	-	58
Plasterers		-	-	-	-	156	156	-
Button		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brooms	Handles	-	-	-	1,974	1,955	-	19
	Heads bass	-	-	-	281	206	-	75
	Heath	-	-	-	-	122	122	-
	Corridor	-	-	-	2,548	2,013	-	535
	Birch	-	-	-	44	90	46	-
Buckets, of sorts	-	-	-	3,958	2,054	-	1,904	
Buckles, iron and brass	-	-	-	1,031	545	-	486	
Boxes	Candles	-	-	-	1,595	1,626	31	-
	Iron { Candles with lids	-	-	-	211	264	53	-
Blacking boxes, or tins of	Coal	-	-	-	124	23	-	101
		-	-	-	1,956	1,907	-	49
Blacking, bottles of	-	-	-	-	6,296	5,668	-	628
" lbs.	-	-	-	-	40	-	-	40
Boards, of sorts	-	-	-	-	59	-	-	59
Bottles, stone	-	-	-	-	907	1,334	427	-
Coppers, camp, 20 gallons	-	-	-	-	-	46	46	-
" " 12 "	-	-	-	-	151	341	190	-
Trivets for ditto	-	-	-	-	202	172	-	30
Ovens, camp, cast iron	-	-	-	-	605	615	10	-
Coppers, &c. for brickwork	30 gallons	-	-	-	-	19	19	-
	20 "	-	-	-	115	128	13	-
	18 "	-	-	-	167	48	-	119
	"	-	-	-	8	5	-	3
	Ironwork, sets	-	-	-	130	145	15	-
Boilers, elliptical, appurtenances for	Fronts, furnace	-	-	-	-	71	71	-
	Lids for	-	-	-	20	45	25	-
	Soot doors, small	-	-	-	75	125	50	-
	Bars { Bearing	-	-	-	687	640	-	47
	Furnace	-	-	-	499	362	-	137
	Plates	-	-	-	119	179	60	-
	Steam flues	-	-	-	135	118	-	17
	Dampers	-	-	-	61	16	-	45
	House	-	-	-	33	9	-	24
	Watch	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
Hammocks	Sea pattern	-	-	-	101	104	3	-
	Clews for	-	-	-	309	176	-	133
	Hooks, iron, for	-	-	-	-	1,040	1,040	-
Straps, bed	-	-	-	2,341	2,800	459	-	
Cases, bedding, sorts, repairable	-	-	-	20,484	16,008	-	4,476	
Cases	Bolster, head and single	-	-	-	1,270	1,137	-	133
	Slip { Beds, head and single	-	-	-	57,663	44,377	-	13,286
	Bolster	-	-	-	7,170	20,243	13,073	-
	Pillow	-	-	-	2,205	10,589	8,384	-
	Slip for pillows, head	-	-	-	-	16	16	-
Cases, slip for pillows, ticken	-	-	-	10,889	12,051	1,162	-	
" bed, for hair, HP. and single	-	-	-	2,183	315	-	1868	
Bags for beds	-	-	-	12,868	1,964	-	10,904	
Bearers, hospital, of sorts	-	-	-	2,211	4,598	2,387	-	
Bedsteads	Barrack iron.	Hall's pattern, single	-	-	13,351	14,637	1,286	-
		Folding, with sackings complete	-	-	8,976	8,940	-	36
		Sackings for	-	-	882	30	-	852
		Turn up	-	-	4,824	4,019	-	805
	Hospital iron.	Folding	-	-	18	13	-	5
		Sackings for	-	-	-	26	26	-
		Cords for	-	-	13,956	1,698	-	12,258
		Plain regulation pattern	-	-	23,948	9,762	-	14,186
	Spare parts for wood.	Racks for	-	-	-	760	760	-
		Tubular	-	-	954	931	-	23
		Sackings for	-	-	1,051	1,211	160	-
		Cords for	-	-	-	2,188	2,188	-
	Coast guard, complete	-	-	-	-	450	450	-
		Wood, field service, complete	-	-	23	24	1	-
		Tressels, single	-	-	793	887	94	-
		Cords, single	-	-	3,808	8,775	4,967	-
	Portable field service, wood	Cloth heads	-	-	1,573	760	-	813
		Pegs, wood	-	-	277	507	230	-
		Camp tressels for pieces	-	-	-	2,672	2,672	-
		Hospital, spine parts of iron.	-	-	200	-	-	200
	Sides	-	-	-	-	480	480	-
		" odd	-	-	-	45	45	-
		Legs	-	-	-	35	35	-
		Catches, pieces	-	-	-	66	66	-
Coats, great, of sorts	-	-	-	-	330	330	-	
Pillows, of sorts	-	-	-	116	25	-	91	
Lockwork, rough forged	-	-	-	14,098	13,011	-	1,087	
Adzes, of sorts	-	-	-	4,381	7,476	3,095	-	
Handles for ditto	-	-	-	1,737	17,777	40	-	
Anvils, of sorts	-	-	-	5,770	5,154	-	616	
	-	-	-	319	311	-	8	

Description of Article.	Ledger Balance.	Actual Stock.	Surplus.	Deficiency.
Miscellaneous Stores—continued.				
Angers, of sorts	4,244	4,382	138	
Handles for ditto	4,786	5,667	881	
Awls, of sorts	12,026	12,008	-	18
Handles for ditto	16,635	16,142	-	493
Axes, of sorts	4,562	4,447	-	115
Handles for ditto	5,563	6,671	1,108	
Bags, tool	2,965	603	-	2,362
Bands, lathe machine	4	159	155	
Bars, of sorts	3,640	3,506	-	134
Bellows "	275	176	-	95
Bits	2,958	4,637	1,679	
Bobs	323 ^R ₁₀	662	339	^R ₁₀ 36
Bevils, metal	159	123	-	
" wood	364	437	73	
Borers, sorts	433	414	-	19
Boxes, "	4,936	5,060	124	
Braces "	1,962	2,562	600	
Buffers, farriers	1,134	1,266	132	
Breast pieces	113	-	-	113
Buzzes, wheelers	417	445	28	
Callipers	602	616	14	
Chisels, sorts	26,822	25,646	-	1,176
Compasses	3,925	3,863	-	62
Candlesticks, miners	279	271	-	8
Choppers, butchers	2,308	2,273	-	35
Claws, nail	106	128	22	
Corks, for clams	182	198	16	
Cramps, sorts	19	54	35	
Creases "	482	474	-	8
Diamonds, glaziers	34	19	-	15
Files, of sorts	224,534	213,212	-	11,322
Drivers, coopers, and screw	4,073	3,974	-	99
Gauges, sorts	5,990	6,593	603	
Gimlets, nail	8,257	8,788	531	
Hammers, handled sorts and unhandled	28,111	26,436	-	1,675
Hatchets	9,504	11,768	2,264	
Irons	3,236	3,561	325	
Knives	15,296	14,894	-	402
Planes	6,585	6,458	-	127
Irons for planes	2,351	1,884	-	467
Punches	13,211	13,015	-	196
Rasps	6,995	7,382	387	
Saws, of sorts	12,045	12,756	711	
Vices, of sorts	1,082	929	-	153
Bolts, joiners	75	-	-	75
Bows, drill iron, smiths	536	544	8	
Clams, armourers	277	297	20	

April 16, 1859.

(Signed) CHARLES CREED.

APPENDIX No. 7.

War Office, Pall Mall, S.W.
4th April 1859.

SIR,

WITH reference to the letter from this office of 18th February, in which it was stated for the information of the Commissioners for inquiring into the State of the Store and Clothing Depôts, as regards the store accounts of the Tower to 6th October 1857, that differences were found to exist between the quantities of most of the stores, as shown by ledger and actual stock-taking, some exhibiting a surplus and others a deficiency, and that these would be made the subject of question forthwith to the accountant or the principal military storekeeper.

I am directed by Secretary Major-General Peel to acquaint you that the storekeeper having been called upon to explain these errors, it appears that in most cases he is unable to do so satisfactorily, by far the greater portion of them being the result of the pressure of the war, during the early part of which the strength of the establishment was unfortunately not increased in proportion to the vast demands on it, so that the records fell into great arrear; and after that evil had been met by large additions to the establishment, the difficulty and delay experienced in over-

coming the arrear was greatly increased by the inevitable inexperience of the body of new clerks, of whom those additions consisted, and who were compelled at once to carry on an unprecedented amount of current business, and to bring up ground that had been lost.

I am therefore to inform the Commissioners that Secretary Major-General Peel, after carefully considering the subject, is of opinion that, from the great bulk of the store ledgers, such an amount of time and expense would have to be incurred in correcting these errors, and the results would probably be so unsatisfactory as to render the further prosecution of the examination unadvisable, especially as he has no reason to believe that these discrepancies are other than the result of clerical error.

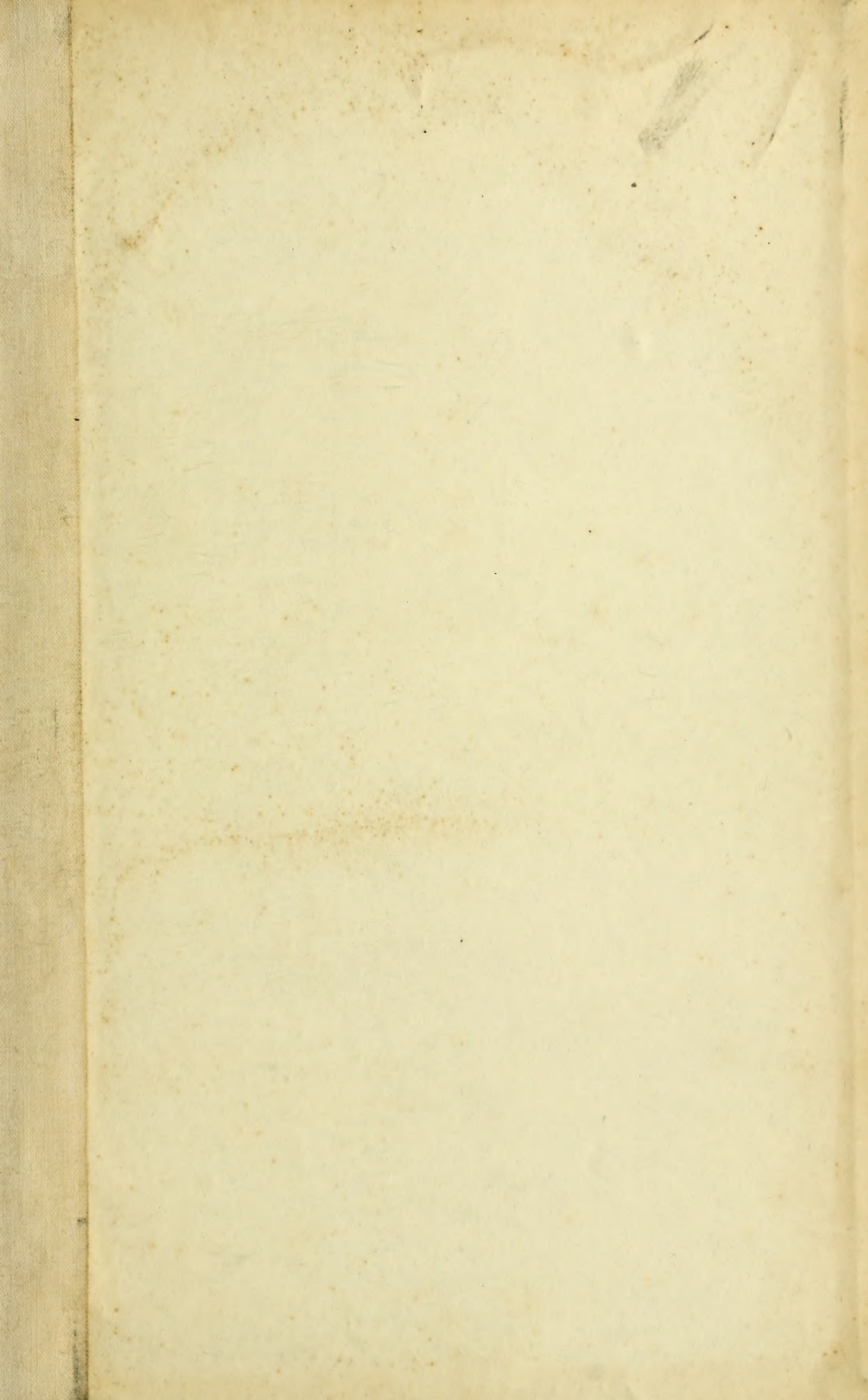
Secretary-Major General Peel does not therefore propose to take any further steps to reconcile the account of surpluses on the one hand and deficiencies on the other, which nearly balance each other; but he is now introducing improvements in the system of keeping the store accounts, so as to ascertain more frequently and exactly the state of the stores and store accounts, and he is confident that no such errors will in future remain undetected.

I am, &c.
E. L. Dew, Esq. ROSSLYN.

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